NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



SENATE

S. B. NO. 564

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR ALL TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL IN PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino teacher carries an immense part in molding a child to become a productive Filipino citizen. This is a delicate duty that teachers have committed to; their line of work being so intimately connected with building the nation's future.

Unfortunately, our teaching and non-teaching personnel in basic education endure a measly salary as compensation for their work. Despite the increasing cost of living, the living and working conditions of teachers remain the same, if not worse, especially with the unprecedented global and domestic inflation, the rising fuel prices and the over-all global economic downturn brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This dire situation makes it unattractive for the brightest graduates to take on a public school education career. Meanwhile, seasoned educators choose to leave their teaching profession in search of greener pastures in other industries or even abroad.

This Act seeks to ensure that our hardworking teaching and non-teaching personnel in public basic education schools are better compensated by giving them additional grocery allowance, as well as medical allowance, to be given to them each quarter. This bill also seeks to give an additional incentive for the covered personnel to stay in the teaching profession and make this a practical and sustainable career for them.

Indeed, if genuine inclusive growth is to be realized, certain investment must be made to ensure that those who work hard for the future generation are adequately compensated. Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

SENATOR .

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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 "Additional Allowances
for Public Basic Education Personnel Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – 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 such education accessible to all. It is also the policy of the State to give the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that the teaching profession will attract and retain best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

11 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – The benefits under this Act shall apply to all teaching and 12 non-teaching personnel in basic education, including those in the alternative learning 13 system.

15 **SEC. 4.** *Additional Support.* – The covered personnel shall be entitled to the 16 following additional benefits:

- a) Additional Grocery and Transportation Expense in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00) per quarter; and
- b) Medical Allowance in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) per guarter.
- The foregoing amounts shall be adjusted every three (3) years to account for inflation.

These additional benefits shall not be taxable, unless the total amount of benefits received by the covered personnel exceeds the threshold provided under Section 32(B), Chapter VI of the National Internal Revenue Code of the Philippines. 2 SEC. 5. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to carry out the initial 3 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the Department of 4 Education. Thereafter, the amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations 5 Act.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the
Department of Budget and Management and other relevant stakeholders, shall
promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
Act.

13 SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared 14 unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions 15 hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their 16 entirety.

18 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, ordinances, decrees, executive orders, 19 rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this 20 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication
in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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