


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

7 JUL -2 2019

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 591

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides that:

*"The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."*

Our schools must prepare young people for their active participation in community life and in a democratic society. This is not possible without knowledge and understanding of humanities.

In order to ensure that our children acquire the necessary conceptual and analytical skills and have an appreciation for the traditions and values of our culture, studies in the humanities are essential. However, it is not possible to accomplish this goal unless our teachers have the necessary background and training in humanities.

Hence, it is the purpose of this bill to authorize a national program for the establishment and operation of Teacher Institutes for the enhancement of the humanities knowledge of private and public elementary and secondary school teachers.

The early passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF  
INSTRUCTION IN THE HUMANITIES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title** -This Act shall be known as **"The Humanities  
Excellence and Teacher Training Act."**

**SEC 2. Purpose** - It is the purpose of this Act to authorize a national  
program for improving the quality of education which would make grants to  
institutions of higher education for the establishment and operation of Teacher  
Institutes for the enhancement of the humanities knowledge of private and public  
elementary and secondary school teachers.

**SEC 3. Definition** - For the purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "Institution of Higher Education" means any colleges or  
universities within a region;

(2) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of  
Education;

(3) The term "humanities" means both modern and classical languages,  
literature, history, philosophy, language arts and social studies when taught in  
elementary and high schools;

**SEC 4. Grants** -

(a) The Secretary shall make grants in each region to an institution of  
higher education (or consortium of such institutions) whose application is  
approved under subsection (b) for the purposes of establishing humanities  
training institutes for the professional development of elementary and secondary  
school teachers. Any institution or consortium whose application is so approved  
shall receive an amount equal to not more than P5,000.00 multiplied by the

number of teachers, not to exceed two hundred, enrolled in such institute, per year.

(b) Any institution of higher education or consortium desiring to receive a grant shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require. No such application may be approved by the Secretary unless the application --

(1) contains a description of the proposed program of instruction, and the extent to which eligible classroom teacher participants will be involved in the planning and design of the institutes;

(2) contains an estimate of the number of teachers, including the number of teachers from private elementary and secondary schools, to attend the institute, and describes the selection procedures; .

(3) describes the nature and location of existing facilities to be used in the operation of the institute;

(4) specifies the teaching and administrative staff for the institute including the involvement of faculty from both the humanities and education departments and elementary and secondary school teachers;

(5) specifies the academic credits, if any, to be awarded for the completion of the course of study to be offered at the institute;

(6) provides a schedule of stipends to be paid teacher participants in the institute, including (a) allowances for subsistence and other expenses for teachers attending the institute and their dependents and (b) provisions assuring that there will be no duplication of governmental benefits paid to participants;

(7) provides adequate assurances that teachers who wish to participate will be selected on the basis of recommendations from a principal attesting to the applicants' potential to excel in the humanities and other discipline or disciplines studied in the institute; and

(8) provides assurances that the institution of higher education will seek to enroll at least eighty qualified teachers in the institute;

(c) Awards under this section shall be made to the institutions (or consortia) on the basis of excellence of the program proposed in the application, taking into consideration such elements as library resources, faculty achievement, and humanities learning facilities.

(d) Funds available to institutions under this section may be used to cover costs associated with enrollment in an institute, including tuition fees, administration and living expenses.

(e) In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall assure, to the maximum extent consistent with the purposes of this Act, that there is equitable distribution of institutes established and operated under approved applications among regions and within regions. The Secretary shall award not less than one institute in each region.

(9) No grant to a single application may exceed P700,00.00 in any fiscal year.

**SEC 5. Restriction** - No grants shall be made or contracts entered into under this Act except to such extent, or in such amounts, as may be provided in the General Appropriation Act.

**SEC 6. Separability Clause** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC 7. Repealing Clause** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*