

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1301

RECEIVED BY: ji

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2 Section 17 of the Constitution provides that, "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 and professional opportunities for teachers, so that the best teachers remain in the classroom and talented individuals are attracted to teaching.


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

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TEACHER CORPS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**National Teachers’**
2 **Act**”.

3
4
5 **SEC. 2.** *Teacher Corps Programs Authorized.* –

6
7 (a) Program Authorized – The Commission on Higher Education, hereinafter
8 referred to as “the Commission” shall make grants in accordance with the
9 provisions of this Act, to state colleges and universities (SCUs) to conduct
10 Teacher Corps activities;

11
12 (b) Designation – a scholarship awarded under this Act shall be referred to as
13 a “Teacher Corps scholarship”;

14
15 (c) A recipient of a scholarship under this Act shall be referred to as a
16 “Teachers Corps member”.

17
18
19 **SEC. 3.** *Use of Funds.* – The Commission on Higher Education shall use funds
20 provided pursuant to this Act to:

21
22 (1) disseminate information nationally about the availability of scholarships;

23
24 (2) conduct activities which foster communication among and bring together
25 members of the Teacher Corps including activities such as written
26 communications, meetings or training session;

27
28 (3) provide technical assistance to education institutions in establishing and
29 operating Teacher Corps programs;

30
31 (4) provide guidelines in the evaluation of applications for Teacher Corps
32 membership and award scholarships to Teacher Corps members;

33

- 1 (5) make Teacher Corps awards to individuals in training to become a school
2 psychologist, school social workers, or a school counselor;
- 3
- 4 (6) ensure that Teacher Corps members understand the obligation to repay
5 such scholarships upon failure to comply with the conditions of the
6 scholarship;
- 7
- 8 (7) assist in the employment placement of Teacher Corps members; and,
- 9
- 10 (8) establish, operate, and expand programs for new Teacher Corps
11 members and other new teachers, including:
12
 - 13 a. orientation;
 - 14 b. using mentor teachers to work with new teachers;
 - 15 c. curriculum guidance; and,
 - 16 d. increasing the preparedness of all classroom teachers for the
17 participation of particular populations of students, such as
18 disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students
19 from diverse cultural backgrounds, in the classrooms of such
20 teachers.
- 21

22 In carrying out the provisions of subsection (a)(1), the Commission shall give
23 priority in awarding grants to state colleges and universities with the greatest
24 proportion of disadvantaged students.

25
26
27 **SEC. 4. *Teacher Corps.* –**

- 28
- 29 (a) Selection – the respective state colleges and universities, in cooperation
30 with the Commissioner on Higher Education, shall select Teacher Corps
31 members;
- 32
- 33 (b) Criteria – the Commission shall establish criteria to select Teacher Corps
34 members intended to attract highly qualified individuals to teaching, and to
35 meet the needs of the country in addressing teacher shortages, including:
36
 - 37 (1) in the case of students or recent graduates, strong academic promise,
38 or in other cases contributions which can be made by individuals
39 working in other careers; and,
 - 40
 - 41 (2) a demonstrated interest in teaching, or skill or professional experience
42 in substantive fields of expertise in which the country is experiencing
43 teacher shortages.
 - 44
- 45 (c) Special consideration – the Commission shall give special consideration in
46 the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals who – (1) intend to
47 teach or provide related services to students with disabilities; (2) intend to
48 teach preschool age children;
- 49
- 50 (d) Priority consideration – the Commission shall give priority consideration in
51 the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals from
52 disadvantaged backgrounds, including minorities and individuals with
53 disabilities who are underrepresented in the teaching profession or in the
54 curricular areas in which they are preparing to teach.
- 55
- 56

1 **SEC. 5. State Application.** – Each state college or university desiring a grant
2 under this Act shall submit an application to the Commission at such time, in
3 such manner, and containing such information as the Commission may
4 reasonably require. Each application shall describe teacher shortages in the
5 region including shortages in specific substantive fields of expertise and
6 geographic areas, and shall describe steps to be taken to place Teacher Corps
7 member in areas experiencing teacher shortages.
8

9
10 **SEC. 6. Scholarship.** –

11
12 (A) Eligibility –

- 13
14 (1) An individual is eligible to receive Teacher Corps scholarship for a
15 maximum of four (4) years during enrollment in any program of study
16 leading to a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree;
17
18 (2) An individual pursuing a program of study leading to a post-
19 baccalaureate degree is eligible to receive a Teacher Corps
20 scholarship during any of the first four (4) years that such individual is
21 employed as a teacher to defray the costs of pursuing such post-
22 baccalaureate instruction;
23
24 (3) An individual in possession of bachelor's degree, who wishes to enter
25 teacher from another profession, is eligible to receive a Teacher Corps
26 scholarship to enable such individual to receive the instruction
27 necessary to enter the teaching profession, as determined by the state
28 college or university in which the individual wishes to teach. Such
29 instruction may be provided while the individual is employed as a
30 provisional teacher, at the discretion of such state college or university.
31

32 (B) Limitations on Amount and Duration – subject to subsection (c), each
33 Teacher Corps member shall receive a Twenty Five Thousand Pesos
34 (P25,000.00) scholarship for each academic year of post-secondary
35 education, except that no individual shall receive scholarship assistance
36 for more than four (4) years of post-secondary education (including post-
37 baccalaureate), as determined by the Commissioner of the Commission
38 on Higher Education.
39

40 (C) Continued Eligibility – each individual who receives a Teacher Corps
41 scholarship shall continue to receive such scholarship payments only
42 during such periods that the state college or university finds that such
43 individual is:

- 44
45 (1) enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary
46 institution; and,
47
48 (2) maintaining satisfactory progress as defined by such state college or
49 university.
50

51
52 **SEC. 7. Scholarship Conditions.** –

53
54 (1) Scholarship Agreement – each individual receiving a scholarship under
55 this Act shall enter into a written agreement with the state college or
56 university where such individual is enrolled, which shall provide
57 assurances that each such individual will:

- 1 a. pursue a course of study which meets requirements for teacher
2 preparation;
- 3
- 4 b. maintain satisfactory academic progress and participate in
5 teaching-related activities while in undergraduate or post-
6 baccalaureate programs;
- 7
- 8 c. work as a teacher upon completion of such individual's education
9 for five (5) years in public educational institutions'
- 10
- 11 d. repay all or part of a Teacher Corps scholarship received, plus
12 interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees, in the event
13 that the conditions of this Section are not complied with; and,
- 14
- 15 e. will participate in an induction program for new teachers during the
16 fifth (5th) year of employment, by serving as mentor to new Teacher
17 Corp members, or to other new teachers, or by making some other
18 contribution to the induction program.
- 19

20 (2) Scholarship Repayment – individuals found to be in non-compliance with
21 the agreement entered into under the preceding Section shall be required
22 to repay to the state college or university from which such individual
23 graduated a pro rata amount of the scholarship awards received, plus
24 interest and where applicable, reasonable collection fees.

25

26 (3) Each individual found by the State to be in non-compliance with the
27 agreement entered into under the preceding Section shall be required to
28 repay –

29

- 30 a. one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of scholarships
31 awarded under this Act if such individual does not teach pursuant to
32 the agreement described in the preceding section or teaches
33 pursuant to such agreement for less than one (1) year;
- 34
- 35 b. ninety percent (90%) of the total amount of scholarship awarded
36 under this Act if such individual teaches pursuant to such
37 agreement for at least one (1) year but not less than two (2) years;
- 38
- 39 c. eighty percent (80%) of the total amount of scholarship awarded
40 under this Act if such individual teaches pursuant to such
41 agreement for at least two (2) years but not less than three (3)
42 years;
- 43
- 44 d. sixty percent (60%) of the total amount of scholarship awarded
45 under this Act if such individual teaches pursuant to such
46 agreement for at least three (3) years but not less than four (4)
47 years;
- 48
- 49 e. thirty percent (30%) of the total amount of scholarship awarded
50 under this Act if such individual teaches pursuant to such
51 agreement for at least four (4) years but not less than five (5) years.
- 52

53

54 (4) If a portion of a scholarship is repaid under this subsection in any year, the
55 entire amount of interest on such portion of such scholarship which
56 accrues for such year shall be repaid;

57

1 (5) Any repayments of scholarship made to the appropriate state college or
2 university pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be used by such
3 institutions to award additional scholarships in accordance with the
4 provisions of this Act;

5
6 (6) Waiver – the Secretary of Education may provide for the partial or total
7 waiver or suspension of any service obligation or repayment by an
8 individual who received a Teacher Corps scholarship whenever
9 compliance by such individual is impossible or would involve extreme
10 hardship to such individual, or if enforcement of such obligation with
11 respect to such individual would be unconscionable.
12

13
14 **SEC. 8. *Publication and Recruitment.*** – The Commission shall publicize the
15 availability of, and procedure to apply for Teacher Corps scholarships,
16 particularly among students participating in teaching-related activities through
17 summer teaching institutes, future teaching clubs, and other teaching-related
18 activities, at institutions of higher education throughout the country.
19

20
21 **SEC. 9. *Authorization of Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to effectively
22 implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from
23 the National Treasury.
24

25
26 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
27 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
28 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
29 modified or amended accordingly.
30

31
32 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
33 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall
34 remain valid.
35

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37 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon
38 completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
39 circulation.
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44
45 *Approved,*