

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4566



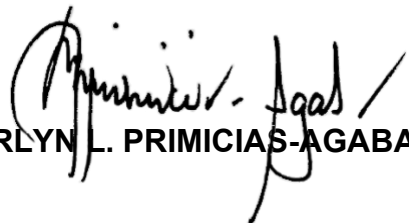
Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The teaching profession is the backbone of our nation's educational system and a vital force in shaping the country's future. The *1987 Constitution* explicitly recognizes the need to enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement and to ensure that education receives the highest budgetary priority, as provided in *Article XIV, Section 5(4)* and (5). While *Republic Act No. 10931*, otherwise known as the "*Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*," has made significant strides by providing free tuition and other school fees for undergraduate students in State and Local Universities and Colleges, it does not extend the same benefit to teachers seeking to pursue post-graduate studies.

In practice, many teachers in both public and private schools aspire to further their education, not only to improve their own competencies but also to elevate the quality of instruction they provide to their students. However, the financial burden of post-graduate education remains a significant barrier, particularly for those who serve in underserved or low-income communities. This bill seeks to address this gap by granting free post-graduate education in all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) to qualified teachers. In doing so, it fulfills the State's constitutional mandate to promote the professional growth of educators and to make quality education accessible at all levels.

By investing in the advanced education of teachers, the State uplifts the teaching profession and ensures that learners benefit from the expertise and dedication of highly qualified mentors. This measure is a concrete step towards attracting and retaining talented individuals in the teaching profession, consistent with the constitutional vision of making teaching a career of choice and fulfillment. The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to realize these constitutional aspirations and to further strengthen the foundation of our nation's educational system.


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

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs)
AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (LUCs), AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “**Free Post-Graduate Education for Teachers Act.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the professional growth of public and private schools teachers. The State policy of promoting and improving teachers’ terms of employment and career prospects in order that they may compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life and to attract and retain in the teaching profession more people with the proper qualifications, it being recognized that advance in education depends on the qualifications and ability of the teaching staff and that education is an essential factor in the economic growth of the nation as a productive investment of importance.

SEC. 3. Free post-graduate education in all State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs). Tuition and miscellaneous fees shall not be charged from teachers during their post-graduate studies.

SEC. 4. Coverage. The right to free post-graduate studies shall be extended to teachers in public and private schools.

SEC. 5. Eligibility. Public and private school teachers must be active in the service and have rendered at least two consecutive years of teaching prior to the date of the application of said grant. They must also they pass the entrance examination and other

admission and retention requirements of the SUCs and LUCs.

SEC. 6. *Implementation.* The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the implementing agencies for this Act and must, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure its efficient and effective implementation. For this purpose, they are hereby mandated to consult teachers' organizations and accredited teachers' unions.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of CHED, and the SUCs and LUCs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The Department of Budget and Management is mandated to include in the annual national expenditure program the proposals of the SUCs and LUCs necessary for the grant of the free post-graduate education provided under this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any Laws, decrees, or laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take fifteen (15) days from the publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,