



*18 JUL 16 10:53

SENATE
S. B. No. 1872

RECORDED

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO FIFTY-FIVE (55) YEARS OLD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many public school teachers have expressed their desire to retire from their noble profession at an age earlier than what is currently set by the law, where mandatory retirement is at 65 years old.

The Philippines ranks among the countries with the most dismal statistics descriptive of teachers' working conditions. According to 2015 UNESCO data, Filipino teachers have to contend with less than optimal pupil-teacher ratios—an average of 31 students (primary level) to 45 students (secondary level)—and large average class sizes—42.4 (primary) and 43.7 (secondary).

Officially, instruction time is six hours each day, but some teachers work much longer hours on account of their multiple responsibilities at school. Teachers work in 40 out of 54 weeks per year, but they have duties during vacation months, and even beyond the classroom and the school premises.

When compared to figures worldwide, it is harder to be a public school teacher in the Philippines than in most countries. And yet, our teachers retire five years later than those in most countries, where mandatory retirement age is generally 60 years old.

The country does face a perennial shortage of teachers, but respect and humane consideration for our hardworking educators should prompt policymakers and legislators to at least lower the optional retirement age from today's 60 years old to 55 years old as this proposed measure stipulates.

The work of our teachers should be highly valued in our society. And one way of demonstrating our gratitude is by the swift passage and approval of this measure.



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

1 Section 1. Section 13-A of Republic Act No. 8291, or the Revised Government
2 Service Insurance System Act of 1997, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 13-A. *Conditions for Entitlement.* – A member who retires
4 from the service shall be entitled to the retirement benefits in
5 paragraph (a) of Section 13 hereof: *Provided, That:*

6 "(1) he **OR SHE** has rendered at least fifteen (15) years of service;
7 "(2) he **OR SHE** is at least sixty (60) years of age at the time of
8 retirement, **OR AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE (55) YEARS OF AGE IN**
9 **THE CASE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS;** and

10 "(3) he **OR SHE** is not receiving a monthly pension benefit from
11 permanent total disability."

12 Sec. 2. The provisions in pertinent implementing rules and regulations and
13 other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
14 accordingly.

1 Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in
2 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,