

'22 JUL 18 A9:39

SENATE

S. No. 677

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES
ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the most noble professions is teaching as the famous theoretical physicist Albert Einstein once said that, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

While they are respected and acknowledged for their invaluable contribution to nation building, teachers in our country, particularly those who are in the public education system, are hurdling various challenges in the practice of their profession. The study, "Pressures on public school teachers and implications on quality" published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies in February 2019, illustrated the conditions of public school teachers who are chronically overworked and the detrimental results of the same. Apart from these, financial considerations in the performance of their duties is also a concern. It is usual to hear stories of teachers drawing from their own pockets money to buy the necessary school supplies.

To respond to this, the Department of Education (DepEd) initiated the grant of "Chalk Allowance" to teachers which they can use to purchase chalk, erasers and other classroom supplies. Initially, P100.00 per teacher per school year was

granted, until it gradually increased over the years and was eventually called "Cash Allowance to Teachers". This is an allowance granted through the Special Provisions in the budget of the Office of the Secretary in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

In the 2016 GAA, the amount given to teachers was P1,500.00. This increased to P2,500.00 and P3,500.00 in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The amount of P3,500.00 was retained in they years 2019 and 2020. During these years also, an amount of P500.00 per teacher was allocated Medical Examination for Public School Teachers pursuant to Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Public School Teachers".

In the 2021 and 2022 GAA, the Cash Allowance to Teachers was increased to P5,000.00 per classroom teacher for every school year, and considering the changes in the learning delivery modalities during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was provided that such amount may be utilized for internet subscription and other communications expenses. However, the allocation for annual medical examination, which was previously being granted separate from the Cash Allowance, was incorporated under the Cash Allowance.

The *"Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2022"* proposes to provide a legislation for the grant of the allowance to public school teachers. Through this proposed law, the allowance will be institutionalized and will not be subjected to any possible whimsical amendments, reductions, or even removal under the GAA. In other words, the teachers will be assured to receive it every year in the amount provided under the law. It also mandates the DepEd to conduct periodic review of the said allowance and recommend increases as necessary to ensure that it is commensurate to the prevailing prices of the time.

Measure of similar nature was approved by the Senate on Third Reading in the 18th Congress.

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

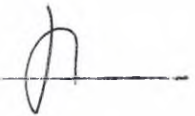

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Teaching Supplies
2 Allowance Act of 2022".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
4 State to promote and improve the economic status of teachers and assist them in
5 providing quality education to their students.

6 Sec. 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* - A Teaching Supplies Allowance is
7 hereby authorized for the purchase of teaching supplies and materials, tangible or
8 intangible, for the implementation or conduct of various learning delivery modalities
9 (LDMS) in the following amounts:

- 10 (a) Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2023-2024;
- 11 (b) Six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2024-2025;
- 12 (c) Seven thousand pesos (P7,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2025-
13 2026;
- 14 (d) Eight thousand pesos (P8,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2026-2027;
- 15 (e) Nine thousand pesos (P9,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2027-2028;

1 (f) Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) per teacher for the school year 2028-2029
2 and thereafter;

3 *Provided*, That this allowance shall be exempt from income tax.

4 Sec. 4. *Coverage*. – The grant of the cash allowance authorized in this Act
5 shall cover teachers who are engaged in teaching public basic education, consistent
6 with the learning modalities recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd).

7 Sec. 5. *Funding*. – The amount necessary for the grant of Teaching Supplies
8 Allowance per teacher per school year authorized under this Act shall be charged
9 against the appropriations of the DepEd under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

10 Sec. 6. *Periodic Review for Increases*. – The Secretary of Education is hereby
11 mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking
12 into account the current prices of teaching supplies and materials, and, if warranted,
13 recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance.

14 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause*. – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is
15 held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in
16 full force and effect.

17 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
18 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

19 Sec. 9. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,