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**SENATE**

Senate Bill No. 1243

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill aims to create and maintain an adequate pool of highly qualified, motivated and globally competitive science and mathematics teachers to propel the Philippines into becoming globally competitive.

Moreover, the bill provides measures that will attract bright students in mathematics and science to pursue a career in science teaching, enable them to advance in their specialization, sustain their interest in this field and encourage them to stay in science teaching. It also provides measures that will continually upgrade the competence of those who are already in science teaching. The measures include:

- (1) providing scholarships and specialized training programs;
- (2) seeking waivers from the Professional Regulatory Commission to allow new graduates to each between graduation time and taking the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET);
- (3) giving certified teachers a higher starting pay than the basic salary;
- (4) giving rewards to the top scorers in the LET;
- (5) giving promotions to non-science majors who have completed a certification program in science content;
- (6) giving merit promotions through examinations; and
- (7) creating a Science Teachers Development Fund to finance programs for the continuing improvement of teacher's skills.

In effect, this bill will ensure that science teaching becomes as competitive as other professions. Thus, it will ensure the availability of S and T teachers to educate Filipinos for global competitiveness.

It is therefore imperative for the immediate passage of this bill.

  
**MANNY V. VILLAR**

SECRET

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**AN ACT  
DEVELOPING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS  
TEACHERS**

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

**TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known and cited as “Developing Globally Competitive Science and Mathematics Teachers Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy and Objectives. – Science and technology are essential for national development progress. The State shall give priority to science and technology education, training and services, research and development, invention, innovation and utilization.

Pursuant to this policy, the state shall ensure a corps of highly motivated and competitive science and mathematics teachers by:

- (a) Attracting above-average students through scholarships and other incentives to join the teaching profession as science and mathematics teachers; and by
- (b) Designing and advancing a rewarding professional career for qualified science and mathematics teachers in the Philippines.

SEC. 3. Benefits and Incentives. – To continually attract above-average students and baccalaureate graduates of science degree courses who majored

in science or mathematics to join the teaching profession as science and mathematics teachers, the following incentives shall be provided:

- (a) Priority in government scholarship grants, allowances study visits, placement, publications and research support, wherever appropriate, to teachers and students who enroll in science or mathematics teaching courses;
- (b) Temporary waiver of the requirements under Section 13, Article III of the Republic Act No. 7836 to undergo the written licensure Examination for Teachers given by the Professional Regulation Commission and secure a valid certificate of registration and professional license from the Commission, to allow new Bachelor of Science in Education graduates majored in science and mathematics to be employed as science and mathematics teachers; *Provided*, that such graduates shall successfully undergo said licensure examination and secure a valid certification and professional license from the Commission within one(1) year from date of employment.
- (c) Within five years form the approval of this Act, baccalaureate graduates of science degree courses may be recruited to teach science or mathematics in public or private elementary and secondary schools for not more than three years: *Provided*, that indefinite extension or permanent appointment may be given to science degree graduates who have passed their respective licensure examinations and earned at least ten(10) units of teaching pedagogy and pass the Licensure examination for teachers before being permanently appointed as science or mathematics teachers;
- (d) Specialized continuing education and training in science and mathematics teaching;

- (e) Rewards and recognition in cash in kind to new Bachelor of Science in Education graduates who majored in science or mathematics and obtained the top twenty (20) slots in the licensure examination for Teachers administered by the professional Regulation Commission; and
- (f) In the case of science and mathematics teachers in public schools, a starting salary grade, two (2) grades higher than that of a regular teacher.

SEC.4. Salary Adjustments for Incumbent Science and Mathematics teachers.- upon the approval of this Act, the salary grade of incumbent public school science and mathematics teachers who majored in science or mathematics shall be increased by two grades. The salary grade of incumbent public school science and mathematics teachers who did not major in science or mathematics but have been competently teaching for at least two years, as certified by the school principal and district supervisor, shall be increased by two (2) grades higher than that of professional non-science teachers. Such salary increase shall take effect after they have passed a merit examination in their field of specialization to be administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports with the support of Department of Science and Technology.

SEC. 5. Supplementary Appropriation. – A supplementary appropriation in amount of five hundred million Pesos (Php 500, 000,000.00) is hereby provided to the Department of Education from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on the year this Act is approved. Thereafter, such amounts that are necessary shall be included in the General appropriations Act to support the benefits, incentives, and salary upgrading stated in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations- Within sixty (60) days from effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education in cooperation with the

Department of Science and Technology, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.- All laws, decreed, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 8. Separability Clause – In the event any of the provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC.9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,