

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **2453**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Teachers in the Philippines not only shoulder the task of providing better education to the country's students, they also endure hardships in the performance of their functions.

Teachers are "not allowed" to let their personal problems get in the way of their profession. Even if they are experiencing problems, they report to their classrooms and muster enough courage to put on a happy face and touch the hearts, minds and lives of their students.

Also, it is no secret that there are teachers in the Philippines who risk life and limb just to be able to teach deserving students in far-flung areas not connected by roads and areas which do not even have proper classrooms. They even teach in war-torn areas where they are in constant danger of being killed or kidnapped. Some teachers even face the unfortunate situation of confronting suicidal who run amok inside their classrooms.

An example is the public school teacher, Lorna Pulalon, who died while trying to save her pupils from the murderous wrath of an ex-convict that ran amuck inside a Zamboanga City elementary school.

Teaching is a passion and somebody must love to teach in order to do it well. As such, teachers should be rewarded in any way possible.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE
KILLED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the “Heroic Teachers’ Act”.

SEC. 2. Heirs or beneficiaries of public school teachers who are killed while in the performance of their duties are hereby given the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000) as additional death benefits exclusive of the benefits that they are entitled to under Republic Act No. 8291, otherwise known as the "The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997" or any other applicable law.

SEC. 3. Minor children of public school teachers who are killed while in the performance of their duties shall be entitled to full scholarships in public schools and colleges until their graduation in the tertiary level.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. The amounts necessary for the payment of the death benefits and the scholarships of the minor children shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, respectively, in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause* – All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all others sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,