

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9637**



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Introduced by Representative **DIBU S. TUAN**

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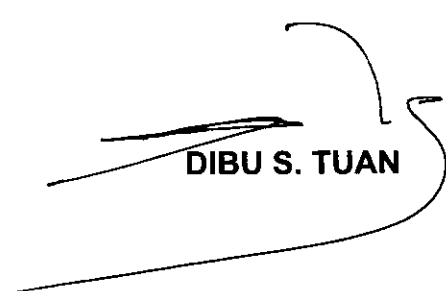
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 5 (4) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that: "The State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional development. Non-teaching academic and non-academic personnel shall enjoy the protection of the State." Likewise, Article XIV, Section 5 (5) states 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."

Despite the constitutional provisions, public school teachers remain underpaid and overworked. This drives skilled teachers to seek better employment elsewhere, particularly abroad. The intention of this bill is to provide our educators the opportunity to grow as professionals and as academics through the institution of a viable post graduate scholarship program for deserving public school teachers.

As such, this representation is refiling this legislation previously filed in the 19th Congress. I believe that by investing in the professional development of our teachers through continuing education programs, this measure will help improve the country's global competitiveness and contribute to the professional growth of teachers.

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

  
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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND**  
**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Public School Teachers Scholarship Act"

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy** - The State shall give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development. In line with this, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enhance the right of teachers to professional development.

**SEC. 3. Coverage** - Public school teachers in elementary and high school levels shall be eligible to avail of the scholarship grants for master's degree or a doctorate degree.

**SEC. 4. Scope of the Scholarship Grant** - The scholarship grant shall cover the full cost of tuition fee for postgraduate education.

**SEC. 5. Qualifications** - In order to qualify for the scholarship program, the teacher applicant must have the following qualifications:

- a. Public elementary and high school teachers who are in active and continuous service for at least three (3) years;
- b. Must hold a permanent position;
- c. Must have no pending administrative and/or criminal case;
- d. Must have obtained at least a Very Satisfactory performance rating for two (2) consecutive periods immediately preceding the nomination;
- e. Physically and mentally fit;
- f. Must pass the Graduate Mental Ability Test (GMAT) of the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) of his/her choice;

- g. Must have an average of at least 2.25 or its equivalent in his/her college Transcript of Records (TOR);
- h. Must have good character and demonstrated qualities of leadership and positive attitudes in keeping with the vision and mission of DepEd;
- i. Such other qualifications as the DepEd may determine including, but not limited to regular qualifying examinations.

**SEC. 6. Place of Study** - The scholarship grants shall be applicable in all state universities and colleges throughout the country.

**SEC. 7. Service Obligation** - Immediately upon completion of each graduate and post-graduate program, a grantee shall serve the DepEd for at least four (4) years. For this purpose, the grantee shall execute a contract with the DepEd incorporating the details of the said service. Any grantee who violates the service obligation imposed under this Act shall be liable to reimburse the government on the fund assistance received under this Act in full or pro tanto as the case may be.

**SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 9. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,