



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8776

Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN IN-SCHOOL HOUSING SHELTER PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, ESTABLISHING ITS MECHANISMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines clearly recognizes the vital role of education in nation-building. It mandates the State to protect and promote every citizen's right to high-quality education. Article XIV, Section 1 directs the State to create and support a complete, adequate, and integrated education system relevant to society's needs. In addition, Article XIV, Section 5(2) requires the State to assign the highest budgetary priority to education. It also ensures that teaching attracts and retains the best talents through adequate remuneration and other means of satisfaction.

Public school teachers are the torchbearers of this vision. They ignite curiosity and instill values. They also lay the groundwork for future leaders. Their influence is crucial for inclusive growth, social progress, and national development. Yet, despite their impact, many teachers endure great hardships to answer their calling.

Across the nation, teachers in remote and underserved communities face more than lesson planning. Some trek for hours on foot and wade through rivers. Others scale rugged hills or depend on unreliable transport just to reach their classrooms. Many are forced to leave their families behind for weeks because housing is unavailable nearby. These hardships threaten safety and well-being. They also disrupt the steady flow of quality education to our youth.

Without affordable housing near schools, many teachers spend much of their income on rent or long commutes. This financial strain, along with daily fatigue, erodes their ability to teach with energy and passion.

Recognizing these urgent challenges, this proposed measure creates an in-school housing program for public school teachers. It upholds the Constitution's promise of quality education and teacher welfare. The program calls for using existing government housing resources by temporarily opening available facilities from other agencies. This will

continue until the Department of Education can build dedicated in-school housing. The measure also encourages strong partnerships between key housing and education agencies to ensure program success and sustainability.

Investing in teachers is investing in the nation's future. Supporting teachers gives them the chance to live in safe, accessible, and dignified homes. This support lets them devote themselves to their calling. This measure honors their sacrifices and renews the State's commitment to empower educators as leaders in national progress.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “**In-School Housing Shelter Program for Public School Teachers Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the welfare and well-being of public school teachers by ensuring access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing within or proximate to school premises. The State recognizes the vital role of teachers in nation-building and shall provide mechanisms to alleviate the burdens brought about by geographical, economic, and social challenges, particularly for those assigned in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following are hereby defined as:

“**Public School Teachers**” shall refer to all teaching personnel employed by the government in elementary, secondary, and tertiary public schools.

“**In-School Housing Shelter Program**” shall refer to a system of programs, benefits, and infrastructure support designed to provide teachers with access to housing within or near school premises.

“**Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs)**” shall refer to areas characterized by limited access to basic services, transportation, and infrastructure.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of the In-School Housing Shelter Program.* - There is hereby established an In-School Housing Shelter Program for Public School Teachers, which shall provide for the construction, development, and maintenance of housing units within or immediately adjacent to public school premises, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The program shall likewise include the development of teacher dormitories or communal housing facilities for temporary accommodation, as well as the provision of rental subsidies or housing allowances in cases where in-school housing is not immediately available.

SECTION 5. *Interim Housing Through Existing Government Facilities.* - Pending the construction or establishment of in-school housing facilities by the Department of Education, the government shall identify, coordinate, and make available suitable and habitable housing facilities from other government agencies, including but not limited to unused quarters, dormitories, training centers, or similar accommodations, for temporary use by public school teachers. The Department of Education shall ensure, in coordination with concerned agencies, that such facilities meet minimum standards of safety, accessibility, and habitability, with priority given to teachers assigned in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas or those without access to adequate housing near their place of work.

SECTION 6. *Inter-Agency Coordination and Implementation.*- The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and the National Housing Authority shall work hand-in-hand in the planning, development, and implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall jointly formulate and implement a comprehensive and sustainable housing development plan for public school teachers, identify suitable lands and school sites for in-school housing projects, facilitate the construction, financing, and allocation of housing units, ensure compliance with housing standards and regulations, and coordinate with other relevant government agencies and local government units for the efficient delivery of services under this Act.

SECTION 7. *Priority Beneficiaries.* - Priority shall be given to teachers assigned in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, teachers without permanent residence near their assigned schools, and newly hired teachers deployed in remote locations.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Inter-Agency Coordination.* - Government agencies are encouraged to coordinate with one another to maximize utilization of staff housing facilities, develop shared or centralized accommodations, and avoid duplication of infrastructure and expenditures.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the National Housing Authority, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,