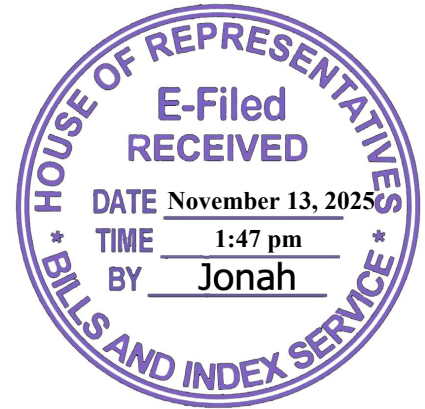


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5957



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks establish a national program that shall provide tangible financial assistance or Participation Allowances to elementary and secondary school students, as well as their respective coaches, who represent the Philippines in international competitions.

Participation in international competitions, may it be academic, athletic or cultural, is a critical component of holistic education. These activities allow students to apply their skills and knowledge in different contexts, thereby challenging them to go beyond the confines of classrooms. These events provide our learners with the invaluable opportunity to explore and hone their areas of interests, foster discipline, develop critical thinking and even build self-confidence. Furthermore, these are the venues wherein students are able to share their talents and skills not just with local communities, but also the world.

The current system, however, heavily relies on local government units (LGUs), private sponsors or the personal resources of the students' families to cover essential expenses in the form of registration fees, transportation, accommodation and daily subsistence while attending these competitions. This financial burden often hinders talented learners coming from marginalized or underprivileged backgrounds, preventing them from accepting opportunities to represent the country.

Through this bill, the provision of Participation Allowances to both eligible elementary and secondary students and their coaches from public and private schools ensures an equitable approach to national representation. It shall cover expenses such as registration fees, transportation expenses and per diem or daily subsistence allowances, all subject to available funds. This financial support shall allow student-representatives to focus solely on their performance without having to stress about finances.

The provision of a participation allowance is an investment in the nation's youth and talent. It is the affirmation of the government's commitment towards developing our most promising students in their pursuit of international recognition.

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



RYAN S. RECTO
Representative
6th District, Batangas

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5957

Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

AN ACT
PROVIDING PARTICIPATION ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTING THE
COUNTRY IN ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC AND CULTURAL COMPETITIONS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Student Competition*
2 *Participation Allowance Act*”.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to provide
6 subsidies and other incentives to deserving students. The State recognizes that
7 providing participation allowances to student-contestants supports their academic and
8 personal development, while they represent the country.

9
10 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following shall be defined
11 as follows:

- 12
13 a) *Endorsed Competitions* refer to competitions that are formally
14 recommended by the Department of Education (DepEd) or covered under
15 official DepEd advisories;

1 b) *International Competitions* refer to competitions held outside of the
2 Philippines

3
4 c) *Participation Allowance* refers to the financial assistance provided to eligible
5 students and their coaches to cover costs associated with participating in
6 competitions.

7
8 Sec. 4. *Eligibility.* – Participation allowances will be available for the following
9 eligible students, coaches, and competition categories for International Competitions:

10
11 a) *Students from Public and Private Schools.* – Participation allowances are
12 provided to students from both public and private schools in the Philippines
13 who are representing the country in International Competitions that are
14 considered Endorsed Competitions.

15
16 b) *Students from Public Schools.*– Participation allowances for final rounds of
17 highly-specialized International Competitions are provided exclusively to
18 students from public schools representing the country in Final Rounds of
19 Competitions specifically endorsed by a DepEd advisory.

20
21 c) *Coaches from Public and Private Schools.* – Coaches from both public and
22 private schools who are representing the country alongside eligible students
23 in endorsed International Competitions.

24
25 Sec. 5. *Participation Allowance Rates and Coverage.* – Allowances shall cover
26 eligible expenses associated with participation in International Competitions, available
27 to both students and coaches representing the Philippines. *Provided, That,* the
28 Participation Allowance for International Competitions shall not exceed Thirty
29 Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) per individual, and shall be subject to the availability of
30 funds and the discretion of the DepEd Secretary for any amount exceeding this
31 limitation.

1 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
2 of this Act shall be charges against the current appropriations of the Department of
3 Education. Thereafter, such funds necessary for the continued implementation of this
4 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

5
6 Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within thirty (60) days
7 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall promulgate the
8 necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

9
10 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders,
11 issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly

13
14 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
15 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions not affected thereby shall remain
16 valid and in full force and effect.

17
18 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
20 circulation.

21
Approved,