

SENATE

S. No. 568

Villar

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The public education landscape is gradually becoming dim as more and more teachers choose to seek greener pastures in private schools or overseas.

Aside from being dissatisfied with their financial compensation, these professionals also lament the slow career growth and development in public schools.

To ensure the career growth and full job satisfaction of public school teachers all over the country and at the same time, ensure quality education in public schools, the continuing education and human resource development of teachers should be promoted.

In this regard, the best way to ensue that the students avails of quality education in the public schools is to make sure that the educators become recipients of quality education also. Thus, a scholarship program for public school teachers must be established for them to be able to avail of the best education in and out of the country.

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


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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Jules

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Public School Teachers' Scholarship Act of 2004. "

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

SECTION 3. *Public School Teachers Scholarship Fund.* - There is hereby created a Public School Teachers Scholarship Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS).

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated out of the one percent (1 %) of the gross sales of the lotto operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

SECTION 5. *Coverage.* - The coverage for the scholarship award from the Public Schools Teachers Scholarship Fund, as provided for in this Act, shall be in the graduate and post graduate courses in English, Mathematics, Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering and other courses provided for under the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Assistance to Grantees.* - The grantee of the scholarship program under this Act shall be entitled to financial assistance which may include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: *Provided*, That in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso

and the rate of financial assistance given under other government scholarship programs must be taken into consideration.

SECTION 7. *Qualifications.* - In order to qualify for the scholarship program envisioned under this Act, the applicant must comply with the following requirements, namely:

- a. He/she must be a public school teacher for at least two (2) consecutive years to avail of the graduate programs, and at least four (4) consecutive years in the teaching profession to avail of the post graduate programs;
- b. He/she must be a natural born Filipino citizen;
- c. He/she must not have been convicted of any crimes related to estafa and/or crimes of moral turpitude;
- d. He/she must be of good moral character and in good health;
- e. He/she must comply with the qualifying examinations set forth annually by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS); and
- f. Such other requirements as the DECS may deem necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Place of Study.* - The grantee of the scholarship privileges provided for under this Act may be required to pursue their graduate and postgraduate studies at any academic or training institutions in the country duly recommended by the DECS.

SECTION 9. *Service Obligations.* - Immediately upon completion of each graduate or post graduate program, a grantee shall serve the country, on full-time basis, in line with their field of training for a minimum period equivalent to the length of time of the scholarship grant. For this purpose, the grantee shall execute a contract with the Government incorporating the details of the said service obligation.

Any grantee of the scholarship program who has not completed the full requirements of his/her graduate or post-graduate course shall render service to the country equivalent to the number of years he/she enjoyed the scholarship grant.

Any grantee who violates the service obligation imposed under this Section shall be liable to reimburse to the Government the total amount plus legal interest of the fund assistance receive by the grantee under this Act.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Body.* - The scholarship program herein provided shall be directly implemented by the DECS, in close coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DECS, in close coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause*. - If, for any reason, any Section or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other Sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid.

SECTION. 14. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,