


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

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SENATE
S. No. **1561**

FILED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

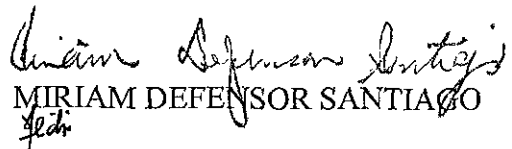
The Constitution, Article II, Section 17, provides:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Our schools must prepare young people for active participation in community life and a democratic society. This is not possible without knowledge and understanding of humanities.

In order to ensure that our children acquire the necessary conceptual and analytical skills and have an appreciation for the tradition and values of our culture, studies in the humanities are essential. However, it is not possible to accomplish this goal unless our teachers have the necessary background and training in the humanities.

Hence, it is the purpose of this Act to authorize a national program for the establishment and operation of teacher institutes for the enhancement of the humanities knowledge of private and public elementary and secondary school teachers.*

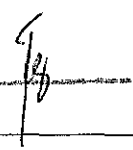

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

7 SEP 11 P4:25

SENATE
S. No. 1561

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF
3 INSTRUCTION IN THE HUMANITIES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
4 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “The Humanities Excellence
8 and Teacher Training Act of 2007.”

9 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – It is the purpose of this Act to authorize a national program for
10 improving the quality of education which would make grants to institutions of higher education
11 for the establishment and operation of teacher institutes for the enhancement of the humanities
12 knowledge of private and public elementary and secondary school teachers.

13 SECTION 3. *Definition.* – For purposes of this Act, the terms –

14 (A) “Institution of higher education” means any college or university within a region;

15 (B) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education; and

16 (C) “Humanities” means both modern and classical languages, literature, history, and
17 philosophy; and language arts and social studies when taught in elementary and
18 high schools.

19 SECTION 4. *Grants.* –

20 (A) The Secretary shall make grants in each region to an institution of higher education,
21 or a consortium of such institutions, whose application is approved under paragraph (B) for the
22 purposes of conducting summer humanities training institutes for the professional development
23 of elementary and secondary school teachers. Any institution or consortium whose application is

1 so approved shall receive an amount equal to not more than Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos
2 (P3,500.00) multiplied by the number of teachers, not to exceed two hundred (200) enrolled in
3 such institute.

4 (B) Any institution of higher education or consortium desiring to receive a grant shall
5 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing such
6 information and assurances as the Secretary may require. No such application may be approved
7 by the Secretary unless the application –

- 8 (1) Contains a description of the proposed program of instruction, and the extent
9 to which eligible classroom teacher participants will be involved in the
10 planning and design of the institutes;
- 11 (2) Contains an estimate of the number of teachers, including the number of
12 teachers from private elementary and secondary schools, to attend the
13 institute, and describes the selection procedures;
- 14 (3) Describes the nature and location of existing facilities to be used in the
15 operation of the institute;
- 16 (4) Specifies the teaching and administrative staff for the institute including the
17 involvement of faculty from both the humanities and education departments
18 and elementary and secondary school teachers;
- 19 (5) Specifies the academic credits, if any, to be awarded for the completion of the
20 course of study to be offered at the institute;
- 21 (6) provides a schedule of stipends to be paid teacher participants in the institute,
22 including allowances for subsistence and other expenses for teachers attending
23 the institute and their dependents; and provisions assuring that there will be no
24 duplication of governmental benefits paid to participants;
- 25 (7) Provides adequate assurances that teachers who wish to participate will be
26 selected on the basis of recommendations from a principal or other
27 supervisory official and a demonstrated interest in the humanities discipline or
28 disciplines studied in the institute; and

1 (8) Provides assurances that the institution of higher education will seek to enroll
2 at least eighty (80) qualified teachers in the institute;

3 (C) Awards under this section shall be made to the institutions or consortia on the basis of
4 excellence of the program proposed in the application, taking into consideration such elements as
5 library resources, faculty achievement, and humanities learning facilities.

6 (D) Funds available to institutions under this section may be used to cover costs
7 associated with enrollment in an institute, including tuition, fees, administration, and living
8 expenses.

9 (E) In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall assure, to the maximum extent
10 consistent with the purposes of this Act, that there is an equitable distribution of institutes
11 established and operated under approved applications among regions and within regions. The
12 Secretary shall award not less than one (1) institute in each region.

13 (F) No grant to a single application may exceed Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos
14 (P700,000.00) in any fiscal year.

15 SECTION 5. *Restrictions.* – No grants shall be made or contracts entered into under this
16 Act except to such extent, or in such amounts, as may be provided in the Appropriations Act.

17 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
19 valid and subsisting.

20 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
21 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, or rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
22 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

23 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

25 Approved,