

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 AUG 27 P3:00

SENATE
S. B. No. 957

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite their immense importance to the nation's development and well-being, public school teachers are still among the country's grossly-undercompensated professionals. On top of their daily expenses, public school teachers are often forced to shoulder the cost of many classroom supplies.

Traditionally, the government provides teachers with an annual allowance for classroom supplies, popularly known as the "chalk allowance", for the purpose of purchasing items such as chinks, erasers, forms and other supplies and materials. In the Department of Education budget, this cash allowance amounted to ₱700 per teacher per school year in 2011, which was increased to ₱1,000 in 2012. This was increased further to ₱1,500 per teacher per school year in 2016; and then to ₱2,500 in 2017. For 2018 and 2019, the General Appropriations Act provided for ₱3,500 per teacher per school year, or ₱16.82 per school day.

Such meager amount is inadequate for teachers to cover the costs of classroom supplies including pens, pencils, notebooks, class records, manila papers, cartolina, bond paper, art paper, and other materials essential for learning in the classroom.

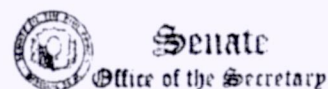
Hence, the bill proposes to increase the annual "chalk allowance" from ₱3,500 to ₱5,000 per teacher per school year, or ₱24.04 per school day, thereby relieving teachers of this arduous financial burden.

Immediate approval of this bill is therefore sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sonny Angara', written in a cursive style.

SONNY ANGARA

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

1 Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the “*Teaching Supplies*
2 *Allowance Act of 2019.*”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
4 State to promote and improve the economic status of teachers and assist them in
5 providing quality education to their students.

6 Sec. 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* – The cash allowance to teachers for the
7 purchase of chalks, erasers, forms, and other classroom supplies and materials as
8 provided in the annual appropriations for the Department of Education shall be
9 known as the Teaching Supplies Allowance. The amount provided shall be increased
10 from Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱3,500.00) to Five Thousand Pesos
11 (₱5,000.00) per teacher per school year. Said allowance shall be paid only to
12 classroom teachers.

13 Sec. 4. *Periodic Review for Increases.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby
14 mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking
15 into account the current prices of classroom supplies, and, if warranted, recommend
16 the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance. The amount required to

1 cover the increase shall be included in the Department's budget proposal for the
2 next fiscal year.

3 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as may be necessary for the
4 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
5 Act.

6 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,