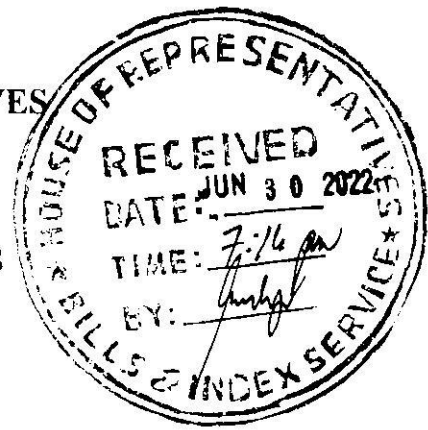


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 565



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
ENSURING WEEKENDS AS DAYS OF REST
FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BY PROVIDING FOR
THEIR RIGHT TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAININGS,
AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES DURING WEEKDAYS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 4461

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The weekend is supposed to be reserved for rest, a chance to recover from five straight days of work and to physically and emotionally prepare for the work week ahead.

For public and private school teachers, however, Saturdays and Sundays are tiring extensions of the weekdays, as there are oftentimes required to report for meetings, conferences, trainings, and the like. For the public school system, these activities are commonly not held on weekends due to the "time on task" rule—implemented by the Department of Education through DepEd Order 9, series of 2005. Citing the deteriorating quality of education, teachers are ordered "to increase engaged time-on-task so that the required number of school days...and the time allotment to teaching every subject in school are met by minimizing activities participated in by the teachers and the pupils."

However, DepEd Order 16, series of 2009 and relevant issuances of the Civil Service Commission reiterate the eight-hour work requirement in public schools, which sets six hours for actual teaching and two hours for teaching-related activities. More important are the constitutional right of teachers to professional advancement (Section 5(4) of Article XIV) and the mandate on government to take measures to

promote morale, efficiency, and responsiveness in the civil service (Section 3 of Article IX-B). Also on point is the constitutional right of teachers to self-organization, which includes faculty associations, federations, and regional unions, which should be fully promoted by government by, among others, supporting their activities.

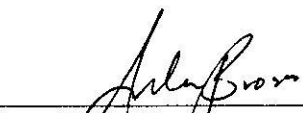
The “time-on-task” rule is usually cited to deny the holding of activities and the participation of teachers therein from Mondays to Fridays—as if meetings of teachers’ organizations, federations, or unions or trainings, conferences, and other activities for professional advancement were not part of a teacher’s tasks or not done to directly improve a teacher’s work in the classroom. Limiting these activities to weekends sends the wrong message that the pursuit of teachers’ constitutional rights to professional advancement and self-organization should only be done during Saturdays and Sundays and should eat up their time for relaxation and recuperation.

It is high time for a categorical directive from government that will allow teachers to take their rest on Saturdays and Sundays. This bill therefore proposes for an amendment to Republic Act 4461 (1965) to that effect and to likewise extend to private school teachers the right to rest on weekends.

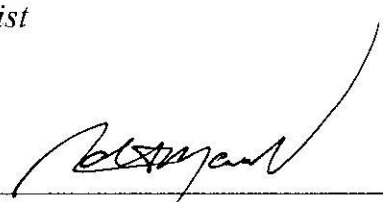
For these reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 565

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
ENSURING WEEKENDS AS DAYS OF REST
FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS BY PROVIDING FOR
THEIR RIGHT TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAININGS,
AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES DURING WEEKDAYS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 4461

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act 4461 shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Meetings, **TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES** of public **AND PRIVATE** school teachers shall be held during school days instead of Saturdays and Sundays. **THE RIGHT TO REST ON WEEKENDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL COVER MEETINGS, TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCIES TO BE ATTENDED BY TEACHERS.**

SEC. 2. Any violation of this Act shall give cause for appropriate administrative and civil liabilities under appropriate laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,