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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
*First Regular Session* ]

SENATE

S.B. No. 1287

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Introduced by SEN. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

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AN ACT  
LOWERING THE COMPULSORY AND OPTIONAL  
RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*“What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state,  
than that of the man who instructs the rising  
generation?”*

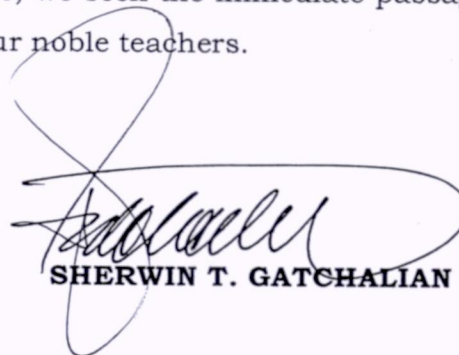
*- Marcus Tullius Cicero*

The important role of teachers in nation-building cannot be overemphasized. Teachers do not merely impart knowledge to their students, they also build up ethical principles that guide them in becoming responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Sadly, public school teachers in the Philippines face a number of challenges that make it more difficult for them to practice their profession. They are found to be overworked based on the following criteria: 1) pupil: teacher ratio, 2) teaching hours per day and 3) teaching hours per year. With long working hours and larger class sizes, public school teachers are unlikely to have the time, energy and opportunity for

professional development.<sup>1</sup> Because of these conditions, public school teachers are exposed to occupational hazards and physical stress that usually lead to health problems even before they reach the current retirement age.

In consideration of their invaluable service, it is high time we reward our public school teachers with a lowered retirement age in order that they may get the chance to explore other worthwhile pursuits in the years that they still can, with the benefits that they have tirelessly toiled and scrimped on. Hence, we seek the immediate passage of this bill to show support and encouragement to our noble teachers.



**SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philippinesbasiceducation.us/2013/05/teacher-statistics-for-philippines.html>.



1 monthly for life, starting upon the expiration of the five (5)-year guaranteed  
2 period covered by the lump sum; or

3 (2) cash payment equivalent to eighteen (18) months of his basic monthly  
4 pension, plus monthly pension for life payable on the first month following  
5 the date of retirement.

6 SEC. 4. - **Optional Retirement Age** - A public school teacher who retires from  
7 the service shall be entitled to the retirement benefits in the preceding paragraph  
8 provided that:

- 9
- 10 1) he has rendered at least fifteen (15) years of service;
  - 11 2) he is at least sixty (55) years of age at the time of retirement; and
  - 12 3) he is not receiving a monthly pension for a permanent total disability benefit  
13 under R.A. 8291 or the "*Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997.*"  
14  
15  
16

17 SEC. 5. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days upon  
18 the approval of this Act, the Government Service Insurance System shall, in  
19 consultation with the various stakeholders, formulate the rules and regulations  
20 necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.  
21

22 SEC. 6. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive  
23 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with  
24 or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed  
25 accordingly.  
26

27 SEC. 7. **Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
28 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved