

SENATE
S. No. 934

'19 AUG 20 P 2:39

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF FREE ON-SITE LIVING QUARTERS FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

According to the Department of Education (DepEd), there were 22.9 million students who enrolled in public elementary schools and high schools nationwide for the school year 2017-2018. For the school year 2019-2020, DepEd reported that there would be 27 million enrollees, which is around 3% higher than the school year 2018-2019.

In the 2017 budget of DepEd, around Php19.5 Billion was allocated for the creation of 58,831 teacher positions and 13,391 non-teaching positions.

The above-mentioned statistics simply illustrate that there is a huge demand for the services of public school teachers to ensure that quality education is indeed accessible and should be affordable for all Filipino children.

The focus of this legislative measure is a concern/aspect of public education that seems to be out of reach by statistics. Unknown to most of Filipinos, lots of public school teachers are forced to teach in public schools located far away from their respective hometowns, far away from their respective families. Some teach within the same town but in the remotest of barrios in said town.

To be able to save time and energy, some of said teachers opt to incur board and lodging expenses in exchange of the daily financial and physical struggle required by traveling from their homes to the public schools where they teach at.

Teaching is a very noble profession and is something that becomes part of each and every future graduate and/or professional. Though education must be made accessible and affordable for Filipino children and/or youth, it should not, on the other hand, provide added burden and sacrifice on the part of our public school teachers who have already opted to teach away from their homes and families to teach in the remotest of areas all around the country.

This legislative measure seeks the provision of free on-site housing and/or board and lodging for the above-illustrated public school teachers who are teaching away from their homes and families, among others. The ultimate goals of this legislative measure are to ensure that the remotest of areas all around the country would not lack competent and dedicated public school teachers and to ensure that said areas are not the "last choice" of existing and/or aspiring public school teachers.


In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this legislative measure is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE *act.*

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Free On-Site Living
2 Quarters for Public School Teachers Act”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to
4 ensure the accessibility and affordability of quality education to all Filipinos.

5 The State duly recognizes the distinct situation of public school teachers who
6 are teaching away from their homes and their families.

7 It is the objective of the State to ensure availability of competent and
8 dedicated public school teachers in the remotest of areas in the country with the
9 least burden and hardship on the part of said public school teachers.

10 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to the public school teachers who are
11 teaching in public schools far away from their respective homes and families and are
12 forced, or have opted, to live in said areas where the schools they teach at are
13 located.

14 There shall be no distinction if the afore-mentioned public school teachers are
15 new hires or transferees.

16 Sec. 4. *Provision of Free On-Site Living Quarters.* – The Department of
17 Education (DepEd) shall, free of charge, provide livable and humane living quarters
18 at the nearest possible location to the public schools where the covered public
19 school teachers in Section 3 of this Act are teaching.

1 Existing benefits and allowances already granted by law, rules, regulations
2 and issuances to the covered public school teachers in this Act shall not be
3 diminished, withdrawn or removed.

4 Sec. 5. *Funding.* – The funding necessary for the successful implementation
5 of this Act shall be sourced from the existing funds of the DepEd and shall later on
6 be specifically allocated in the annual budget of the DepEd. In addition, reasonable
7 and sufficient additional funding shall be sourced from the Special Education Fund
8 (SEF) arising from the real property tax collected by concerned Local Government
9 Units (LGUs) where the living quarters shall be constructed and/or located.

10 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, in consultation
11 with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of the
12 Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget Management
13 (DBM), shall formulate and promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
14 regulations for the successful implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90)
15 days from the effectivity of this Act.

16 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason any section or provision of this
17 Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections and provisions
18 thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

19 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations or
20 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
21 amended, or modified accordingly.

22 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days upon
23 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,