

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

8 JAN 29 1975

SENATE
S. No. 2029

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

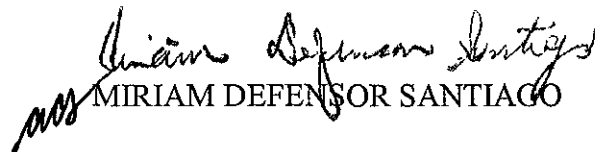
The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provides:

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.

The quality of education depends primarily on the quality of our teachers.

Hence, the government must expend efforts to encourage talented individuals interested in teaching to maintain their interest. This can be done by raising the status of the teaching profession, through increased recognition of professional opportunities for teachers, so that the best teachers remain in the classroom and talented individuals are attracted to teaching.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a teacher corps program to strengthen the teaching profession.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

8 JAN 29 2009

SENATE
S. No. 2029

RECEIVED BY: MA

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1. AN ACT
2. ESTABLISHING A TEACHER CORPS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN
3. THE TEACHING PROFESSION

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

6. SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Teachers Act
7. of 2008.”

8. SECTION 2. *Teacher Corps Authorized.* –

9. (A) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED - The Commission on Higher Education,
10. hereinafter referred to as “the Commission,” shall make grants, in accordance with the
11. provisions of this title, to State colleges and universities to conduct teacher corps
12. activities.

13. (B) DESIGNATION –

14. (1) A scholarship awarded under this part shall be referred to as a
15. “Teacher Corps Scholarship.”

16. (2) A recipient of a scholarship under this part shall be referred to as a
17. “Teacher Corps member.”

18. SECTION 3. *Use of Funds.* –

19. (A) The Commission on Higher Education shall use funds provided pursuant to
20. this part to -

21. (1) disseminate information nationally about the availability of
22. scholarships;

1 (2) conduct activities which foster communication among, and bring
2 together, members of the Teacher Corps including activities such as written
3 communications, meetings, or training sessions.

4 (3) provide technical assistance to educational institutions in establishing
5 and operating Teacher Corps programs;

6 (4) provide guidelines in the evaluation of application for Teacher Corps
7 membership and award scholarships to Teacher Corps members;

8 (5) make Teacher Corps awards to individuals in training to become a
9 school psychologist, school social worker, or a school counselor;

10 (6) ensure that Teacher *Corps* members understand the obligation to repay
11 such scholarships upon failure to comply with the conditions of the scholarship;

12 (7) assist in employment placement of Teacher Corps members; and

13 (8) establish, operate, and expand programs for new Teacher Corps
14 members and other new teachers, including -

15 (a) orientation;

16 (b) using mentor teachers to work with new teachers;

17 (c) curriculum guidance; and

18 (d) increasing the preparedness of all classroom teachers for the
19 participation of particular populations of students, such as disadvantaged
20 students, students with disabilities, and students from diverse cultural
21 backgrounds, in the classrooms of such teachers.

22 (B) PRIORITY - In carving out the provisions of subsection (A) (1), the
23 Commission shall give priority in awarding grants to State colleges and universities with
24 the greatest proportion of disadvantaged students.

25 SECTION 4. *Teacher Corps*. -

26 (A) SELECTION - The respective state colleges and universities, in cooperation
27 with the Commissioner on Higher Education, shall select Teacher Corps members.

1 (B) CRITERIA - The Commission shall establish the criteria to select Teacher
2 Corps members, intended to attract highly qualified individuals to teaching, and to meet
3 the needs of the country in addressing teacher shortages, including -

4 (1) in the case of students or recent graduates, strong academic promise, or
5 in other cases contributions which can be made by individuals working in other
6 careers; and

7 (2) a demonstrated interest in teaching, or skill or professional experience
8 in substantive fields of expertise in which the country is experiencing teacher
9 shortages.

10 (C) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION - The Commission shall give special
11 consideration in the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals who -

12 (1) intend to teach or provide related services to students with disabilities;
13 and

14 (2) intend to teach pre-school age children.

15 (D) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION - The Commission shall give priority
16 consideration in the selection of Teacher Corps members to individuals from
17 disadvantaged backgrounds, including minorities and individuals with disabilities, who
18 are underrepresented in the teaching profession or in the curricular areas in which they
19 are preparing to teach.

20 SECTION 5. *State Application.* - Each State college or university desiring a grant
21 under this part shall submit an application to the commission at such time, in such
22 manner, and containing such information as the commission may reasonably require.
23 Each application shall describe teacher shortages in the region including shortages in
24 specific substantive fields of expertise and geographic areas, and shall describe steps to
25 be taken to place Teacher *Corps* members in areas experiencing teacher shortages.

1 SECTION 6. *Scholarships.* --

2 (A) ELIGIBILITY --

3 (1) An individual is eligible to receive Teacher Corps scholarships for a
4 maximum of four (4) years during enrollment in any program of study leading to
5 a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree.

6 (2) An individual pursuing a program of study leading to a
7 postbaccalaureate degree is eligible to receive a Teacher *Corps* scholarship during
8 any of the first four (4) years that such individual is employed as a teacher to
9 defray the costs of pursuing such post-baccalaureate instruction.

10 (3) An individual in possession of a bachelor's degree, who wishes to enter
11 teaching from another profession, is eligible to receive a Teacher *corps*
12 scholarship to enable such individual to receive the instruction necessary to enter
13 the teaching profession, as determined by the State college or university in which
14 the individual wishes to teach. Such instruction may be provided while the
15 individual is employed as a provisional teacher, at the discretion of such State
16 college or university.

17 (B) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT AND DURATION - Subject to subsection
18 (3), each Teacher Corps member shall receive a Twenty-five Thousand Pesos
19 (P25,000.00) scholarship for each academic year of postsecondary education, except that
20 no individual shall receive scholarship assistance for more than four (4) years of
21 postsecondary education (including post-baccalaureate), as determined by the Secretary.

22 (C) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY - Each individual who receives a Teacher
23 *Corps* scholarship shall continue to receive such scholarship payments only during such
24 periods that the State college or university finds that such individual is -

25 (1) enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary
26 institution; and

27 (2) maintaining satisfactory progress as defined by such State college or
28 university.

1. SECTION 7. *Scholarship Conditions.* –

2 (A) SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT - Each individual receiving a scholarship
3 under this part shall enter into a written agreement with the State college or university in
4 which such individual is enrolled, which shall provide assurances that each such
5 individual -

6 (1) will pursue a course of study which meets requirements for teacher
7 preparation;

8 (2) will maintain satisfactory academic progress and participate in
9 teaching-related activities while in undergraduate or post-baccalaureate programs;

10 (3) will work as a teacher upon completion of such individual's education
11 for five (5) years in public educational institutions;

12 (4) will repay all or part of a Teacher Corps scholarship received, plus
13 interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees, in the event that the
14 conditions of this section are not complied with;

15 (5) will participate in an induction program for new teachers during the
16 fifth year of employment, by serving as a mentor to a new Teacher Corps
17 members, or to other new teachers, or by making some other contribution to the
18 induction program.

19 (B) SCHOLARSHIP REPAYMENT –

20 (1) Individuals found to be in noncompliance with the agreement entered
21 into under the preceding section shall be required to repay to the State college or
22 university from which such individual granted a pro rata amount of the
23 scholarship awards received, plus interest and, where applicable, reasonable
24 collection fees.

25 (2) Each individual found by the State to be in non-compliance with the
26 agreement entered into under the preceding section shall be required to repay -

27 (a) One Hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of
28 scholarships awarded under this part if such individual does not teach

1 pursuant to the agreement described in the preceding section or teaches
2 pursuant to such agreement for less than one (1) year;

3 (b) Ninety percent (90%) of the total amount of scholarships
4 awarded under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such
5 agreement for at least one (1) year but less than two (2) years;

6 (c) Eighty percent (80%) of the total amount of scholarships
7 awarded under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such
8 agreement for at least two (2) years but less than three (3) years;

9 (d) Sixty percent (60%) of the total amount of scholarships
10 awarded under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such
11 agreement for at least two (2) years but less than three (3) years;

12 (e) Thirty percent (30%) of the total amount of scholarships
13 awarded under this part if such individual teaches pursuant to such
14 agreement for at least four (4) years but less than five (5) years.

15 (3) If a portion of a scholarship made to the appropriate State college or
16 university pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be used by such
17 institutions to award additional scholarships in accordance with the provisions of
18 this part.

19 (4) Any repayments of scholarships made to the appropriate State college
20 or university pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be used by such
21 institutions to award additional scholarships in accordance with the provisions of
22 this part.

23 (C) WAIVER - The Secretary may provide for the partial or total waiver or
24 suspension of any service obligation or repayment by an individual who received a
25 Teacher Corps scholarship whenever compliance by such individual is impossible or
26 would involve extreme hardship to such individual, or if enforcement of such obligation
27 with respect to such individual would be unconscionable.

1 SECTION 8. *Publication and Recruitment.* – The commission shall publicize the
2 availability of, and procedure to apply for, Teacher Corps scholarships, particularly
3 among students participating in teaching-related activities through summer teaching
4 institutes, future teacher clubs, and other teaching-related activities, at institutions of
5 higher education throughout the country.

6 SECTION 9. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – There are authorized to be
7 appropriated Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) for every fiscal year and such sums as
8 may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this part.

9 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held
10 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
11 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
13 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
14 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
15 accordingly.

16 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
17 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,