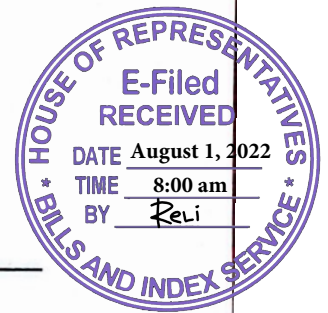




House Bill No. 2781

Introduced by Representative ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public school teachers are among the most under-compensated professionals in our country. Their regular work schedule goes beyond the normal 8AM to 5PM scheme as they are expected to take home other schoolwork. Aside from this, they are also made to shoulder the cost of many classroom supplies on top of their daily expenses.

Traditionally, the government provides teachers with an annual allowance for classroom supplies, popularly known as the "chalk allowance", for the purpose of purchasing items such as chalks, erasers, forms and other supplies and materials. In the Department of Education budget, this cash allowance amounted to P700 per teacher per school year in 2011, which was increased to P1,000 in 2012. This was increased further to P1,500 per teacher per school year in 2016; and then to P2,500 in 2017; year 2018-2020, the General Appropriations Act provided for P3,500 per teacher per school year, or P16.82 per school day. Public School teachers were able to receive P5,000 for school year 2020-2021. The additional P1,500 was given for internet and health allowance since teachers have to conduct lessons remotely because of the pandemic.

It is, however, undeniable that the abovementioned amounts cannot cover all the extra expenses public school teachers are made to shell out of their own pockets. The costs of classroom supplies include pens, pencils, notebooks, class records, manila papers, cartolina, bond paper, art paper, and other materials essential for learning in the classroom and which should have been provided to them for free by the government.

Hence, the bill proposes to increase the annual "chalk allowance" from P3,500 to P5,000 per teacher per school year, or P24.04 per school day, thereby relieving teachers of this arduous financial burden.

Immediate approval of this bill is therefore sought.


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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

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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 and cited as the “*Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2022.*”

Sec. 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.

Sec. 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* – The cash allowance to teachers for the purchase of chalks, erasers, forms, and other classroom supplies and materials as provided in the annual appropriations for the Department of Education shall be known as the Teaching Supplies Allowance. The amount provided shall be increased from Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00) to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per teacher per school year. Said allowance shall be paid only to classroom teachers.

Sec. 4. *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. The amount required to cover the increase shall be included in the Department’s budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,