

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 1893

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES
ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly set the sustainable goal on education, SDG-4, which demands primary and secondary inclusive quality education for all by 2030. In the attainment of this ambitious goal, the public school teachers play the most significant role in making sure that nobody is left behind. If we do not support our teachers now, the next generation of our youth shall remain unskilled or underprepared for the demands of the future.

Our public school teachers shape and influence the minds and hearts of the youth, and thereby take a major role in the formation of the next generation of Filipinos. Human resource, such as our overseas Filipino workers, is the foundation of our developing economy, and thus our most important national asset and wealth. OFWs contribute significantly to keeping the Philippine economy afloat, and so does our public school teachers.

It is undisputed that despite the yearly increase in allocation on maintenance and other operational expenses for every public school in the country, expenditures in utility bills, repairs and upkeep of school buildings, classrooms and premises, take precedence over direct allowance for augmentation of expenses incurred in

classroom instruction such as chalk, teaching aids, learning resources and supplements for teachers.

In FY 2021 the Department of Education (DepEd), through a joint circular (JC) with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), issued the guidelines for the provision of Php 5,000.00 cash allowance intended for the purchase of teaching supplies and materials, tangible or intangible; for the conduct of various modes of learning, including internet and other communications expenses in this time of the pandemic.

Thus, this measure intends to institutionalize the customary provision in the DepEd GAA budget of teachers' cash allowances in order to strengthen and empower them in the exercise of their academic freedom to teach, study and pursue higher knowledge and research, without unreasonable interference and restriction from economic conditions of the society. This measure is also proposed to alleviate the living and working conditions of our public school teachers, who do not only serve as the legal and moral guardians of our children while they spend about ten hours in school on their formative years, but are also their alternative parents and caretakers while they are away from home.

This SY 2022-2023, we are looking forward to the gradual resumption of face-to-face classes for our public school teachers, pupils and learners, while our society also slowly recovers from the ill-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the new normal, the teachers are faced with the additional expenses of ensuring their own and of the pupils' health and safety in the classroom, such as provision of soaps for handwashing, disposable face masks, and alcohol. In the blended learning and hybrid modes of attendance, there shall also be the use of gadgets and internet connectivity for students who will be attending *via* virtual means. Coming up with work from home modules and other supplemental learning materials are also additional challenges to the teachers in the new normal. These new challenges are *akin* to the special hardships allowance under Section 19 of Republic Act No. 4670, the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, for which the teachers may be compensated additionally for up to twenty five per cent of their monthly salary.

The first measure that proposed for teaching supplies allowance for public school teachers was filed way back February 7, 2011 by the former representative of ACT Teachers Partylist, Hon. Antonio L. Tinio. Measures with the same proposal have been pending in the Committee on Basic Education and Culture.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*KAbalik sa*
2 *Pagtuturo Act*".

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

6 Sec. 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* – A Teaching Supplies Allowance for
7 the purchase of teaching supplies and materials, tangible or intangible, for the
8 implementation or conduct of various learning delivery modalities (LDMs) in the
9 amount of Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2022-
10 2023 and 2023-2024; Seven thousand five hundred pesos (P7,500.00) per teacher
11 for the school year 2024-2025; and Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) per teacher
12 for the school year 2025-2026, and thereafter are hereby authorized: *Provided, That*
13 this allowance shall be exempt from income tax.

14 Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – The grant of the cash allowance authorized in this Act
15 shall cover teachers who are engaged in teaching public basic education, consistent
16 with the learning modalities recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd).

1 Sec. 5. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the grant of Teaching Supplies
2 Allowance per teacher per school year authorized under this Act shall be charged
3 against the appropriations of the DepEd under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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

8 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is
9 held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in
10 full force and effect.

11 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
12 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

13 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,