

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

73 JUL -1 P1:28

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 115

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Education continuously receives the largest share in the national budget of the country. Yet, study shows that the quality of education in the Philippines is fast declining in the past years and the trend continues unless reforms are introduced in the country's educational system. This sad state of affairs in the education sector of our country deserves immediate attention/solution as it affects the core of our efforts in accelerating the development of our nation.

Studies reveal that "the capacity of countries, both the world's most advanced economies as well as those experiencing rapid development, to compete in the global knowledge economy increasingly depends on whether they can meet a fast growing demand for high level skills. This hinges on significant improvements in the quality of schooling outcomes and a more equitable distribution in learning opportunities". It is a universally accepted principle that "the quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers" and "the only way to improve outcomes is to improve instruction". The experiences of the top rated school systems suggests that three things matter most: 1) getting the right people to become teachers, 2) developing them into effective instructors and 3) ensuring that the system is able to deliver the best possible instruction for every child. (Mc Kinsey & Company, *How the world's best-performing school systems come out on top*, September 2007)

The establishment of a mandatory continuing education for teachers will greatly enhance their effectiveness in delivering the education that we have envisioned to our children. It is a measure that affects the foundation of learning for young generations towards a productive future in the midst of present day global challenges.


FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.



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13 JUL -1 P1 28

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Senate Bill No. 115

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

AN ACT MANDATING A CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS IN ALL LEVELS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 Teachers Education Act of 2013**".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to improve the quality of education in the country and recognizes it as one of the potent economic vehicle in keeping the country attune to globalization. Towards this end, the government shall endeavor to ensure that the teachers are equipped with necessary training and skills and be abreast with the ever improving and/or changing instructional materials and techniques through continued education and accepting the notion that "the quality of an educational system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers".

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms- For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) Continuing education shall mean an institutionalized system whereby the teachers shall complete every three (3) years at least thirty-six (36) hours of mandatory continuing education activities;
- b) Teachers shall refer to all teachers who are holding teaching or non-teaching positions, whether full-time or part-time, in public or private educational institution;
- c) All levels shall mean the pre-school, elementary, high school and tertiary level of educational institution in the country;

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SECTION 4. Coverage. The National Government shall undertake a comprehensive program for teachers' education, guided by the following objectives:

- a) The encouragement of private sector's participation in providing effective education to teachers;
- b) Ensure compliance by the teachers at no cost to them, except travelling and other incidental expenses, every compliance period;
- c) The venue of activities shall be accessible or not burdensome to teachers;
- d) Devise an aptitude test for teachers at the end of activities in every compliance period that may reasonably measure the effectiveness of the program activities;

SECTION 5. Implementing Mechanism- The Department of Education (Dep-Ed), in cases of teachers in primary, elementary and secondary education, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in cases of teachers in tertiary education, are hereby designated as the implementing Agency of this program.

SECTION 6. Creation of Executive Committees- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall create their respective Executive Committee to be directly responsible for the effective implementation of this Act. For the Department of Education, the department's secretary, who shall serve as ex-officio chairman, shall appoint the members composed of the following:

- a) One from the nominees of recognized public school teachers organization;
- b) One from the nominees of recognized private school teachers organization;

For the Commission on Higher Education, the commissioner, who shall serve as ex-officio chairman, shall appoint the members composed of the following:

- a) One from the nominees of recognized public school teachers organization;
- b) One from the nominees of recognized private school teachers organization;

SECTION 7. *Approval of program.* -- Subject to the rules as may be adopted by the respective Executive Committee, continuing teachers' education program may be granted approval in either of two (2) ways: (1) the provider of the activity is an approved provider by the committee and certifies that the activity meets the criteria to be promulgated in the implementing rules and regulations; and (2) the provider is specifically organized by the Department of Education or the Commission on Higher Education to provide continuing teachers' education.

SECTION 8. Standards for all education activities. - All continuing teachers' education activities must meet the following standards:

(a) The activity shall have significant current intellectual or practical content.

(b) The activity shall constitute an organized program of learning related to teaching subjects and the teaching profession, including cross profession related activities (e.g., medical, psychological/counseling) that enhance teaching and non-teaching skills, as well as subjects in writing and oral advocacy.

(c) The activity shall be conducted by a provider with adequate professional experience.

(d) Where the activity is more than one (1) hour in length, substantive written materials must be distributed to all participants. Such materials must be distributed at or before the time the activity is offered.

(e) In-house education activities must be scheduled at a time and location so as to be free from interruption like telephone calls and other distractions.

SECTION 9. Appropriations- The sum of Fifty Million pesos (Php50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act of which Php35,000,000.00 shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Department of Education and Php15,000,000.00 shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter the amount necessary to carry out the program implementation shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. Annual Report.- The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall respectively render an annual report to Congress on the accomplishment of the program.

SECTION 11. Assessment on the impact of the program- Within Three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall respectively conduct an assessment on the impact of the program to the quality of education in the country;

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall respectively issue rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause- If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause.—All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.