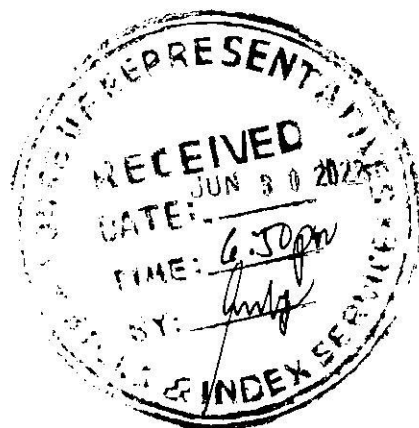


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 547



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public school teachers are among the lowest paid professionals in our society. In spite of this, they are often forced to pay for everyday classroom supplies out of their own pockets.

Traditionally, the government provides classroom teachers with an annual allowance for classroom supplies, popularly known as a “chalk allowance” allotted to purchase classroom essentials such as chinks, erasers, forms and other supplies and materials. Due to the consistent push of ACT Teachers Party-List for greater subsidy for education and less burden to the pockets of teachers for expenses necessary for teaching, the “chalk allowance” was increased from ₱700 per teacher per school year (₱3.50 per school day) in 2011 to ₱3,500 (₱16.83 per school day) in 2018. The teaching supplies allowance was increased to ₱5,000 in the 2022 *General Appropriations Act* but this is due to the consolidation in the benefit of the medical allowance (₱500) and the internet allowance (₱1,000).

However, this amount is not enough to cover the costs of supplies including pens, pencils, notebooks, class records, manila paper, cartolina, bond paper, art paper, even ICT needs, that are essential for the daily functioning of teaching and learning in the classroom. With the imposition and half-baked implementation of the

insufficiently funded K to 12 Program, public schools were not given enough number of copies of teachers' guides and learners' materials to be used in adopting the new curriculum. Schools' budgets for miscellaneous and other operating expenses are still insufficient to cover the needs for instruction.

Hence, teachers must draw from their own finances to pay for these materials which, in the first place, should be provided by the government.

This bill proposes to increase the annual allowance for classroom supplies from ₱1,500 to ₱5,000 (or ₱24.63 per day), thereby easing this onerous financial burden of teachers.

First filed in the 15th Congress (7 February 2011), this was approved by the Committee on Basic Education of the House of Representatives and the Senate on third reading during the 17th Congress.

Immediate approval of this bill is therefore sought.



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known and cited as the “**Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2022.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote and improve the economic status of teachers and assist them in providing quality education to their students.

SECTION 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* A Teaching Supplies Allowance for the purchase of chalks, erasers, forms, and other classroom supplies and materials in the amount of Five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) per teacher per school year is hereby authorized.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* The grant of the cash allowance authorized in this Act shall be limited to teachers who are engaged in actual classroom teaching in public basic education.

SECTION 5. *Funding.* In the first year of the effectivity of this Act, the amount of Two thousand five hundred pesos (₱2,500.00) per teacher per school year, shall be

charged against the current appropriation of the Department of Education (DepEd) for the Teaching Supplies Allowance, while the additional amount of Two thousand five hundred pesos (₱2,500.00) per teacher per school year, shall be charge against any available funds and/or savings of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount of Five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) per teacher per school year, shall be included in the DepEd budget for the Teaching Supplies Allowance under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Periodic Review for Increases.* The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking into account the current prices of classroom supplies, and, if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, resolutions, orders or ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,