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SENATE
S. No. 1867

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Sections 1 and 2 (1) provide:

The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The state shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

Teaching is a noble profession and teaching in a public school is a very challenging job. Public school teachers continue to face the perennial problems of poor facilities, large class sizes, lack of classrooms, and limited resources for teaching aids.

As we know, public school teachers are among the lowest paid professionals in society. In spite of this, they are repeatedly forced to provide for everyday classroom supplies out of their own pocket. Traditionally, the government provides classroom teachers with an annual allowance for classroom supplies, popularly known as a "chalk allowance." In the Department of Education budget for 2011, this cash allowance amounted to P700 per teacher per school year, or P3.50 per school day (given 203 school days for 2010-2011). Beginning 2012, this allowance was raised to P1,000 per teacher per school year, or P4.98 per school day (given an average of 201 school days since SY 2011-2012). Such a meager amount is not enough to cover the costs not only of chalk, but also of other supplies such as erasers, pens, pencils, notebooks, class records, manila paper, cartolina, bond paper, art paper, test paper and others, that are essential for the daily functioning of teaching and learning in the classroom.

This bill proposes to increase the annual allowance for classroom supplies from P1,000 to P3,000, thereby relieving teachers of this onerous financial burden.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the House of Representative by Rep. Antonio L. Tinio in the 16th Congress.



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J.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN ADEQUATE TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

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SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2013."

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SECTION 2. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* - The cash allowance to teachers amounting to Three Thousand Pesos (3,000.00) per school year is hereby provided for public school teachers of elementary and secondary education nationwide. The allowance shall cover their teaching materials.

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SECTION 3. *Periodic Review for Increases.* - The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking into account the current prices of classroom supplies, and, if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance. The amount required to cover the increase shall be included in the Department of Education's budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

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SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The necessary amount for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the Department of Education under the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/jsl