

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1041



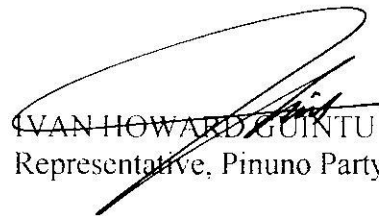
Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to lessen the burden to our public school teachers who spend long hours of travel to their designated schools which are situated in far locations. Sometimes our teachers get assigned in far-flung areas and must travel through mountainous regions for long hours just to reach their designated schools. In other cases, they cross rivers and/or seas on a daily basis to teach in island communities. Our teachers are also assigned additional duties by the government like anti-crime campaigns, conditional cash transfer, deworming, elections, feeding programs, population census, and vaccinations.

This establishment of on-site living quarters for our public school teachers will improve their employment and working conditions. Quality education can be ensured when obstacles to our educator's working conditions are diminished. This will also provide opportunities for remedial intervention to pupils or students who are lagging in their classes.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IVAN HOWARD GUINTU
Representative, Pinuno Partylist

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF FREE ON-SITE LIVING QUARTERS FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Free On-Site Living Quarters for Public School Teachers Act”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to ensure the accessibility and affordability of quality education to all Filipinos. The State duly recognizes the distinct situation of public school teachers who are teaching away from their homes and their families.

It is the objective of the State to ensure availability of competent and dedicated public school teachers in the remotest of areas in the country with the least burden and hardship on the part of said public school teachers.

SEC. 3. *Scope of the Act.* – This Act shall apply to the public school teachers who are teaching in public schools far away from their respective homes and families and are forced, or have opted, to live in said areas where the schools they teach at are located.

There shall be no distinction if the afore-mentioned public school teachers are new hires or transferees.

SEC. 4. *Provision of Free On-Site Living Quarters.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, free of charge, provide livable and humane living quarters at the nearest possible

location to the public schools where the covered public school teachers in Section 3 of this Act are teaching.

Existing benefits and allowances already granted by law, rules, regulations and issuances to the covered public school teachers in this Act shall not be diminished, withdrawn or removed.

SEC. 5. *Funding.* – The funding necessary for the successful implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the existing funds of the DepEd and shall later on be specifically allocated in the annual budget of the DepEd. In addition, reasonable and sufficient additional funding shall be sourced from the Special Education Fund (SEF) arising from the real property tax collected by concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) where the living quarters shall be constructed and/or located.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The DepEd, in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget Management (DBM), shall formulate and promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the successful implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section, subsection, clause or term of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,