

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }  
OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
First Regular Session }

7 JUN 30 P221

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. NO. 137

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government allocates the biggest share of the national budget for education annually because education is a national priority. The budget earmarked for education addresses problems such as the overcrowded classrooms, shortage of books, tables and chairs, outmoded equipment and dilapidated facilities. However, for several years now, government has overlooked the salaries of public school teachers. For college graduates, the teaching profession is one of the lowest-paying jobs available.

Teachers are specifically designated to educate the young. But considering the responsibility and privilege of teachers *in toto*, teachers play an important part in developing nation. They harness talent and train the future leaders, doctors, lawyers, musicians, engineers, nurses, office workers, factory workers, athletes, etc. Despite the worth of their contribution to national development, teachers continue to suffer from neglect. Their salaries are meager and their working conditions, particularly in public schools, are generally poor. Because of the low salaries given to teachers, the country is losing many of its most qualified teachers to more lucrative positions in commerce and industry. For the past years, thousands have migrated abroad for better employment opportunities as well.

How long will government allow this exodus to happen? The clamor of public school teachers for an increase in their salaries must not be disregarded if government is intent on keeping the country's bright teachers. The teaching profession is a highly respected profession in many countries because of its important contribution to national development. Ironically in the country, public school teachers can no longer afford to have an adequate or decent living because of their low pay. Government must help teachers uplift their lives and give teachers the prestige and recognition they so deserve.

Approval of this bill is therefor earnestly sought.

  
FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }  
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7 JUN 30 P2:21

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 10 TO 20 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** *Increase in the Minimum Salary Grade Level.* - The present minimum salary grade  
2 level of public school teachers in the elementary and secondary schools shall be upgraded from Grade 10  
3 to 20: *Provided, however,* That the salary upgrading shall be differentiated in accordance with the  
4 qualifications and length of service rendered by teachers and shall not be prejudiced by across the board  
5 adjustments.

6           **SEC. 2.** *Priority in Budget Allocation.* - The National Government shall appropriate such amount,  
7 as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act: *Provided,* That the salary increase of public  
8 school teachers shall take priority over other non-educational and non-agricultural budgetary allocations.

9           **SEC. 3.** *Budget Required.* - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall come up with a specific  
10 programmed budget needed to cover the expenses for the upgrading in salary levels for all the  
11 corresponding teacher plantilla positions for a period of at least five (5) years to allow the Department of  
12 Budget and Management (DBM) make the necessary budgetary adjustments to facilitate the smooth  
13 implementation of this Act.

14           **SEC. 4.** *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be  
15 included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the approval of this Act.

16           **SEC. 5.** *Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd and the DBM shall promulgate the necessary rules  
17 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

1           **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other  
2   issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
3   accordingly.

4           **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or  
5   invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

6           **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
7   *Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.