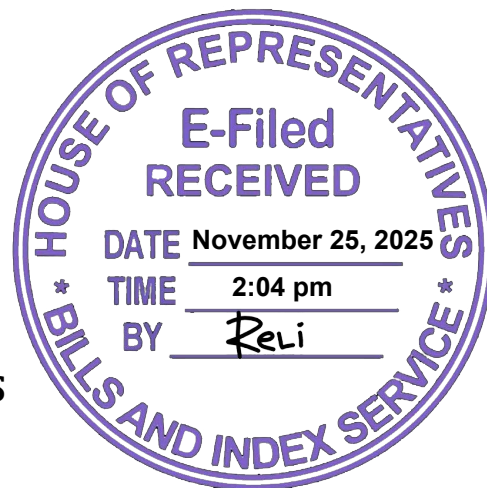




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6357**



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

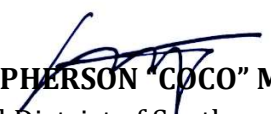
Teachers across our nation’s elementary and secondary schools continue to face limited opportunities for professional advancement through postgraduate education. Many educators, especially those in under-resourced public or small private schools, are constrained by tuition costs and fees when pursuing specialized studies in education. The pandemic further exposed gaps in teacher preparation: national assessments found that many teachers had no formal access to advanced training in curriculum design, technology-enhanced instruction, or inclusive teaching practices.

According to the latest data from the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education, only about 18 % of basic education teachers have attained a master’s or higher degree in education or a related field, placing the Philippines below regional averages for teacher qualification. In remote or far-flung communities, teacher attrition and difficulty in filling specialized teaching posts persist, with schools reporting vacancy rates of up to 12 % for key subject areas. Research indicates that higher teacher qualifications correlate with improved student outcomes, schools with 80% or more advanced-degree-holding teachers saw achievement gains of 8–10 percentage points higher than those with lower qualifications.

This bill addresses those challenges by mandating that all state colleges and universities waive tuition and related fees for teachers in both public and private basic education schools who enroll in postgraduate programs in education. The measure also empowers the Commission on Higher Education to issue implementation guidelines and

provides for additional financial assistance for teachers assigned in remote or difficult-access areas. By removing financial barriers, the bill seeks to encourage widespread advanced training, bolster teacher capacity nationwide, improve educational quality, and contribute to the State's constitutional commitment to provide a quality education for all.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE TUITION AND WAIVER OF OTHER FEES TO ALL PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ENROLLED IN
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION IN STATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

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 “Free Postgraduate Studies for Teachers in Basic Education Act.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, State Colleges and Universities shall provide free tuition and waive all other fees and charges for teachers in both private and public schools in basic elementary and secondary education who are enrolled or taking postgraduate studies related to their profession. Financial assistance from scholarship funds being managed by State Colleges and Universities, the Commission on Higher Education, and other government agencies, may also be granted to those who are assigned in far-flung communities where public transportation is not easily available or costly.

Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,