

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL No. 9946

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7836 OR THE *PHILIPPINE TEACHERS'*
***PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 1994*, THEREBY ALLOWING THE**
DEFERMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS IN CASES OF FAILURE TO RECEIVE A
RATING BELOW 50% IN ANY OF THE SUBJECTS AND THE RETAKING
OF THE SAID SUBJECT OR SUBJECTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the policy of the Board of Professional Teachers (BPT), professional teacher hopefuls must “obtain an average rating of not less than 75% and must have no rating lower than 50% in any of the tests.” An examinee who got a grade below 50% in any of the subjects—General Education and Professional Education for Elementary Teacher Examinees, or General Education, Professional Education, and Specialization for Secondary Teacher Examinees—will have to retake the entire Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT), even though he or she passed the rest of the LEPT.

This rule is reflected in the Program and General Instructions which the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) issues every exam term pursuant to its rule-making power. The PRC and the Board of Professional Teachers have deemed this important to ensure that only those who demonstrated—in one exam—competence in all the subjects should be admitted into the profession.

This laudatory aim notwithstanding, the law governing the regulation and supervision of professional teachers, Republic Act 7836 or the *Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994*, as amended, does not contain any provision that considers “subject flunkers” as having failed the LEPT entirely.

A failing rate in one or few subjects does not mean that the teacher aspirant is entirely lacking of knowledge and mettle to serve as a teacher. It only means that he or she lacked some points in just the subject in which he or she got a rating below 50%.

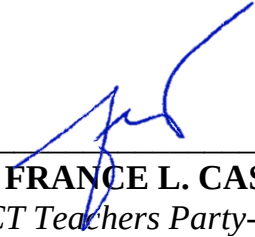
Furthermore, this rule on “subject flunkers” is one of the factors that make entry into the teaching profession so expensive. Just paying the PRC for the examination sets the teacher aspirant back ₱900, and the price tag increases with the other expenses related to the application itself, plus the review for and the actual taking of the examination. When a teacher aspirant fails in just one or two subjects, he or she will have to shell out for these amounts again in the next examination.

Considering the ever-growing student population and the worsening learning crisis, there is a need for more teachers, especially in the public education system. The last examination, in September 2023, resulted in only 23,782 elementary teachers and 53,995 secondary teachers—or 77,777 in total out of 146,562 takers. Of these passers, more than a fourth, or 27.11% (21,082) are repeaters. In March 2023, 13,544 or 18.6% of the 72,824 new teachers are repeaters. The PRC and the BOT, at a recent consultation, estimated that a substantial portion of repeaters are those who have failed in just one or two subjects (not all subjects) in their previous tries, and this repeats every examination term.

The 150,601 new teachers last year are barely enough for the teacher shortage in public schools, and this is certainly insufficient if private schools are to be factored in. The Alliance of Concerned Teachers Philippines estimates that the Department of Education needs to hire 147,000 yearly in order to have a class size of 35, the ballpark figure for an ideal class size, which varies across grade levels. The PRC and BPT agree that the country needs more LEPT passers to meet this demand of both public and private schools, and doing away with the rule on subject flunkers is one step towards that goal.

It should also be noted that the laws governing other professionals such as those of public accountants (RA 9298, 2004), guidance counselors (RA 9258, 2004), criminologists (RA 11131, 2018), and agricultural and biosystems engineering (RA 10915, 2016), to name a few, allow the deferment of the Board result of an examinee who failed to get a certain cut-off rating, usually 60%, after which, the examinee can retake that subject and successfully hurdle the Board upon getting that cut-off rating or the passing weighted average rating.

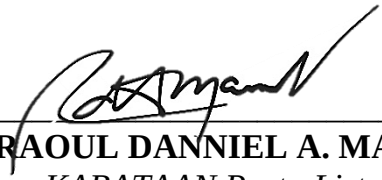
For these reasons, immediate approval of this bill is sought.



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 9946

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7836 OR THE *PHILIPPINE TEACHERS'*
***PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 1994*, THEREBY ALLOWING THE**
DEFERMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS IN CASES OF FAILURE TO RECEIVE A
RATING BELOW 50% IN ANY OF THE SUBJECTS AND THE RETAKING
OF THE SAID SUBJECT OR SUBJECTS

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

SECTION 1. Section 14 of Republic Act 7836 or the *Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14. Scope of Examination. - The examinations for the elementary and secondary school teachers shall be separate. The examination for teachers in the elementary level shall consist of two (2) **SUBJECTS**, namely: professional education and general education. The examination for teachers in the secondary level shall consist of three (3) **SUBJECTS**, namely: professional education, general education, and field of specialization.

SEC. 2. A new Section 15 is hereby inserted after Section 14 of Republic Act 7836, as amended, to read as follows:

Sec. 15. Rating in the Licensure Examination. - To pass the licensure examination for professional teachers, a candidate must obtain a weighted average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) with no grade less than sixty percent (50%) in any given subject: *Provided*, That in case the examinee obtains a weighted average rating of 75% but has a grade below fifty percent (50%) in any of the subjects, the result of the examinee shall be deferred, and he or she shall be required to retake that particular subject/: *Provided, finally* That the deferred examinee shall pass the licensure examination upon obtaining a rating of at least fifty percent (50%) in each of the subjects reexamined.

SEC. 3. The succeeding Sections are hereby renumbered.

SEC. 4. *Rules and regulations.* The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the DBM shall, upon consultation with the unions and organizations of public school teachers, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability clause.* Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,