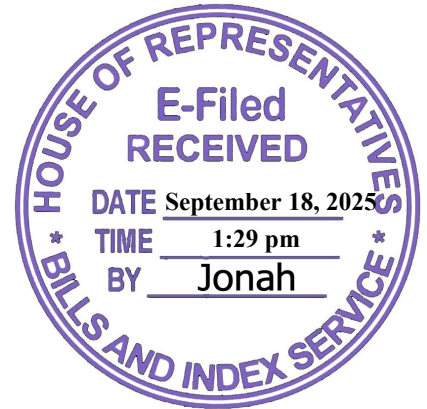




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4695



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF PRIVATE ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE SPECIAL
EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV 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. In furtherance of this constitutional mandate, this bill proposes to expand the coverage of Special Education Fund, as provided under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and include private elementary and secondary schools as beneficiaries of the Special Education Fund (SEF).

Currently, the SEF is only applicable to public schools. Under the Local Government Code, the SEF is from the additional one (1%) percent tax on real property levied and collected by Local Government Units. It provides the source of funds for the supplementary annual budgetary needs for the operation and maintenance of public schools within the province, city, or municipality through an annual SEF Budget. The formulation, approval, and utilization of the SEF Budget are the responsibility of the individual local school boards in each

province, city or municipality.¹ This includes expenses on the operation and maintenance of public schools; construction and repair of school buildings; school facilities and equipment; education research; purchase of books and periodicals; and, sports development.²

Despite its intent, however, this provision creates inequity between public and private schools and its students. Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) and Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), through COCOPEA Chairperson and CEAP President Fr. Albert N. Delvo, Ph.D., emphasized that there has been a decline in student enrollment in private schools, partly due to the rising costs of living, the appeal of free public education, and the closing of hundreds of private schools since the pandemic. Further, it also raised concerns about teachers migrating to public schools due to higher salaries and called for government support through initiatives like the Teacher Salary Subsidy (TSS) and expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE).³

To promote private education, this bill seeks to amend R.A. No. 7169 and allocate a portion of the proceeds accrued to the Special Education Fund (SEF) toward an annual supplementary budget for teacher and student development programs in private elementary and secondary schools. These programs may include, but are not limited to, seminars, workshops, and scholarships for continuing education. This measure will ensure that private schools receive sufficient government support to make a meaningful contribution to a more equitable and inclusive education system. Investing in the development of both educators and learners fosters an environment where all members of the academic community are empowered through sustained growth, training, and opportunity.

This measure was filed during the 17th, 18th, and 19th Congresses.

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


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ


YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

¹ Section 272 of the Local Government Code of 1991

² DBM Joint Circular No. 1, s.2017 accessed through <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2017/Joint%20Circular/JC-Deped-dilg.pdf>

³ Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (2024, November 24). *The 2024 CEAP National Convention Press Conference Highlights: Synodality in Catholic Education*. Retrieved September 17, 2025, from <https://www.ceap.org.ph/news-inside.aspx?News=395>

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ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, flowing 'J' and 'A'.

JUDE A. ACIDRE



Republic of the Philippines
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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF PRIVATE ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE SPECIAL
EDUCATION FUND (SEF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED

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 “*Special Education Fund for Private Schools Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to 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.

Section 3. Section 99 of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 99. Functions of Local School Boards. – The provincial, city, or municipal school board shall:

- (a) Determine, in accordance with the criteria set by the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS), the annual supplementary budgetary needs for the operation and maintenance of public schools **AND THE ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR TEACHER-STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS** within the province, city, or municipality, as the case may be, and the supplementary local cost of meeting such needs, which shall be reflected in the form of an annual school board budget corresponding to its share of the proceeds of the special levy on real property constituting the Special Education Fund and such other sources of revenue as this Code and other laws or ordinances may provide;

(b) x x x ”

Section 4. Section 272 of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 272. Application of Proceeds of the Additional One Percent SEF Tax. – The proceeds from the additional one percent (1%) tax on real property accruing to the Special Education Fund (SEF) shall be automatically released to the local school boards: *Provided*, That, in case of provinces, the proceeds shall be divided equally between the provincial and municipal school boards: *Provided, however*, That **PART OF** the proceeds shall be allocated for the operation and maintenance of public

schools, construction, and repair of school buildings, facilities and equipment, educational research, purchase of books and periodicals, and sports development as determined and approved by the Local School Board. ***PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT PART OF THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE ALLOCATED FOR TEACHER-STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AS DETERMINED AND APPROVED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD.***”

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education (DepEd) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act not later than ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 99 and 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, is further amended accordingly. All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,