

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P5:06

SENATE
S. No. 1811

RECEIVED BY: *2*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, 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.

The quality of education depends primarily on the quality of our teachers. Hence, the government must expend efforts to encourage talented individuals interested in teaching to maintain their interest. This can be done by raising the status of the teaching profession, through increased recognition of professional opportunities for teachers, so that the best teachers remain in the classroom and talented individuals are attracted to teaching.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a teacher corps program to strengthen the teaching profession.¹

acc. *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular session.

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1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING A TEACHER CORPS PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN
3 THE TEACHING PROFESSION

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

4 SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "National Teachers Act."
5

6 SECTION 2. Teacher Corps Authorized. -

7 (A) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED - The Commission on Higher Education,
8 hereinafter referred to as "the Commission," shall make grants, in accordance with the
9 provisions of this title, to State colleges and universities to conduct teacher corps activities.

10 (B) DESIGNATION -

11 (1) A scholarship awarded under this part shall be referred to as a "Teacher
12 Corps Scholarship."

13 (2) A recipient of a scholarship under this part shall be referred to as a
14 "Teacher Corps member."
15

16 SECTION 3. Use of Funds. -

17 (A) The Commission on Higher Education shall use funds provided pursuant to this
18 part to -

19 (1) disseminate information nationally about the availability of scholarships;

1 (2) conduct activities which foster communication among, and bring
2 together, members of the Teacher Corps including activities such as written
3 communications, meetings, or training sessions.

4 (3) provide technical assistance to educational institutions in establishing and
5 operating Teacher Corps programs;

6 (4) provide guidelines in the evaluation of application for Teacher Corps
7 membership and award scholarships to Teacher Corps members;

8 (5) make Teacher Corps awards to individuals in training to become a school
9 psychologist, school social worker, or a school counselor;

10 (6) ensure that Teacher Corps members understand the obligation to repay
11 such scholarships upon failure to comply with the conditions of the scholarship;

12 (7) assist in employment placement of Teacher Corps members; and

13 (8) establish, operate, and expand programs for new Teacher Corps members
14 and other new teachers, including -

15 (a) orientation;

16 (b) using mentor teachers to work with new teachers;

17 (c) curriculum guidance; and

18 (d) increasing the preparedness of all classroom teachers for the
19 participation of particular populations of students, such as disadvantaged
20 students, students with disabilities, and students from diverse cultural
21 backgrounds, in the classrooms of such teachers.

22 (B) PRIORITY - In carving out the provisions of subsection (A) (1), the Commission
23 shall give priority in awarding grants to State colleges and universities with the greatest
24 proportion of disadvantaged students.

25
26 SECTION 4. Teacher Corps. -

27 (A) SELECTION - The respective state colleges and universities, in cooperation
28 with the Commissioner on Higher Education, shall select Teacher Corps members.

1 (B) CRITERIA - The Commission shall establish the criteria to select Teacher Corps
2 members, intended to attract highly qualified individuals to teaching, and to meet the needs
3 of the country in addressing teacher shortages, including -

4 (1) in the case of students or recent graduates, strong academic promise, or in
5 other cases contributions which can be made by individuals working in other careers;
6 and

7 (2) a demonstrated interest in teaching, or skill or professional experience in
8 substantive fields of expertise in which the country is experiencing teacher shortages.

9 (C) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION - The Commission shall give special
10 consideration in the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals who -

11 (1) intend to teach or provide related services to students with disabilities;
12 and

13 (2) intend to teach pre-school age children.

14 (D) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION - The Commission shall give priority
15 consideration in the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals from disadvantaged
16 backgrounds, including minorities and individuals with disabilities, who are
17 underrepresented in the teaching profession or in the curricular areas in which they are
18 preparing to teach.

19
20 SECTION 5. Region Application. -Each State college or university desiring a grant
21 under this part shall submit an application to the commission at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information as the commission may reasonably require. Each
23 application shall describe teacher shortages in the region including shortages in specific
24 substantive fields of expertise and geographic areas, and shall describe steps to be taken to
25 place Teacher Corps members in areas experiencing teacher shortages.

26
27 SECTION 6. Scholarships. -

28 (A) ELIGIBILITY -

1 (1) An individual is eligible to receive Teacher Corps scholarships for a
2 maximum of four (4) years during enrollment in any program of study leading to a
3 baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree.

4 (2) An individual pursuing a program of study leading to a post-baccalaureate
5 degree is eligible to receive a Teacher Corps scholarship during any of the first four
6 (4) years that such individual is employed as a teacher to defray the costs of pursuing
7 such post-baccalaureate instruction.

8 (3) An individual in possession of a bachelor's degree, who wishes to enter
9 teaching from another profession, is eligible to receive a Teacher corps scholarship
10 to enable such individual to receive the instruction necessary to enter the teaching
11 profession, as determined by the State college or university in which the individual
12 wishes to teach. Such instruction may be provided while the individual is employed
13 as a provisional teacher, at the discretion of such State college or university.

14 (B) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT AND DURATION - Subject to subsection (3),
15 each Teacher Corps member shall receive a Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00)
16 scholarship for each academic year of postsecondary education, except that no individual
17 shall receive scholarship assistance for more than four (4) years of postsecondary education
18 (including post-baccalaureate), as determined by the Secretary.

19 (C) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY - Each individual who receives a Teacher Corps
20 scholarship shall continue to receive such scholarship payments only during such periods
21 that the State college or university finds that such individual is -

22 (1) enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary institution;

23 and

24 (2) maintaining satisfactory progress as defined by such State college or
25 university.

26
27 SECTION 7. Scholarship Conditions. -

1 (A) SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT - Each individual receiving a scholarship under
2 this part shall enter into a written agreement with the State college or university in which
3 such individual is enrolled, which shall provide assurances that each such individual -

4 (1) will pursue a course of study which meets requirements for teacher
5 preparation;

6 (2) will maintain satisfactory academic progress and participate in teaching-
7 related activities while in undergraduate or post-baccalaureate programs;

8 (3) will work as a teacher upon completion of such individual's education for
9 five (5) years in public educational institutions;

10 (4) will repay all or part of a Teacher Corps scholarship received, plus
11 interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees, in the event that the conditions
12 of this section are not complied with;

13 (5) will participate in an induction program for new teachers during the fifth
14 year of employment, by serving as a mentor to a new Teacher Corps members, or to
15 other new teachers, or by making some other contribution to the induction program.

16 (B) SCHOLARSHIP REPAYMENT -

17 (1) Individuals found to be in noncompliance with the agreement entered into
18 under the preceding section shall be required to repay to the State college or
19 university from which such individual granted a pro rata amount of the scholarship
20 awards received, plus interest and, where applicable, reasonable collection fees.

21 (2) Each individual found by the State to be in non-compliance with the
22 agreement entered into under the preceding section shall be required to repay -

23 (a) One Hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of scholarships
24 awarded under this part if such individual does not teach pursuant to the
25 agreement described in the preceding section or teaches pursuant to such
26 agreement for less than one (1) year;

1 (b) Ninety percent (90%) of the total amount of scholarships awarded
2 under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such agreement for at
3 least one (1) year but less than two (2) years;

4 (c) Eighty percent (80%) of the total amount of scholarships awarded
5 under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such agreement for at
6 least two (2) years but less than three (3) years;

7 (d) Sixty percent (60%) of the total amount of scholarships awarded
8 under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such agreement for at
9 least two (2) years but less than three (3) years;

10 (e) Thirty percent (30%) of the total amount of scholarships awarded
11 under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such agreement for at
12 least four (4) years but less than five (5) years.

13 (3) If a portion of a scholarship made to the appropriate State college or
14 university pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be used by such institutions
15 to award additional scholarships in accordance with the provisions of this part.

16 (4) Any repayments of scholarships made to the appropriate State college or
17 university pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be used by such institutions
18 to award additional scholarships in accordance with the provisions of this part.

19 (C) WAIVER - The Secretary may provide for the partial or total waiver or
20 suspension of my service obligation or repayment by an individual who received a Teacher
21 Corps scholarship whenever compliance by such individual is impossible or would involve
22 extreme hardship to such individual, or if enforcement of such obligation with respect to
23 such individual would be unconscionable.

24
25 SECTION 8. Publication and Recruitment. - The commission shall publicize the
26 availability of, and procedure to apply for, Teacher Corps scholarships, particularly among
27 students participating in teaching-related activities through summer teaching institutes,

1 future teacher clubs, and other teaching-related activities, at institutions of higher education
2 throughout the country.

3

4 SECTION 9. Authorization of Appropriations. - There are authorized to be
5 appropriated Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) for every fiscal year and such sums as
6 may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

7

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

11

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

16

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

Approved,