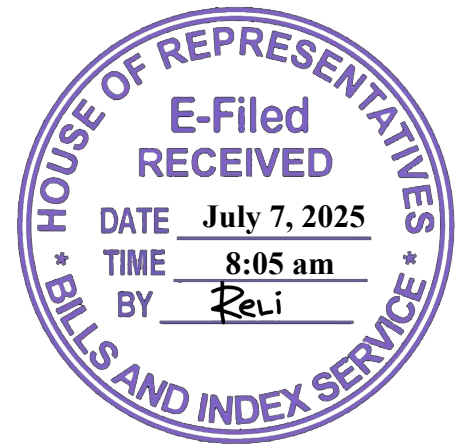


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1322**



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to lower the optional retirement age of public-school teachers from 60 to 55 years old so as to give justice to the plight of our public school teachers.

Teachers are the cornerstone of the Philippine educational system, playing a pivotal role in shaping the minds and future of the nation's youth. As public school educators, they face tremendous challenges: managing classrooms, keeping up with evolving curricula, and balancing administrative responsibilities, all while striving to ensure the academic and personal growth of their students. The physical, emotional, and mental demands placed on teachers can, over time, take a significant toll on their well-being. It is said, **when a public teacher retires at the age of 55, he or she will probably reach the age of 80, but when a public teacher retires at the age of 60, he or she will only reach the age of 65.**

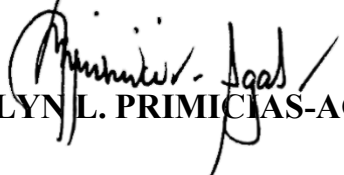
This is how the longevity of public teachers is now measured given the herculean task lodged unto them on a day-to-day basis. The continuing hazard and high level of stress attendant to the environment in which they live in, mostly result in absorption of occupation related diseases like lung cancer and other terminal illnesses. Records disclose that public school teachers in our country are working under bleak working conditions. Teachers also work in 40 out of 54 weeks per year. Working under this condition, propelled by long hours of work inclusive of vacation months and holidays, as teachers continue to bring their advisory and work-related loads at home, unnecessarily exposes public teachers to deteriorating health conditions.

Under *Republic Act 8291*, otherwise known as the “Revised Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997,” the optional retirement age for public school teachers is set at 60 years old. While this age is a standard retirement age for many government employees, it is increasingly recognized that teachers, due to the demanding nature of their profession, may benefit from an earlier opportunity to retire. Lowering the optional retirement age to 55 will provide teachers with the flexibility to retire earlier, giving them the chance to enjoy a well-deserved rest, while also allowing younger, dynamic educators to enter the workforce.

This bill seeks to amend *Section 13-A of Republic Act No. 8291* to lower the optional retirement age for public school teachers from 60 to 55, thereby aligning retirement opportunities with the realities and challenges faced by teachers, improving the overall efficiency and sustainability of the educational system.

Public school teachers should be given the necessary accolades for a job well done. They should be given the privilege of optional retirement at an earlier age taking into consideration the working conditions they are in, and the tributes that should be conferred upon them for their contribution in transforming our students into educated and productive citizens. And most importantly, public school teachers should be given the option and the opportunity to enjoy their lives at an earlier stage for themselves and their families at the age of 55.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1322**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

AN ACT
LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO FIFTY-FIVE
(55) YEARS OLD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997

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

SECTION 1. Section 13-A of Republic Act 8291, or the *Revised Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 13-A. Conditions for Entitlement, x x x A member who retires from the service shall be entitled to the retirement benefits in paragraph (a) of Section 13 hereof: Provided, That:

“(1) he OR SHE has rendered at least fifteen (15) years of service;

“(2) he OR SHE is at least sixty (60) years of age at the time of retirement, OR AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE (55) YEARS OF AGE IN THE CASE OF PUBLIC SHOOOL TEACHERS; and

“(3) he OR SHE is not receiving a monthly pension benefit from permanent total disability”

SECTION 2. The provisions in pertinent implementing rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,