


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
S.B. No. **1609**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. To comply with this mandate, the State must assist the schools in recruiting and retaining only quality teachers.

At present, we do not have sufficient supply of teachers who are fully qualified to teach English, Mathematics, and Science. The lack of quality teachers undermines the right of the students to receive quality and appropriate education.


Corrective action must be taken to prevent further decline in teacher quality. This bill seeks to provide quality teachers for students enrolled in the elementary and secondary public schools.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
TO PROVIDE QUALITY TEACHERS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "A Quality Teacher in Every Classroom Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. To achieve this purpose, the State shall ensure that students shall have competent teachers.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -- For purposes of this Act, the term --

- (1) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Education.
- (2) "Department" refers to the Department of Education (DepEd).

SECTION 4. *Parental Right.* -- It shall be required that parents of students who are currently enrolled in the elementary or secondary public schools must be given, at the beginning of every school year, a prospectus stating the qualifications of each of the student's teachers, both generally and with respect to the subject area or areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

SECTION 5. *Demonstration Requirement.* -- No elementary school or secondary school teacher shall be accepted to teach unless he has demonstrated to the administrator or Principal his

subject matter knowledge, teaching knowledge, and teaching skill necessary to teach effectively the subject are or areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

Any teacher for whom the demonstration described in the preceding paragraph has been waived temporarily to respond to emergency teacher shortages or other circumstances shall, not later than one (1) year after such waiver, comply with the requirement.

No student will be taught for more than one (1) year by an elementary school teacher, or for more than two (2) consecutive years in the same subject by a secondary school teacher, who has not made the demonstration described in the previous paragraph.

SECTION 6. *Incentives.* – The Secretary shall adopt incentive programs that will encourage teachers to pursue and achieve advanced training or higher education. These programs shall include monetary awards, promotions and scholarship grants.

SECTION 7. *Trainings and Seminars.* – The Department shall initiate training and seminars designed primarily to produce quality teachers.

SECTION 8. *Removal of Incompetent or Unqualified Teachers.* – The Secretary shall set standards and qualifications which shall ensure that only competent and qualified teachers will be employed. Any public elementary or high school teacher already employed but who fails to meet the standards and qualifications required by the Department shall be removed.

SECTION 9. *Appropriation.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of the centers shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Education.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

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