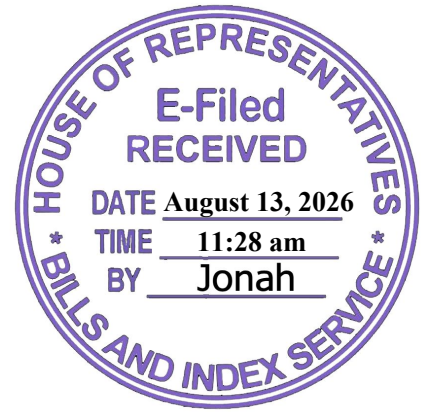


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 10772



Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES OF
TEACHERS IN PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHO DIE BY REASON OF,
OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL
FUNCTIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There have been several reported incidents of violence in schools in which teachers have been injured and, in some cases, have died by reason of, or in connection with, the performance of their official functions.

It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all. Consistent with this policy, the State must also provide reasonable assistance to the families and qualified beneficiaries of teachers in public educational institutions who die by reason of, or in connection with, the performance of their official functions.

For purposes of this measure, teachers in public educational institutions include teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, local universities and colleges, and state universities and colleges. These teachers devote their time, knowledge, and service to educating the country's future generations. Their functions extend beyond classroom instruction and may include the supervision and protection of students, the implementation of officially authorized school activities, service in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and the performance of election-related duties.

On October 24, 2010, Lorna Pulalon, a Grade 2 teacher at the Talisayan Elementary School, reportedly died while shielding her students during a stabbing incident at the school. Reports further indicate that she was a breadwinner of her family. This incident illustrates the risks that teachers may face while performing their duty to protect and educate their students.

In July 2026, another teacher was reportedly assaulted by two minor students at Elizalde National High School in Maco, Davao de Oro, allegedly after reprimanding them for wearing earrings in violation of school policy. The teacher reportedly died two days after the assault.

Many other teachers, particularly those assigned to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA), literally have to walk miles and cross perilous rivers to reach what the Department of Education calls the “last mile schools”. They endure the hardship of working away from their families and remote areas for months just to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as educators.

In fact, a documentary entitled “Hanggang Huling Milya” reportedly featured teachers of Pulong Mindanao Elementary School in Sta. Maria, Laguna, who walk approximately forty-five minutes to one hour each day and cross nine rivers just to reach school.

The same feature reportedly stated that, in 2023, 9,225 out of approximately 47,000 schools nationwide were classified as last-mile schools. It further reported that such school served fewer than 100 learners and that some teachers were required to adopt a multigrade teaching arrangement, in which learners from different grade levels are taught simultaneously.

Teachers have also been designated to serve as poll workers or members of electoral boards during elections. In performing these functions, they undertake additional public responsibilities and may be exposed to risks beyond those ordinarily associated with classroom teaching.

The proposed measure seeks to grant a separate and additional financial benefit to the qualified beneficiaries of teachers in public educational institutions who die by reason of, or in connection with, the performance of their official functions. The proposed benefit shall be without prejudice to survivorship, retirement, insurance, employees’ compensation, death, scholarship, and other benefits available under existing laws.

By providing immediate financial and educational assistance, this measure recognizes the sacrifices of teachers and assists their families when the teachers’ public service results in death.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



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

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AN ACT

**GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES OF
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OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL
FUNCTIONS**

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

1 *Section 1. Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Survivorship Benefits Act for Teachers
2 *in Public Educational Institutions.*”

3
4 *Section 2. Declaration of Policies.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right
5 of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such
6 education accessible to all.

7
8 The State recognizes the important public service performed by teachers in public
9 educational institutions and shall provide reasonable financial and educational assistance to their
10 qualified beneficiaries when they die by reason of, or in connection with, the performance of their
11 official functions.

12
13 *Section 3. Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:
14

1 (a) “*Teacher in a public educational institution*” refers to any person who, at the time of
2 death, is duly appointed, employed, or engaged as teaching personnel in any of the
3 following:

4
5 (1) A public elementary or secondary school administered by the Department of
6 Education;

7
8 (2) A local university or college established, maintained, or operated by a local
9 government unit;

10
11 (3) A state university or college established or operated pursuant to law; or

12
13 (4) Any other public educational institution established, maintained, or operated by
14 the National Government or a local government unit, as may be identified in the
15 implementing rules and regulations.

16
17 The term includes permanent, temporary, provisional, substitute, part-time, and locally
18 funded teaching personnel, subject to applicable civil service, budgeting, and auditing laws,
19 rules, and regulations.

20
21 (b) “*Qualified death*” refers to death caused by an unlawful act, accident, or other violent
22 or traumatic incident that occurs:

23
24 (1) While the teacher is performing official teaching, supervisory, administrative,
25 co-curricular, extracurricular, or other officially authorized functions;

26
27 (2) While the teacher is travelling to or from an officially authorized assignment,
28 when the death is directly connected with such assignment;

29
30 (3) While the teacher is serving as a poll worker, member of an electoral board, or
31 other election personnel pursuant to a lawful designation or appointment by the
32 Commission on Elections or another competent authority.

33
34 (c) “*Qualified beneficiaries*” refer to the surviving spouse, children, and, in their absence,
35 the dependent parents of the deceased teacher, in accordance with the order and allocation
36 provided in this Act.

1 (d) “*Minor dependent child*” refers to a child of the deceased teacher who is below eighteen
2 (18) years of age and was dependent upon the deceased teacher for support at the time of
3 death. A child who is physically or mentally incapacitated and incapable of self-support
4 may be considered a dependent child, subject to the implementing rules and regulations.
5

6 *Section 4. Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to teachers in public elementary and secondary schools,
7 local universities and colleges, state universities and colleges, and other public educational
8 institutions.
9

10 *Section 5. Survivorship Benefits.* – The qualified beneficiaries of a deceased teacher whose death
11 is determined to be a qualified death under this Act shall be entitled to a one-time financial
12 assistance of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00), in addition to, and without prejudice
13 to, the benefits to which the deceased teacher or the qualified beneficiaries may be entitled under
14 Republic Act No. 8291, otherwise known as the “Government Service Insurance System Act of
15 1997,” and other applicable laws.
16

17 Each minor dependent child of a deceased teacher whose death is determined to be a
18 qualified death under this Act shall be entitled to educational assistance in public basic education
19 institutions and public higher education institutions, including state universities and colleges and
20 local universities and colleges, subject to applicable admission, enrollment, curricular, and
21 scholarship requirements.
22

23 The educational assistance provided under this section shall be in addition to, and shall not
24 prejudice, any other scholarship or educational benefit available under existing laws.
25

26 *Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of
27 this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education,
28 the Government Service Insurance System, the Department of Budget and Management, the
29 Commission on Audit, the Commission on Elections, and other concerned government agencies,
30 shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective
31 implementation of this Act.
32

33 *Section 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall
34 be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Education, the Commission on
35 Higher Education, concerned state universities and colleges, and the concerned local government
36 units, as applicable.

1 *Section 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
2 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

3
4 *Section 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts therefor,
5 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6
7 *Section 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
8 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9
10 Approved,