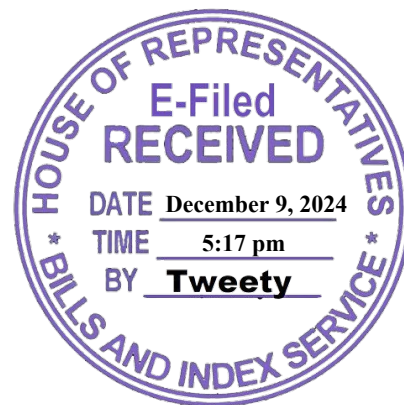


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
House Bill No. **11184**



Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, in Article XIV, Section 5 (5), recognizes the importance of teachers by mandating 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.” Public school teachers are indispensable in shaping the youth and providing quality education. However, non-teaching personnel are equally critical in maintaining the safe, organized, and effective functioning of schools.

Both teachers and non-teaching personnel face potential legal challenges arising from the performance of their duties. Teachers may face cases of alleged child abuse, misconduct, or other administrative or criminal charges. Non-teaching personnel, who are in constant contact with students, may similarly face allegations in situations such as student injuries, school-related disputes, or incidents involving discipline or safety. These legal battles can be emotionally and financially burdensome for individuals who dedicate their lives to serving the education sector.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the provision of free legal assistance to public school teachers and non-teaching personnel who face service-related legal cases. By designating the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) as the primary agency responsible for delivering these services, the bill ensures comprehensive and timely legal support for affected personnel.

By passing this measure, the government affirms its commitment to protecting all employees in the education sector and enabling them to focus on their roles without fear of undue litigation.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN
1st District, Sultan Kudarat

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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL FACING CHARGES
ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL
DUTIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Free Legal Assistance for Public School Teachers Act and Non-Teaching Personnel Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of teachers and non-teaching personnel in shaping the minds of the youth and ensuring access to quality education for all. It is therefore the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of public school teachers and non-teaching personnel by providing them with adequate legal support when they face charges related to the performance of their official duties.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Public School Teachers* – Refers to licensed educators employed in public elementary and secondary schools under the Department of Education (DepEd).
- (b) *Non-Teaching Personnel* – Refers to security guards, janitors, administrative clerks, librarians, school nurses, and other personnel employed by public schools under DepEd who perform functions that directly support the school’s operations and student welfare.
- (c) *Service-related Cases* – Refers to civil, criminal, or administrative cases filed against government health workers involving incidents directly arising from their official functions.
- (d) *Service-related Incident* – Refers to any act or omission by a government health worker in good faith as a consequence of their official functions or duties.

SEC. 3. Free Legal Assistance. – All public school teachers and non-teaching personnel facing charges in connection with service-related incidents before any court, prosecutor’s office, or administrative body shall be entitled to free legal assistance under this Act.

SEC. 4. Coverage of Legal Assistance. – Legal assistance provided under this Act shall include:

- (a) Representation in all stages of legal proceedings;
- (b) Legal consultations and advice related to the case;
- (c) Drafting and preparation of pleadings, motions, and other legal documents;

- (d) Notarization of documents; and
- (e) Other legal services as necessary.

SEC. 5. Designation of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO). – The Public Attorney's Office (PAO), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall be the primary agency responsible for providing legal assistance to public school teachers under this Act. The PAO shall prioritize cases involving service-related incidents of public school teachers and ensure timely and effective delivery of legal support.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. – The amounts necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included under the appropriations of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PAO, in coordination with the DepEd and the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,