

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2700



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
CREATING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE PLANTILLA
POSITIONS OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN EVERY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL AND ADDITIONAL PLANTILLA POSITIONS OF GUIDANCE
COUNSELORS FOR HIGH SCHOOL, INCREASING THE SALARIES OF
GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND GUIDANCE-RELATED POSITIONS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Guidance counselors are responsible for working with students who need help managing their behavior, keeping up academically, or planning for the future. Unfortunately, as of May 2020, the Department of Education (DepEd) only has 1,096 active counselors. With 20 million public school students, it is next to impossible to meet the recommended ratio of one guidance counselor for every 500 students, as mandated by the Department of Education.

In recognition of the crucial role played by Guidance Counselors in the academic and personal development of students, this bill seeks to create *plantilla* positions of guidance counselors in every elementary school and high schools with corresponding increase in salary of guidance counsellors and guidance-related positions.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Creation of Plantilla Positions.* – The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, shall ensure that there is a sufficient number of *plantilla* positions for guidance counselors in every public elementary and high schools.

For purposes of this Act, the Department of Education shall endeavor to meet the recommended ratios of one guidance counselor for every 200 students in the public elementary and high schools.

Section 2. *Increase in Salary Grades of Guidance Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, Guidance Services Associates, and Guidance Services Specialists.* - The present minimum salary grade levels of guidance

coordinators, guidance counselors, guidance services associates, and guidance services specialists shall be increased in the following manner:

Current Position Classification	Current Salary Grade	Proposed Salary Grade
Guidance Counselor I	11	16
Guidance Counselor II	12	17
Guidance Counselor III	13	18
Guidance Coordinator I	14	19
Guidance Coordinator II	15	20
Guidance Coordinator III	16	21
Guidance Services Associate I	12	17
Guidance Services Associate II	14	19
Guidance Services Specialist I	16	20
Guidance Services Specialist II	18	21
Guidance Services Specialist III	20	22
Guidance Services Specialist IV	22	23

Section 3. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the savings of the Department of Education. Thereafter, the funds shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) from the publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,