

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5983



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is foremost the priority of the State. In fact, the 1987 Constitution provides for its promotion, to wit:

“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.”¹

The promotion of education includes a myriad of other aspects. Aside from student welfare, another facet of solving issues related to education are those related to the teachers. Teachers, even prior to the pandemic, are experiencing various problems related to the teaching profession. While those in metropolitan areas experience a lot of problems, the story in far-flung areas are quite different, especially in last mile schools.

Many teachers travel long hours just to reach their destination schools. Along the way, they experience hazards and are exposed to various kinds of risks which are not normally experienced by teachers in metropolitan areas and city centers.

As a result, this issue affects and spills over the promotion of more capable teachers in entering the public education sector. It is within the purview of the State to complement the dedication and hard work of the teachers in pursuit of serving as bridge in making sure that the Filipino youth shall indeed, be the future of our nation.

Hence the need for this Bill. It shall solve the aforementioned problems faced by teachers in far-flung areas by providing dormitories and housing quarters in order to support them in the practice of their profession so that they will not have to worry about traveling for hours just to teach the Filipino youth.

¹ Article XIV, Section 1, 1987 Constitution.

Furthermore, it is the State's commitment to the welfare and safety of our teachers and ensure that their talents and energies are refocused in making better Filipinos who are equipped with necessary skills and knowledge to serve not just themselves, but also the society at large.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR DORMITORIES OR HOUSING QUARTERS FOR
TEACHERS IN FAR-FLUNG AREAS, LAST-MILE SCHOOLS, AND STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Dormitories for Teachers Act of 2022.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a policy of the State to promote and improve the socioeconomic status of public school teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment, and their career prospects, with the objective of making these compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* - The provisions of this Act shall apply to all educators, such as teachers, instructors, professors, lecturers, and other similar professionals, who are employed at public schools in far-flung areas, last-mile schools, and state universities and colleges located far from the city center.

SECTION 4. *Temporary Housing Facilities.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake to provide decent and adequate temporary housing facilities, in the form of dormitories or housing quarters, to educators employed at public schools in far-flung areas, last-mile schools, and state universities and colleges located far from the city center.

The abovementioned agencies are also mandated to ensure that these temporary housing facilities are equipped with electricity and water lines, as well as the basic appliances and furnishings necessary for day-to-day living of the covered individuals. This shall include, at the minimum:

- 1) Beds and beddings
- 2) Work desks
- 3) Cabinets and other storage spaces
- 4) A basic kitchen
- 5) Such other appliances and furnishing which may be deemed necessary

As far as practicable, these temporary living arrangements shall also be constructed in such locations where the tenants may get a decent internet connection, whether wired or wireless.

SECTION 5. *Inventory of Less Accessible Schools.* - The DepEd and CHED are hereby mandated to create an inventory of public schools in far-flung areas, last-mile schools, and state universities and colleges located far from the city center, arranged from least to most accessible. The least accessible schools, universities, and/or colleges shall receive priority in the implementation of this law.

SECTION 6. *Management of Temporary Housing Facilities.* - The temporary living arrangements created under this Act shall be managed by the regional offices of DepEd or CHED, whichever is applicable. The regional offices shall open the applications for tenancy at these housing facilities and notify applicants of their acceptance or rejection within a reasonable time prior to the opening of the academic year.

The acceptance or rejection of tenants shall take into consideration the capacity of the housing facilities, the availability of other living arrangements within the vicinity of the school/university/college, the distance of the applicant's current or permanent address from the school, and other such relevant information.

SECTION 7. *Period of Operation.* - Temporary housing facilities created pursuant to this Act shall be available for occupancy during the entire duration of an academic year. This period of operation may be extended on a case-to-case basis, taking into consideration summer classes, continuing research work, and other similar circumstances.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - Such a budget as may be necessary for the initial implementation of this Act is hereby allocated. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act in the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days after this Act takes effect, the Department of Education (DepEd),

Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in consultation and coordination with appropriate government agencies, representatives from the private sector, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,