



**SENATE**

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S.B. No. 727

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**Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**

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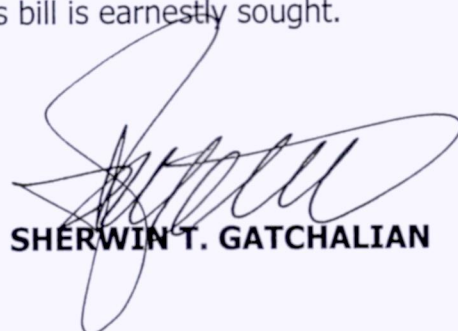
**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO STUDENTS ENROLLING IN**  
**TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TEACHING**  
**IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A UNESCO report recently elucidated on how the Philippines failed to reach its Year 2015 targets on the Millennium Development Goals of Education for All. One of the goals set is for our country to Improve on the Quality of our Education. It simplifies the four (4) strategies to achieve this, one of which is to overcome the inequalities in learning by allocating the best teachers to the most challenging parts of our country. Thus, this bill seeks to respond to the need to provide more teachers in the rural areas where there is seemingly a dearth in good teachers that arises in the inequality of the quality of education of our learners, especially in the public school.

It is envisioned that by establishing a scholarship program for deserving students who want to pursue a career in teacher education, the government shall be developing highly qualified educators to serve in the remote rural areas of our country. The incentive is for the student to acquire a four-year full-time scholarship and the security of an employment upon graduation.

In view of the urgent need to be able to accomplish the MDGs, though belatedly, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN**



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AN ACT

PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO STUDENTS ENROLLING IN  
TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TEACHING  
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*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 "Teacher  
2 Education Scholarship Program of 2019".

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to give  
4 priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to  
5 foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and  
6 promote total human liberation and development. Towards this end, the  
7 State shall continue to develop programs that will encourage the youth to  
8 pursue an education in teaching and provide them with opportunities for  
9 employment by serving their countrymen as rural teachers.

10 SEC. 3. **General Objectives.** - A scholarship program shall be  
11 offered to deserving students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of  
12 Science in Education degree or training in teacher education to provide said  
13 students with incentives to pursue a teaching career in their home regions or in  
14 other rural areas.

15 SEC 4. **Scholarship Program** - This Act envisions a four-year  
16 full-time Teacher Education Scholarship Program, hereinafter referred to as the

1 Program, to be offered to deserving students, based on meritocracy for those  
2 eligible, who will take up teacher education or Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of  
3 Science in Education, or any other  
4 teacher training program or course under Republic Act No. 7836, otherwise  
5 known as the "*Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994.*"

6 The graduates of the Program shall render services and be  
7 integrated into any public school in their home region or other rural  
8 public elementary or secondary school in the Philippines as provided for under  
9 Section 6 of this Act.

10 SEC. 5. ***Eligibility and Qualifications.*** – Without prejudice to the  
11 minimum requirements set forth in Republic Act No. 10687 or the Unified  
12 Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act, there  
13 shall be an annual selection through appropriate examinations and screening  
14 processes of those who shall be admitted to the Program. The candidates shall  
15 be chosen from among qualified secondary graduates,  
16 whether from the private or public high schools. The qualified and  
17 selected scholars shall be granted scholarship to enroll in a teacher  
18 education course covering expenses for matriculation and other  
19 school fees, prescribed textbooks, supplies and equipment, clothing and  
20 uniform allowances, and other related miscellaneous expense.

21 At least ten (10) candidates per province shall be chosen to  
22 participate in the Program every year.

23 An applicant whose family's combined gross income falls below the  
24 official poverty threshold as determined by the National Economic and  
25 Development Authority or those whose parent is a barangay worker,  
26 government employee, or a member of an indigenous  
27 cultural community shall be given priority in the selection.

28 SEC. 6. ***General Conditions for Admission to the Scholarship.*** - A  
29 teacher education scholar shall be accepted to the Program and shall receive  
30 and continue to enjoy the benefits of the scholarship until the completion of the  
31 course, subject to the following conditions:

32 a) The scholar shall pass the entrance or admission  
33 examinations and related requirements of the school where the scholar

1 intends to enroll;

2 b) The scholar shall carry the full load of subjects prescribed  
3 per semester and shall, under no circumstance, drop a course which will  
4 result in under-loading;

5 c) The scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons, to defer  
6 enrollment and of availing of the scholarship for a period not exceeding  
7 one school year;

8 d) Upon completion of the course and other relevant training,  
9 the scholar shall agree to teach in any public elementary or secondary  
10 school in the scholar's home region or in any rural public school for a  
11 period of at least five (5) years;

12 e) The scholar shall repay the full cost of the scholarship and  
13 related benefits received in the event of the scholar's failure to complete  
14 the teaching education course without valid cause; and

15 f) The scholar shall sign an agreement stating the terms and  
16 conditions of the scholarship.

17 SEC. 6. **Secretariat.** - The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education  
18 (CHED) may create a Secretariat to provide administrative and technical  
19 assistance to effectively and efficiently implement the Program. It shall perform  
20 the duties and responsibilities as may be determined and delegated by the  
21 CHED Chair. The support staff, as may be created, shall be  
22 recruited preferably from any accredited teacher organization or the  
23 academe.

24 SEC. 7. **Donations, Grants and Other Contributions.** - The  
25 CHED may accept any donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in cash or  
26 services, whether local or foreign, which may be made by individuals and  
27 organizations, to fund the Program. Such donation, contribution, bequest, grant,  
28 in cash or services shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be  
29 considered as an allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation  
30 of the income tax of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National  
31 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

32 Proceeds from at least two (2) draws of the Philippine Charity  
33 Sweepstakes every year shall also be allocated to finance the Program.

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SEC. 8. **Appropriations.** - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such funds necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the CHED in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and in consultation with schools offering education for teachers and other relevant stakeholders, issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC, 12. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,