



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



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6930**

Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar “Jay” V. Vergara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to extend assistance and subsidy to private elementary students and teachers by amending Republic Act (RA) No. 6728, as amended by RA 8545, otherwise known as the “*Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act (E-GASTPE)*.”

Section 5(5), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates that “*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.*” This constitutional provision underscores education as a national priority and emphasizes the importance of providing educators with fair and sufficient compensation to attract and retain qualified and competent teachers.

Due to this constitutional commitment, a significant disparity between the salaries of public and private school teachers exists. The salary rates of private school teachers are determined by the respective private educational school, subject to the regional minimum wage set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards, and guided by the regulatory and supervisory functions of the Department of Education (DepEd). In contrast, the salaries of public school teachers are legislated and uniformly implemented across all regions. This structural difference makes it difficult to bridge the wage gap between the two sectors, as compensation in private schools is predominantly tied to tuition revenues and thus reliant on parent contributions. In contrast, public school teachers receive government-funded salaries mandated through national legislation, ensuring uniformity and fiscal backing across regions.

Consequently, public school teachers enjoy higher and more competitive compensation packages, prompting a steady migration of educators from private to public institutions. While this movement strengthens the public education system, it simultaneously weakens private schools, which play a vital role in complementing the State's efforts to provide accessible and quality education to all learners.

To help narrow the gap and uplift the private education sector, the DepEd has approved an increase in the annual Teachers' Salary Subsidy (TSS) for eligible private school teachers from P18,000.00 to P24,000.00 effective School Year 2025-2026.

This proposed measure seeks to enhance such efforts and include teachers in private elementary schools among the beneficiaries of the E-GASTPE law. It further provides for an increase in the total monthly salary, inclusive of government subsidy, to ninety percent (90%) of the salary of their counterparts in public schools.

Furthermore, the measure extends tuition and textbook assistance to students in private elementary schools and broadens the existing Educational Service Contracting (ESC) scheme. This proposal is aligned with the original intent of the E-GASTPE law to alleviate the congestion in public schools and promote quality education.

By ensuring more equitable compensation for teachers in private basic education and guaranteed assistance to private elementary students, this bill aims to promote quality, stability and long-term sustainability in the private education sector, enhance teacher retention, and reinforce the collaborative partnership between public and private institutions in advancing the nation's educational goals.

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



JULIUS CESAR "JAY" V. VERGARA



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1 **AN ACT**
2 **EXTENDING ASSISTANCE AND SUBSIDY TO PRIVATE**
3 **ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, AMENDING FOR THE**
4 **PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE**
5 **KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO**
6 **STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT,” AND**
7 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

8
9 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
10 *Congress assembled:*

11
12 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Republic Act (RA) No. 6728, as amended by
13 RA 8545, is further amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 4. *Forms of Assistance.*** – Assistance to private
15 education shall consist of assistance to students and assistance
16 to teachers.

17 **“The following are forms of assistance to students in**
18 **private education:**

1 “(1) Tuition fee supplements for students in private
2 [high] **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools,
3 including students in vocational and technical courses;

4 “(2) [High] **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
5 School Textbook Assistance Fund: Provided, That the textbook
6 assistance per student in private [high] **ELEMENTARY AND**
7 **SECONDARY** schools shall be determined by the council and
8 shall not exceed what students in public [high]
9 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools are provided
10 on a per student basis under a comprehensive textbook program
11 ~~[of the Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP)]~~:
12 Provided, further, That the textbook assistance shall be granted
13 only to beneficiaries of tuition fee supplements and educational
14 service contracting scheme provided in this Act;

15 “(3) xxx;

16 “(4) xxx;

17 “xxx.

18 “The following are forms of assistance to teachers and
19 faculty in private education:

20 “(1) In-service training fund for teachers in private [high]
21 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools; and

22 “(2) College Faculty Development Fund.”

1 SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

2 “SEC. 5. *Tuition Fee Supplements for Students in Private*
3 *[High] ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY Schools.* – (1)
4 Financial Assistance tuition for students in private ~~[high]~~
5 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools shall be
6 provided by the government through a voucher system in the
7 following manner:

8 “(a) xxx.

9 “(2) Assistance under paragraph (1), subparagraph (a) shall be
10 guaranteed to all private ~~[high]~~ **ELEMENTARY AND**
11 **SECONDARY** schools participating in the program for a
12 number of slots as of the effectivity of this Act as the total
13 number of students who availed of tuition fee supplements for
14 the year 1997-1998: Provided, That the State Assistance
15 Council may in subsequent years determine additional slots
16 and/or additional participating ~~[high]~~ **ELEMENTARY AND**
17 **SECONDARY** schools as may be deemed necessary.”

18 SEC. 3. Section 6 of the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

19 “SEC. 6. *[High] ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY*
20 *School Textbook Assistance Fund.* – There shall be established
21 in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), ~~[a~~
22 **High] ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** School

1 Textbook Assistance Fund, so that assistance on a per student
2 basis shall be given to students enrolled in private schools
3 exclusively for the purchase of **ELEMENTARY AND [high]**
4 **SECONDARY** school textbooks, in support of the
5 implementation of the **[Secondary] ENHANCED BASIC**
6 **Education [Development] Program UNDER REPUBLIC ACT**
7 **NO. 10533, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
8 ***“ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013”***:
9 *Provided*, That the textbook assistance per student in private
10 **[high] ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools shall be
11 determined by the council and shall not exceed what students in
12 public **[high] ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools
13 are provided on a per student basis: *Provided, further*, That the
14 textbook assistance shall be granted only to beneficiaries of
15 tuition fee supplements and educational service contracting
16 scheme provided in this Act.”

17 SEC. 4. Section 7 of the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

18 “SEC. 7. *Expansion of the Existing Educational Service*
19 *Contracting (ESC) Scheme*. – (a) The Department of Education,
20 Culture and Sports (DECS) shall continue to enter into
21 contracts with private schools whereby the government shall
22 shoulder the tuition and other fees of **[high] ELEMENTARY**

1 **AND SECONDARY** school students who shall enroll in
2 private ~~[high]~~ **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools
3 under this program.

4 “(b) The Department shall also enter into contracts with
5 private schools in communities where there are no public ~~[high]~~
6 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools, in which case
7 the Department shall shoulder the tuition and other fees of
8 students who shall enroll in said private schools.

9 “(c) The amount of assistance to be given by the
10 government under this section shall not exceed that determined
11 as the per student cost in public ~~[high]~~ **ELEMENTARY AND**
12 **SECONDARY** schools.

13 “(d) xxx.

14 “(e) The amount of assistance shall be allocated and
15 distributed among the ~~[sixteen-(16)]~~ **EIGHTEEN (18)** regions
16 in proportion to the total population as well as the ~~[high]~~
17 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** school age population
18 for the first year: Provided, That ~~[starting school year 1998,]~~ an
19 equalization scheme shall be implemented by the State
20 Assistance Council.

21 “(f) The amount of assistance to private ~~[high]~~
22 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools participating

1 in the program shall be **BASED ON** guaranteed [~~for a~~] number
2 of slots [~~as of the effectivity of this Act as the number of~~
3 ~~students availing of educational service contracting assistance~~
4 ~~for school year 1997-1998~~]; *Provided*, That the State Assistance
5 Council may [~~in subsequent years~~] determine additional slots
6 and/or additional participating private [~~high~~] **ELEMENTARY**
7 **AND SECONDARY** schools as may be deemed necessary.”

8 SEC. 5. Section 12 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

9 “SEC. 12. *In-service Training Fund (Inset Fund)*. – For
10 the purpose of improving the quality of teaching in private
11 **ELEMENTARY AND** secondary education, there is hereby
12 established in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports
13 an Inset Fund to provide for the upgrading of knowledge and
14 teaching competencies in critical subject areas and for the
15 modernization of teaching techniques and strategies, including
16 training in the use of computers and of other multi-media
17 educational technologies to assist instruction: *Provided*, That
18 the Inset Fund shall be available only to qualified licensed
19 teachers in participating private [~~high~~] **ELEMENTARY AND**
20 **SECONDARY** schools as determined by the State Assistance
21 Council: *Provided, further*, That the amount of Inset Fund
22 available to private **ELEMENTARY AND** secondary

1 education shall not exceed that available to public
2 **ELEMENTARY AND** secondary education on a per capita
3 basis.”

4 SEC. 6. Section 14 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

5 “SEC. 14. *Teachers’ Salary Subsidy Fund.* – A Teachers’
6 Salary Subsidy Fund is hereby established in the DECS to grant
7 government subsidy to teachers in private [high]
8 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools participating
9 in the programs of assistance provided in this Act: *Provided,*
10 That the total monthly salary which includes the subsidy to be
11 received by such private [high] **ELEMENTARY AND**
12 **SECONDARY** school teachers shall not be more than [eighty]
13 **NINETY** percent [(80%)] **(90%)** of the salary [of his
14 counterpart] in the public sector: *Provided, further,* That the
15 amount of monthly subsidy shall not exceed the amount of any
16 monthly salary increase that teachers in public [high]
17 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** schools shall after the
18 effectivity of this Act hereinafter receive: *Provided, further,*
19 That private [high] **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
20 school teachers qualified to receive subsidy under this act are
21 duly licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission:
22 *Provided, further,* That the government shall provide them with

1 a voucher for the salary subsidy which shall be reimbursed
2 directly to the teachers within sixty (60) days after the close of
3 the school year upon submission of proof of qualification and
4 actual teaching service in a participating private [high]
5 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY** school: *Provided,*
6 *further,* That the present allocation out of increases from tuition
7 and other income shall be maintained: *Provided, finally,* [~~That~~
8 ~~in case of insufficiency of funds, priority shall be given to~~
9 ~~married teachers supporting a family.]~~ **THAT THE SALARY**
10 **SUBSIDY RECEIVED BY THE PRIVATE**
11 **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS SHALL**
12 **BE EXCLUDED FROM INCOME TAXATION.”**

13 SEC. 7. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
14 shall be charged against the current budget of the Department of Education.
15 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation
16 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 SEC. 8. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
18 Secretary of Education shall update the implementing rules and regulations and
19 other issuances necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
20 Likewise, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue shall
21 promulgate a revenue regulation exempting the teacher subsidy from income
22 taxation.

1 SEC. 9. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and
2 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
3 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

6 Approved,