NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



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SENATE

**S. B. NO.** 565

## Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

## AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR ALL TEACHING PERSONNEL IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 5(5) of the 1987 Constitution expressly provides that "[t]he State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."

In 2017, the Congress passed Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act," a landmark law that gives life to the Constitutional policy to give the highest budgetary priority to education by giving college students free tuition fee. Meanwhile, in 2019, Republic Act No. 11230, or the "Tulong Trabaho Act," was passed to ensure access to quality technical-vocational education and training that are aligned with the needs of the industry. While many laws have been passed to address the needs of the students, little, if any, are passed to alleviate the condition of the teachers, especially with regard to their salaries and benefits.

This bill seeks to address this gap by ensuring that the hardworking teaching personnel in State Universities and Colleges and State-Run Technical and Vocational Institutions are better compensated by giving them additional grocery allowance and medical allowance, to be given to them each quarter. With the high cost of living, fuel price hikes, the continuous threat of the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic and global economic uncertainties,

providing additional benefits to our teachers and instructors would help in guaranteeing that the best, exceptional and dedicated professors commit to or continue to commit to teaching and shaping the minds of the future generation of Filipinos.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

SENATOR JOEL VILL ANUEVA

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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 SUC and TVI 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 the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – The benefits under this Act shall apply to all full-time teaching
 personnel in State Universities and Colleges and State-Run Technical-Vocational
 Institutions.

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 quarter.

The foregoing amounts shall be adjusted every three (3) years to account for inflation.

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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.

SEC. 5. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation
of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the State Universities and Colleges
and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Thereafter, the
amount shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), state-run Technical and Vocational Institutions (TVIs) and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

- SEC. 7. Separability Clause. Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared
   unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions
   hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their
   entirety.
- SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, ordinances, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this 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.

30 Approved,

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