

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4245



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 11, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that: "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

Likewise, Article XIV, Section 5 [5] states that "the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment" (emphasis supplied).

The present plight of our teachers, especially those in the public schools, however, betrays the best intentions of the Constitution. Our teachers are not accorded the due recognition and importance they deserve. They are unappreciated, overworked and underpaid. Their salaries are insultingly low and with the high cost of living today, it is no wonder that many of the best and the brightest in the teaching profession are now teaching abroad or, worse, have migrated to work as caregivers or domestic helpers.

The importance of the role of public school teachers in educating the Filipino youth cannot be overemphasized. Hence, there is the urgency of instilling professional and personal development of teachers by giving them the recognition and the benefits that they rightly deserve.

Republic Act No. 4670 or the "Magna Carta for Public School Teachers", provides, as a matter of policy, for the promotion and improvement of the social and economic status of public school teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment and career prospects in order that they may compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life, attract and retain in the teaching profession more people with the proper qualifications, it being recognized that advancement in education depends on the qualifications and ability of the teaching staff and that education is an essential factor in the economic growth of the nation as a productive investment of vital importance.

For education to become an essential key in the country's global competitiveness, the State should provide for additional benefits and incentives to our teachers by enabling them to access institutionalized scholarship grants. This measure hopes to help in the nationwide effort to attract and retain exceptional and dedicated teachers who will nurture our young Filipinos to become productive partners in nation-building.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Tan', is positioned above the printed name.

Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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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 as the "Public School Teachers Scholarship Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to give priority to the needs of public school teachers. It is likewise hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote and improve their economic status and to assist them in providing quality education to their students.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms shall mean:

a). *Public school teachers* refer to all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any public elementary school and high school, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, industrial arts or vocational instructors, school heads, supervisors, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions;

b). *Scholarship grant* refers to academic scholarships that cover any post graduate course.

SEC. 4. *Educational Benefits.* - In addition to all other benefits to which they are entitled under existing laws, eligible public school teachers are herein provided with educational privileges in the form of scholarship grants. The scholarship grants shall be institutionalized in post-graduate programs, free of any charge including but not limited to tuition and matriculation fees.

SEC. 5. *Eligibility.* - Public school teachers who are in active service shall be eligible to avail of the scholarship grants to enroll in any relevant post graduate course. Provided, that a public school teacher shall be in active duty for at least two (2) consecutive years immediately prior to the date of application for the grant.

Provided further, that the public school teacher who shall avail of this grant shall sign an undertaking that he or she shall be professionally engaged with any

public school for a period of five (5) years upon completion of the post graduate course. Otherwise, he or she shall reimburse the full amount of the scholarship grant.

SEC. 6. *Schools where scholarship grant applicable.* - The scholarship grant shall be applicable in all state colleges and universities or state throughout the country. Eligible public school teachers shall only be qualified to avail of the scholarship grant upon meeting and passing the requirements set by the respective colleges and universities.

SEC. 7. *Forfeiture of Grant.* - Public school teachers who have been charged and proven to have committed acts of professional misconduct shall forfeit their eligibility to avail of the grant.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall formulate the necessary guidelines to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,