

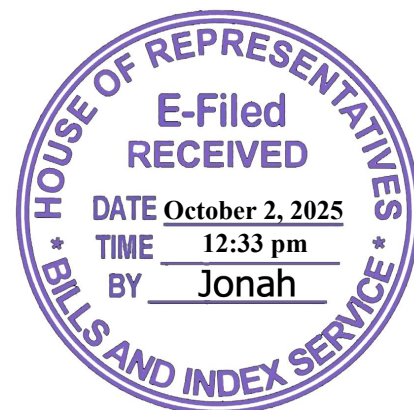
Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5085



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE
ASSIGNED OUTSIDE OF THEIR CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND
PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 5, provides:

(1) The State shall take into account regional and sectoral needs and conditions and shall encourage local planning in the development of educational policies and programs.

(5) The State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

Public school teachers occupy a socio-historical role and are looked up to as a source of enlightenment. Filipino teachers are among the noblest public servants in the country. Their duties and responsibilities for their students and the school administration often go beyond the six hours each day of instruction time.

However, notwithstanding the passage of Republic Act No. 8190 in 1996, thousands of teachers are still assigned very far from their cities/municipalities and/or provinces. This entails additional expenses on the part of the teachers and invariably affects the quality of education.

This bill aims to alleviate the plight of our distant public-school teachers, those assigned outside their cities, municipalities, and provinces, by providing a monthly incentive allowance.

This measure aims to properly recognize and compensate our public-school teachers who dedicate their lives to promoting quality and accessible education, despite the hardships of being assigned outside their residences.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Distant Public School Teachers Incentive Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to provide incentives to public school teachers who are assigned to teaching jobs outside of their respective cities, municipalities, and provinces. As much as possible, public school teachers shall be assigned to the cities/municipalities of their residence.

SECTION 3. *Assignment to Another Town Within the Same Province.* – Any public-school teacher who is assigned to a city/municipality other than the city/municipality of their residence shall, in addition to their basic salary and benefits under the Salary Standardization Law, be entitled to Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) monthly as incentive allowance.

SECTION 4. *Assignment to Another Province.* – Any public-school teacher who is assigned to a city/municipality of another province, other than their own, shall, in addition to their basic salary and benefits under the Salary Standardization Law, be entitled to receive Four Thousand Pesos (₱4,000.00) monthly as incentive allowance.

SECTION 5. *Applicability.* – The provisions of this Act shall apply to any public-school teacher who is officially transferred from their original assignment in accordance with the lawful orders of their superiors.

SECTION 6. *End of Benefit.* – A public school teacher who has received benefits under this Act but is eventually transferred to their own city/municipality of residence shall cease to be entitled to such incentive allowance as of the effective date of such transfer.

The establishment of a residence by a public-school teacher in the city/municipality where they are assigned shall have the same effect as being transferred to their own city/municipality as provided in the previous paragraph.

SECTION 7. *Tax Exemption.* – Incentive allowance received under the provisions of this Act shall be exempt from tax liability.

SECTION 8. *Proof of Residence.* – For purposes of determining the city/municipality or province of origin of a public-school teacher, the scholastic records filed in the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be consulted; otherwise, the sealed certification from the city/municipality mayor or the provincial governor shall be used.

SECTION 9. *Emergency Assignment.* – The incentive allowance provided in this Act shall not be availed of by public school teachers who are assigned to a different city/municipality or province in the event of a national disaster or national emergency.

SECTION 10. *Funding.* – The President is hereby authorized to realign or transfer any item of appropriation within the DepEd and/or utilize any savings therein to carry out the purpose of this Act during the first year of its effectivity. Thereafter, the amounts required for the implementation of this Act shall be included as a separate item in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education shall, in coordination with other stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,