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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 685

RECEIVED BY 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE


The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17, provided:

"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."

Low salaries and declining status of the teaching profession has reduced the quantity and quality of individuals entering the teaching profession.

The government must expend efforts to address the existing and impending teacher shortage in the country. Bringing talented individuals into the teaching profession will greatly enhance the quality of our education, achieving success in aiding the traditional education of students.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish national teacher academies in order to encourage and facilitate entry into the teaching profession. Immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly solicited.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TEACHER ACADEMIES IN ORDER TO  
ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE ENTRY INTO THE TEACHING  
PROFESSION

*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 "**Teaching Profession Act.**"

- (A) *In General.* - The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with the provisions of this Act to make grants to eligible recipients to establish and operate national teacher academies.
- (B) *Subject Areas and Staff.* - (1) One (1) national teacher academy shall be established in each of the following subject areas commonly taught in elementary and secondary schools.
- (a) basic skills and literacy instruction;
  - (b) civics and government;
  - (c) national writing project;
  - (d) mathematics;
  - (e) history, geography and sociology;
  - (f) economics;
  - (g) life sciences;
  - (h) physical sciences; and
  - (i) the arts, including art, music and performing arts.
- (C) Academy staff shall be selected from the most accomplished and prominent scholars in the relevant fields of study and in the methodologies which prepare persons to teach in fields of study.

- (D) *Duration of Grant.* – Each grant to establish and operate a national teacher academy shall be for a period of five (5) years, and is renewable.
- (E) *Competitive Grant Awards* – The Secretary shall award grants on the basis of a competitive ve bidding process
- (F) *Special Consideration.* In awarding grants under this Act the Secretary shall give special consideration to eligible recipients that have demonstrated effectiveness in establishing and administering a national network of individuals who assist in teacher training and in-service programs in the subject areas listed in sub section (B).

## **SEC. 2. Eligible Recipients.**

- (A) *In General.* – For purposes of this Act, the term “eligible recipient” means:
  - (1) an institution of higher education;
  - (2) a private non-profit educational organization of demonstrated effectiveness; or
  - (3) a combination of the institutions or organizations set forth in paragraph (1) and (2) of this paragraph
- (B) *Expertise Requirements.* – The Secretary shall only award grants to eligible applicants which have demonstrated expertise in the –
  - (1) subject area of the national teaching academy to be established and operated and
  - (2) in-service training of teachers.

## **SEC. 3. Use of Funds**

- (A) *In General.* – Funds provided pursuant to this Act shall be used to –
  - (1) provide in-service training programs for teachers and administrators including –
    - (a) the study of subject matter, methodology and teacher education, including effective strategies for teaching all students in mixed-ability classrooms;
    - (b) the use of the most recent applied research findings concerning education and the classroom; and
    - (c) integrating materials from different disciplines into classrooms instruction, especially for elementary schools teachers;
  - (2) conduct at least one 3-week summer institute each year;

- (3) train the leadership teams to provide in-service training for teachers in the professional development schools establish pursuant to part B of this title; and
  - (4) provide support services to such professional development schools including –
    - (a) the establishment of a national network of individuals to assist in teacher education programs in professional development schools;
    - (b) consulting assistance in the design and implementation of teacher education; and
    - (c) monthly newsletters or other methods of communicating useful information.
- (B) *Administrative Costs.* – Not more than ten (10) percent of the amount of funds received under this Act may be used by grant recipients for administrative costs.

**SEC. 4. *Summer Institute Participants.*** Each year, a national academy conducts a summer institute to provide teacher training programs to teachers and school administrators, participants from each congressional district shall include the leadership team described in Section 13.

**SEC. 5. *Application.*** -

- (A) Application – Each eligible recipient desiring a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner, as the Secretary may reasonably require.
- (B) Contents – Each application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall –
  - (1) describe the activities, services and programs for which assistance is sought;
  - (2) describe how at least seventy (70) percent of the institute's time will be devoted to basic course content relevant to the particular subject field and necessary for improving the quality of teaching in public and private elementary and secondary schools;
  - (3) describe how not more than thirty (30) percent of the institute's time will be devoted to the development of methods of instruction and the planning of in-service training programs to be conducted by the professional development academies established in this Act; and
  - (4) provide such additional assurances or information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

**SEC. 6. *Special Rule: National Writing Project.***

- (A) Authorization –

- (1) From amounts appropriated pursuant to the authority of Section 8 for the establishment and operation of the national teacher academy, the Secretary is authorized to award a grant to the National Writing Project (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "grantee"), a non-profit educational organization which has as its primary purpose the improvement of the quality of student writing and learning, and the teaching of writing as a learning process in the classrooms, to establish and operate such national teacher academy.
  - (2) The National Writing Project shall use the grant awarded pursuant to paragraph (1) to –
    - (a) support and promote the establishment of teacher training programs, including the dissemination of effective practices and research findings regarding the teaching of writing and administrative activities;
    - (b) support classroom research on effective teaching practice and to document student performance; and
    - (c) pay the share of the cost of such programs.
- (B) *Grant Requirements* – The grant awarded pursuant to subsection (A) shall require that –
- (1) the grantee enter into contracts with institutions higher education or other non-profit educational providers (hereunder referred to as "contractors" under which the contractors will agree to establish, operate and provide share of the cost of teacher training program in effective approaches and processes for the teaching of writing;
  - (2) funds made available by the Secretary to the grantee pursuant to the grant awarded under this section will be used to pay the share of the cost of establishing and operating teacher training programs as provided in paragraph (1) and these funds which shall be appropriated in behalf of the state college or university concerned shall be primarily used for carrying out the programs specified and designed under this Act;
  - (3) The grantee will meet such other conditions and standards as the Secretary determines to be necessary to assure compliance with the provisions of this section and will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
- (C) *Teacher Training Programs* - The teacher training programs authorized in subsection A shall –
- (1) be conducted during the school year and during the summer months;
  - (2) train teachers who teach grades kindergarten through college;

- (3) select teachers to become members of a National Writing Project teacher network whose members will conduct writing workshops for other teachers in the area served by each National Writing Project site; and
  - (4) encourage teachers from all disciplines to participate in such teacher training programs.
- (D) *Classroom Teacher Grants* –
- (1) The National Writing Project may reserve an amount not to exceed five (5%) percent of the amount appropriated pursuant to the authority of Section 8 for the establishment and operation of the national teacher academy to make grants, on a competitive basis, to elementary and secondary school teachers to enable such teachers to –
    - (a) conduct classroom research;
    - (b) publish models of student writing;
    - (c) conduct research regarding effective practices to improve the teaching of writing; and
    - (d) conduct other activities to improve the teaching and uses of writing
- (E) *National Advisory Board* –
- (1) The National Writing Project shall establish and operate a National Advisory Board.
  - (2) The National Advisory Writing Project established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall –
    - (a) Advise the National Writing Project on national issues related to student writing and the teaching of writing;
    - (b) Review the activities and programs of the National Writing Project; and
    - (c) Support the continued development of the National Writing Project.

**SEC. 7. *Authorization of Appropriations.*** There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this part.

**SEC. 8. *Professional Development Schools.*** From amounts appropriated under this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the commission of Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the "commission"), shall allot to select state, colleges or universities, in order to establish and operate professional development schools.

**SEC. 9. *Program Authorized***

- (A) Duration of Grant – Each grant provided pursuant to this Act to establish and operate a professional development school shall be for a period of 5 years, and is renewable.
- (B) Grant Awards – Each grant provided pursuant to this section shall be awarded on the basis of competitive bidding process, and to an eligible recipient selected on the basis of need, as evidenced by measures such as the rate of teacher attrition and the proportion of the student body at risk of educational failure.

**SEC. 10. Application**

- (A) Application – Each eligible recipient wishing to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the commission, in such manner, and containing such information as the commission shall reasonably require.
- (B) Contents – Each application submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall –
  - (1) describe the activities, services and programs for which assistance is sought;
  - (2) provide assurances that all public and private elementary and secondary school teachers in the area served by the professional development school will be eligible to participate in the training programs;
  - (3) contain a description of where the professional development programs will be located and a justification for selecting the geographic location for each program;
  - (4) provide assurances that professional development programs will be conducted by teachers of demonstrated excellence, including teachers who have participated in training programs at the National Teacher Academies;
  - (5) provide assurances that professional development programs will be developed and conducted with the participation of faculty from institutions of higher education or private non-profit organizations of demonstrated effectiveness, and will be conducted in both academic course content and methods of instruction and with the participation of the schools teachers administrators;
  - (6) contain a description of how the professional development school's activities will be coordinated with the other current in-service training activities in the region;
  - (7) describe the provisions which will be made to allow individuals release time from their teaching or administrative responsibilities to participate in professional development school activities;
  - (8) contain a description of how the professional development school's activities will help teachers teach all students in mixed-ability classrooms; and

- (9) where applicable, describe how teachers and administrators from the professional development school will be involved in the teacher training programs at institutions of higher education.

**SEC. 11. Use of Funds.**

- (A) *In general* – Grants awarded to eligible recipients pursuant to this Act shall be used in a school or schools best able to provide services to teachers and administrators of at risk students to –

- (1) provide professional development programs for teachers which –

- (a) upgrade and strengthen knowledge of academic course content, particularly in the following subject areas:

- (i) mathematics;
- (ii) English, reading and language arts;
- (iii) civics and government;
- (iv) basic skills and literacy instruction;
- (v) the arts, including art, music and the performing arts;
- (vi) history, geography and sociology;
- (vii) economics
- (viii) life sciences; and
- (ix) physical sciences

- (b) Improve methods of instruction in content areas to –

- (i) increase the preparedness of all classroom teachers for the participation of particular populations of students, such as disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, students who are limited English proficient, and students from diverse cultural backgrounds, in the classrooms of such teachers;
- (ii) improve teaching and classroom management skills;
- (iii) provide training in new instructional techniques, methods and practices, supported by educational research findings, including instructional techniques, methods and practices; and



- (iv) improve teacher training in courses of study which combine one or more related subject areas;
  - (c) Where appropriate, provide professional development programs for participants in school-based management programs;
  - (d) Encourage teacher collaboration, especially among teachers of different subjects, including vocational education, physical education, and other specialties not described in subparagraph (a);
  - (e) Involve experienced teachers in the training and assessment of novice teachers;
  - (f) Encourage participation in activities of a network of professional development schools; and
  - (g) Provide outreach to parents and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children; and
- (2) pay the costs of release time, stipends, college or university credit, curricular materials and other necessary expenditures.

**SEC. 12. *Relationship with Other Programs Funded Under this Act.***

If a national academy funded under this Act serves teachers within the jurisdiction of a professional development school assisted under this Act, each such professional development school shall annually conduct an in-service training program in each of the course content areas for which teachers receive training at such national academy. Such program shall –

- (1) include individuals who have participated in the activities, programs and services of the appropriate national academy;
- (2) contain both the academic course content and methods of instruction learned at such national academy;
- (3) be available to all elementary and secondary teachers in the congressional district who teach the relevant subject matter; and
- (4) provide at least 50 teachers at least 30 hours of high quality instruction per year.

**SEC. 13. *Leadership Teams.***

- (A) In General – Each steering committee established pursuant to Section 14 shall select three (3) person leadership team for each national teacher academy assisted under this Act.
- (B) Composition – Each leadership team shall be composed of –
  - (1) 1 administrator with authority to design and conduct in service-training programs;

- (2) 1 elementary school teacher; and
- (3) 1 secondary school teacher
- (C) Duties – Each leadership shall
  - (1) attend the appropriate subject area summer institute at the appropriate national teacher academy; and
  - (2) assist in the development and operation of professional development schools.
- (D) Information and Coordination – Each leadership team serving a professional development school shall exchange information and coordinate efforts on the establishment of the professional development programs.

**SEC. 14. *Steering Committee***

- (A) Establishment – Each eligible recipient desiring a grant under this Act shall also establish a ten (10) member steering committee.
- (B) Composition and Representation
  - (1) at least fifty (50%) percent of the membership of each steering committee shall be classroom teachers, selected by, and representative of, teacher organizations if any
  - (2) the composition of each steering committee shall be broadly representative of the elementary and secondary schools and the local educational agencies served by the professional development school.
- (C) Function – Each steering committee shall be annually selected by the leadership teams in accordance with Section 14.

**SEC. 15. *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. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*