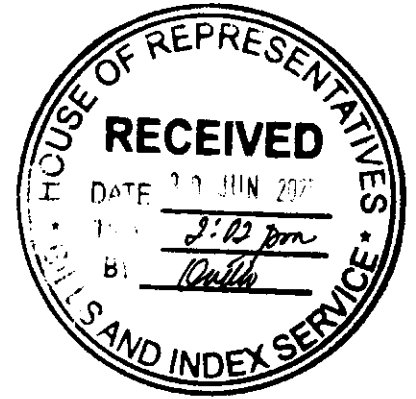




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 463



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego "Ping" D. Remulla

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF FREE ON-SITE LIVING QUARTERS FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many public school teachers are assigned to far-flung areas, often far from their families and homes. Some are forced to live in poor conditions or spend hours commuting every day just to reach their schools. This not only affects their well-being but also hinders their ability to perform their jobs effectively. This measure aims to change that by providing free and decent living quarters near the schools where these teachers serve.

With proper housing, teachers can focus more on teaching and less on the daily struggles of getting to work or finding a safe place to stay. This is especially important for remote communities where the presence of committed and supported teachers can make all the difference. The measure also supports programs like the government's Last Mile Schools initiative, which works to improve education in hard-to-reach areas.

The Department of Education will lead the implementation of this program, working closely with other agencies and local government units to bring it to fruition. By investing in our teachers' well-being, we also invest in the future of our students, ensuring that every child, regardless of their community's remoteness, has access to dedicated and empowered educators.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CRISPIN D. REMULLA' in a stylized, cursive script.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Free On-Site Living*
2 *Quarters for Public School Teachers Act*”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to ensure
4 the accessibility and affordability of quality education to all Filipinos.

5 The State duly recognizes the distinct situation of public school teachers who are
6 teaching away from their homes and their families.

7 It is the objective of the State to ensure the availability of competent and dedicated
8 public school teachers in the remotest areas in the country, with the least burden and hardship
9 on the part of said public school teachers.

10 **SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** – This Act shall apply to the public school teachers who are teaching
11 in public schools far away from their respective homes and families and are forced, or have
12 opted, to live in said areas where the schools they teach at are located.

13 There shall be no distinction between the aforementioned public school teachers who
14 are new hires and those who are transferees.

15 **SEC. 4. *Provision of Free On-Site Living Quarters.*** – The Department of Education
16 (DepEd) shall, free of charge, provide livable and humane living quarters at the nearest possible

1 location to the public schools where the covered public school teachers in Section 3 of this Act
2 are teaching.

3 Existing benefits and allowances already granted by law, rules, regulations, and
4 issuances to the covered public school teachers in this Act shall not be diminished, withdrawn,
5 or removed.

6 **SEC. 5. *Standards for Living Quarters.*** – The living quarters provided under this Act
7 shall meet the minimum standards for safety, habitability, and privacy. Each unit shall include,
8 but not be limited to, the following:

9 (a) Proper ventilation and lighting;

10 (b) Access to clean water and sanitation facilities;

11 (c) Access to electricity and internet connection;

12 (d) Furnishings such as beds, tables, and basic appliances; and

13 (e) Protection against hazards and compliance with national building codes and health
14 regulations.

15 **SEC. 6. *Maintenance.*** – The DepEd, in coordination with LGUs and school heads,
16 shall be responsible for the regular maintenance and upkeep of the living quarters.

17 **SEC. 7. *Funding.*** – The funding necessary for the successful implementation of this
18 Act shall be sourced from the existing funds of the DepEd and shall later on be specifically
19 allocated in the annual budget of the DepEd. In addition, reasonable and sufficient additional
20 funding shall be sourced from the Special Education Fund (SEF) arising from the real property
21 tax collected by concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) where the living quarters shall be
22 constructed and/or located.

23 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DepEd, in consultation with the
24 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the Interior and Local
25 Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget Management (DBM), shall formulate and
26 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the successful
27 implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

28 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is
29 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections and provisions thereof which are
30 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

31 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations or parts
32 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
33 accordingly.

1 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication in
2 a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,