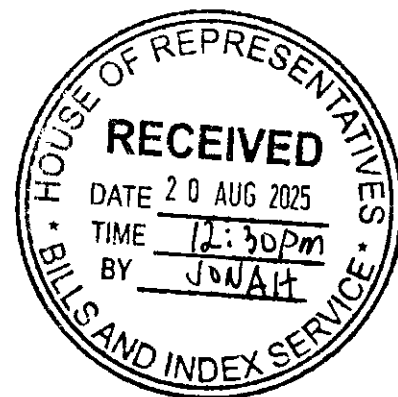


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 3869

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a scholarship program granting free post-graduate education to all qualified public school teachers in the country.

The advancement of our teachers is a matter of constitutional mandate. Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that: "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." Central to achieving this is ensuring a competent and highly-qualified teaching workforce.

Further, the Constitution explicitly directs the State to support our educators. Article XIV, Section 5(4) states: "The State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement." This provision is not merely a suggestion but a directive to actively create pathways for the professional growth and career development of our teachers.

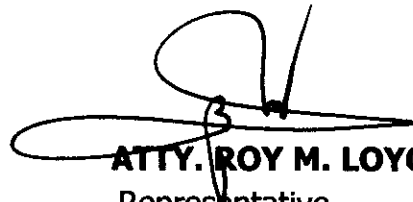
This constitutional duty is operationalized by Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers. The law specifically provides for the continuous improvement of its beneficiaries, mandating that their "educational qualifications shall be improved where possible and in-service training shall be made available." This bill directly fulfills the promise of the Magna Carta by removing the most significant barrier to our teachers' pursuit of advanced degrees.

Despite these legal affirmations, the reality for a public school teacher is often one of professional stagnation due to economic constraints. It is a common and valid complaint that aside from the lack of time—a result of heavy teaching loads and numerous non-teaching responsibilities—they simply lack the financial means to enroll in and complete master's or doctoral programs. Since the salaries of our public school teachers often struggle to cover even basic living expenses, allocating funds for further

education is an impossibility for many. This financial barrier effectively limits their opportunities for promotion and career progression, which are frequently tied to post-graduate qualifications.

If enacted, this measure will empower our public school teachers to enhance their professional competence by providing them with fully-funded access to post-graduate programs in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs). By investing in our educators, we are making a direct and strategic investment in the quality of our public education system. This bill not only seeks to uplift the welfare and status of our teachers but, more importantly, aims to elevate the quality of instruction for millions of Filipino students through a better-equipped and more motivated teaching force.

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



ATTY. ROY M. LOYOLA
Representative
Fifth District, Cavite

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

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House Bill No. 3869

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AN ACT
GRANTING FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **Sec. 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Free Post-Graduate
2 Education for Public School Teachers Act."

3 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to promote and enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement. The State
5 affirms its commitment to improving the terms of employment and career prospects
6 of public school teachers to attract and retain highly qualified individuals in the
7 teaching profession. This is in recognition of the fact that the quality of our public
8 education system depends on the qualifications and abilities of its teaching workforce,
9 and that education is a vital investment for national development.

10 **Sec. 3. *Free Post-Graduate Education in All State Colleges and***
11 ***Universities (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs).*** - No tuition
12 or miscellaneous fees shall be charged to teachers enrolled in post-graduate programs
13 in SUCs and LUCs.

14 **Sec. 4. *Coverage.*** - This Act shall cover all qualified teachers in public basic
15 education institutions under the Department of Education (DepEd).

16 **Sec. 5. *Eligibility.*** - To qualify for the grant, a teacher must meet the
17 following criteria: (a) Be a permanent and full-time public school teacher currently in

18 active service; (b) Have rendered at least two (2) consecutive years of teaching
19 service in the public school system prior to application; and (c) Pass the entrance
20 examination and fulfill all admission and retention requirements of the SUC or LUC
21 concerned.

22 **Sec. 6. *Implementation.*** - The Department of Education (DepEd) and the
23 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall serve as the implementing agencies of
24 this Act. Within sixty (60) days from its effectivity, they shall promulgate the necessary
25 implementing rules and regulations to ensure the effective and efficient
26 implementation of this Act. They are likewise mandated to consult teachers'
27 organizations and accredited teachers' unions in drafting these regulations.

28 **Sec. 7. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial
29 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current year's appropriations of
30 CHED, SUCs, and LUCs. Thereafter, the funding required for its continued
31 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

32 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby mandated to
33 include in the annual National Expenditure Program the budget proposals submitted
34 by SUCs and LUCs for the implementation of this Act.

35 **Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared
36 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be
37 in full force and effect.

38 **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, rules, and regulations
39 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed
40 accordingly.

41 **Sec. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
42 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

43 *Approved,*