

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9362**



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION TO PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The quality of a nation's education system is inextricably linked to the quality of its teachers. As the primary architects of human capital, teachers bear the responsibility of preparing the youth for the complexities of a rapidly evolving global landscape. For the Philippine education system to remain competitive and responsive, it must shift from viewing teacher development as a personal expense to recognizing it as a critical state investment. The proposed "Free Post-Graduate Education for Teachers Act" seeks to institutionalize this shift by providing free tuition and miscellaneous fees for both public and private school teachers in State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs).

The Constitution mandates that the State shall prioritize education. However, at present, many teachers are hindered from pursuing Master's and Doctoral degrees due to the prohibitive costs of graduate schooling and the rising cost of living. By removing the financial barrier to advanced learning, the State ensures that educators can access the latest pedagogical theories, research methodologies, and specialized subject knowledge.

Furthermore, this Act addresses the retention crisis within the profession. By improving the career prospects and professional trajectory of employment for teachers, the State makes the teaching profession more attractive compared to other industries or opportunities abroad. This "brain gain" is essential to maintaining a robust and experienced workforce in our local classrooms.

We are living in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where digitalization, artificial intelligence, and global interconnectedness are

redefining the workforce. The changing times demand more than just basic literacy; they demand critical thinking, digital fluency, and emotional intelligence. Teachers cannot guide students through these modern challenges using outdated frameworks.

The proposed bill is not a mere subsidy; it is a strategic intervention. It acknowledges that to elevate the student, we must first elevate the teacher. By funding the advanced education of our educators in SUCs and LUCs, the State fulfills its role as a patron of knowledge and a guardian of the nation's future. The passage of this bill is a vital step toward ensuring that no Filipino teacher is left behind in the pursuit of excellence, thereby ensuring that no Filipino student is left behind in the race toward global progress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Conrad', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9362**

Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

**AN ACT
GRANTING FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION TO PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted in 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 Post-Graduate Education for Teachers Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the professional growth of public and private schools teachers. The State policy of promoting and improving teachers’ terms of employment and career prospects in order that they may compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life and to attract and retain in the teaching profession more people with the proper qualifications, it being recognized that advance in education depends on the qualifications and ability of the teaching staff and that education is an essential factor in the economic growth of the nation as a productive investment of importance.

SEC. 3. Free post-graduate education in all State Colleges and Universities (SUCS) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs). – Tuition and miscellaneous fees shall not be charged from teachers during their post-graduate studies.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – The right to free post-graduate studies shall be extended to teachers in public and private schools.

SEC. 5. Eligibility. – Public and private school teachers must be active in the service and have rendered at least two consecutive years of teaching prior to the date of the application of said grant. They must also they pass the

entrance examination and other admission and retention requirements of the SUCs and LUCs.

SEC. 6. *Implementation.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the implementing agencies for this Act and must, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure its efficient and effective implementation. For this purpose, they are hereby mandated to consult teachers organizations and accredited teachers' unions.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of CHED, and the SUCs and LUCs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Department of Budget and Management is mandated to include in the annual national expenditure program the proposals of the SUCs and LUCs necessary for the grant of the free post-graduate education provided under this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any Laws, decrees, or laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,