

SENATE
S. No. 812

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RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Explanatory Note

For the fiscal year 2016, the Department of Education (DepEd) got the biggest share in the national budget pie with P411 billion out of the P3.002 trillion appropriation. This amount is intended to fully address the shortage in classrooms, teachers and textbooks to enhance the implementation of the K to 12 program and other reforms in our educational system. Amid these envisioned funding support, little is yet provided for the benefits received by teachers.

The salaries of our public school teachers are unquestionably not commensurate with the volume of work and responsibility entrusted to them. Aside from spending for their personal and family needs, teachers also have to shell out some more money from their own pockets for the materials they use in teaching. This is on top of the current P1,500 annual teaching supplies allowance they receive from the FY 2016 DepEd budget. In spite of the increasing budget allocation that the Department enjoys, the cash allowance they provide to teachers just translates to a 7-peso subsidy per day, which is relatively insufficient in assisting classroom teachers to deliver informative lectures and stimulating class discussions to the country's 20.9 million¹ public school students.

Republic Act No. 4670 otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers mandates that the salaries of public school teachers "*shall be such as to insure teachers a reasonable standard of life for themselves and their families.*" Unfortunately, the salaries of public school teachers are currently bound by the Salary Standardization Law (SSL), hence, compensation increases would first need Congressional approval and be subject to comparisons with the qualifications, skills and difficulties of other positions in the government. Thus, one of the urgent ways to respond to the clamor of our public school teachers for much needed support is to grant them with additional benefits in the form of cash allowances which would not be subject to the SSL.

This bill, therefore, institutionalizes the grant of a Teaching Supplies Allowance for the 743,288² public school teachers and at the same time increases the cash allowance currently appropriated in the DepEd budget by 100% from P1,500 to P3,000 per teacher per school year. In order to come up with a deficit neutral measure, this bill proposes to initially source the additional funds from the savings of the National Government and thereafter, from the government's share in the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation income.

Teachers should be given priority attention, they being contributors to the mental development and the formation of moral and ethical values of our students. With this additional allowance, the burden on public school teachers will be alleviated and their working conditions will certainly improve.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

/ejcv

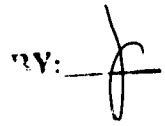

RALPH G. RECTO

¹ Number of students enrolled from Kindergarten to High School as of SY 2015-2016. Source: Department of Education
² FY 2016 data. Source: LBRMO, 2016 GAA

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2016*".

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote and
3 improve the economic status of teachers and assist them in providing quality education to their students.

4 **SEC. 3. Teaching Supplies Allowance.** – A Teaching Supplies Allowance for the purchase of chalks,
5 erasers, forms, and other classroom supplies and materials in the amount of P3,000 per teacher per school
6 year is hereby authorized.

7 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – The grant of the cash allowance authorized in this Act shall be limited to
8 teachers who are engaged in actual classroom teaching in public basic education.

9 **SEC. 5. Funding.** – An amount of Three thousand pesos (P3,000) shall be annually appropriated in
10 the General Appropriations Act for the grant of the Teaching Supplies Allowance: *Provided*, That in the
11 first year of effectivity of this Act, the amount of One thousand pesos (P1,000) shall be charged against
12 the current appropriations of the DepEd for the purpose, while, the amount of Two thousand pesos
13 (P2,000) shall be charged against any available funds and/or savings of the National Government.
14 Thereafter, the amount of One thousand pesos (P1,000) shall be appropriated from the DepEd budget and
15 the amount of Two thousand pesos (P2,000) shall be sourced from the fifty (50%) percent share of the
16 Government in the aggregate gross earnings of the Philippine Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) after
17 deducting the five (5%) percent Franchise Tax.

18 **SEC. 6. Periodic Review for Increases.** – The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct
19 a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking into account the current prices of classroom
20 supplies, and, if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance.

21 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, resolutions, orders or ordinances, rules and
22 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified
23 accordingly.

24 **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
25 *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,