



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2640

Introduced by Representative WALFREDO "ARMAN" R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION VOUCHER PROGRAM, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE BUREAU OF PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2, 3, 4(2), 4(3), 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, AND 15 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8545, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT", WHICH AMENDED REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT"

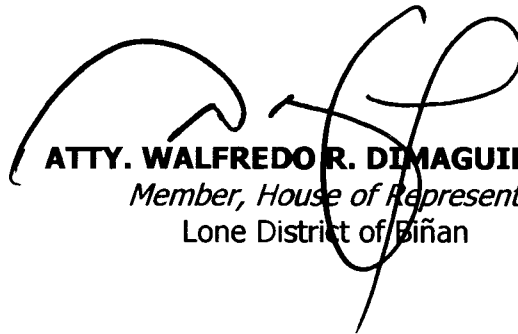
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality basic education remains a persistent challenge. Nearly one in three public schools continues to operate beyond ideal capacity, according to Department of Education (DepEd) 2024 data, hampering learning and widening achievement gaps. At the same time, many small and community-based private schools struggle with dwindling enrolment and limited resources, despite their crucial role in areas underserved by the public system.

Republic Acts Nos. 6728 and 8545 laid the groundwork for Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE). However, narrow coverage, outdated subsidy levels, and inadequate institutional support have constrained their impact. Recognizing these gaps, Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV filed a Senate bill proposing the Private Education Voucher Expansion (PEVE) Act. Guided by the spirit and substantive reforms of his measure, this counterpart House Bill seeks to modernize government support for private basic education, empower parental choice, and reinforce the complementary roles of public and private institutions.

The bill expands voucher coverage from kindergarten through senior high school; creates the Bureau of Private Education (BPE) under DepEd to administer the program and oversee quality standards; establishes a Teachers' Salary Subsidy Fund and an In-Service Training Fund; and streamlines program administration through the Basic Education Assistance Council (BEAC) and a dedicated Government Assistance and Subsidies Service. It provides an equitable, transparent framework to channel public funds where they generate the greatest learning gains while alleviating congestion in the public system.

Prompt enactment of this measure will widen access, elevate teaching quality, and strengthen thousands of private schools that complement the State's duty to provide basic education for all.



ATTY. WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.
Member, House of Representatives
Lone District of Biñan



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

- 1 SECTION 1. Short Title.—This Act shall be known as the "Private Education Voucher
2 Expansion (PEVE) Act of 2025."
- 3 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.—It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
4 right of all citizens to quality education and to recognize the complementary roles of
5 public and private educational institutions. The State shall establish a responsive
6 system of scholarships, subsidies, and incentives for learners, teachers, and schools
7 in private basic education, with particular attention to the disadvantaged and to
8 communities without adequate public-school capacity.
- 9 SEC. 3. Coverage.—This Act shall apply to all DepEd-recognized private basic
10 education institutions that participate in the voucher program and other assistance
11 schemes established herein. Assistance shall be extended only to Filipino citizens.

12 SEC. 4. Private Basic Education Voucher Program.—There is hereby established a
13 nationwide voucher program for learners from kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolled in
14 participating private schools that charge tuition and other school fees. The voucher
15 amount, differentiated by income bracket and school location, shall be set annually by
16 DepEd in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and
17 the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and shall not be less than
18 the prevailing subsidy under existing GASTPE programs. DepEd shall disburse
19 payments to schools within sixty (60) days of submission of complete billing
20 documents.

21 SEC. 5. Eligibility and Priority.—Learners from low-income households, as determined
22 by the Philippine Statistics Authority's official poverty thresholds and other DepEd
23 criteria, shall receive the highest voucher value. Learners displaced by school closures,
24 those residing in areas with congested or no nearby public schools, and learners with
25 disabilities shall likewise be accorded priority.

26 SEC. 6. Empowering Parental Choice.—DepEd shall maintain an online registry of
27 participating schools indicating their accreditation status, available slots, tuition and
28 other fees, and performance indicators. Parents or guardians shall be free to select
29 among registered schools, subject to slot availability.

30 SEC. 7. Quality Assurance.—DepEd shall develop and enforce minimum quality
31 standards for participating schools, including learning outcomes, faculty qualifications,
32 and safe-school indicators. Standardized national assessments shall be administered
33 to voucher beneficiaries, and outcome data shall be published annually.

34 SEC. 8. Bureau of Private Education.—A Bureau of Private Education (BPE) is hereby
35 created under DepEd. Headed by a Director, the BPE shall administer the voucher
36 program; set and enforce quality standards for private basic education; provide
37 technical assistance and capacity-building to schools; and oversee the Government
38 Assistance and Subsidies Service (GASS).

39 SEC. 9. Basic Education Assistance Council.—The Basic Education Assistance Council
40 (BEAC) is institutionalized to provide policy direction, monitoring, and evaluation of
41 assistance programs under this Act. The BEAC shall be chaired by the Secretary of
42 Education, with the Secretary of NEDA and the Secretary of DBM as members. The
43 GASS shall serve as the Council's permanent secretariat.

44 SEC. 10. Teachers' Salary Subsidy Fund.—There is hereby established a Teachers'
45 Salary Subsidy Fund to provide salary supplements to qualified teachers in
46 participating schools. The schedule and mode of disbursement shall be set in the
47 implementing rules and regulations (IRR), subject to periodic review by BEAC.

48 SEC. 11. In-Service Training Fund.—An In-Service Training (InSET) Fund is created to
49 finance professional development programs for teachers in private basic education,
50 aligned with DepEd-approved training standards.

51 SEC. 12. Other Forms of Assistance.—DepEd may, in consultation with DBM, design
52 additional support programs for institutional development, facility improvement, digital
53 learning infrastructure, and student nutrition and wellness in participating private
54 schools.

55 SEC. 13. Program Administration.—DepEd may engage qualified third-party service
56 providers for voucher billing, validation, and disbursement, subject to government
57 procurement laws and data-privacy regulations.

58 SEC. 14. Appropriations.—The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
59 Act shall be charged against the current year’s DepEd appropriations. Thereafter, such
60 sums shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

61 SEC. 15. Penalties.—Private schools found to have committed fraud, misuse of funds,
62 or material violations of program rules shall, after due process, be suspended or barred
63 from further participation, without prejudice to applicable civil, administrative, or
64 criminal liabilities.

65 SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.—Within ninety (90) days from the
66 effectivity of this Act, DepEd shall, in consultation with NEDA, DBM, and national
67 associations of private basic education institutions, promulgate the IRR.

68 SEC. 17. Separability Clause.—If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
69 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

70 SEC. 18. Repealing Clause.—Sections 2, 3, 4(2), 4(3), 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, and 15 of
71 Republic Act No. 8545 and all other laws or regulations inconsistent with this Act are
72 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

73 SEC. 19. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
74 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, notwithstanding the
75 non-issuance of the IRR.

Approved.