

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]




Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S.B. No. 906

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO STUDENTS ENROLLING IN TEACHER
EDUCATION AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TEACHING IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A UNESCO report recently elucidated on how the Philippines failed to reach its Year 2015 targets on the Millennium Development Goals of Education for All. One of the goals set is for our country to Improve on the Quality of our Education. It simplifies the four (4) strategies to achieve this, one of which is to overcome the inequalities in learning by allocating the best teachers to the most challenging parts of our country. Thus, this bill seeks to respond to the need to provide more teachers in the rural areas where there is seemingly a dearth in good teachers that arises in the inequality of the quality of education of our learners, especially in the public school.

It is envisioned that by establishing a scholarship program for deserving students who want to pursue a career in teacher education, the government shall be developing highly qualified educators to serve in the remote rural areas of our country. The incentive is for the student to acquire a four-year full-time scholarship and the security of an employment upon graduation.

In view of the urgent need to be able to accomplish the MDGs, though belatedly, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


WIN GATCHALIAN

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


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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Teacher Education
2 Scholarship Program of 2016".
3

4 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to give
5 priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to
6 foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and
7 promote total human liberation and development. Towards this end, the
8 State shall continue to develop programs that will encourage the youth to
9 pursue an education in teaching and provide them with opportunities for
10 employment by serving their countrymen as rural teachers.
11

12 SEC. 3. **General Objectives.** - A scholarship program shall be
13 offered to deserving students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of
14 Science in Education degree or training in teacher education to provide said students with
15 incentives to pursue a teaching career in their home regions or in other rural areas.
16

17 SEC 4. **Scholarship Program** - This Act envisions a four-year
18 full-time Teacher Education Scholarship Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, to be
19 offered to deserving students, based on meritocracy for those eligible, who will take up teacher

1 education or Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education, or any other
2 teacher training program or course under Republic Act No. 7836, otherwise known as the
3 "*Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994.*"

4 The graduates of the Program shall render services and be
5 integrated into any public school in their home region or other rural
6 public elementary or secondary school in the Philippines as provided for under Section 6 of this
7 Act.

8
9 **SEC. 5. *Eligibility and Qualifications.*** – Without prejudice to the minimum
10 requirements set forth in Republic Act No. 10687 or the Unified Student Financial Assistance
11 System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act, there shall be an annual selection through
12 appropriate examinations and screening processes of those who shall be admitted to the Program.
13 The candidates shall be chosen from among qualified secondary graduates,
14 whether from the private or public high schools. The qualified and
15 selected scholars shall be granted scholarship to enroll in a teacher
16 education course covering expenses for matriculation and other
17 school fees, prescribed textbooks, supplies and equipment, clothing and
18 uniform allowances, and other related miscellaneous expense.

19 At least ten (10) candidates per province shall be chosen to
20 participate in the Program every year.

21 An applicant whose family's combined gross income falls below the official poverty
22 threshold as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority or those whose
23 parent is a barangay worker, government employee, or a member of an indigenous
24 cultural community shall be given priority in the selection.

25
26 **SEC. 6. *General Conditions for Admission to the Scholarship.*** - A teacher education
27 scholar shall be accepted to the Program and shall receive and continue to enjoy the benefits of
28 the scholarship until the completion of the course, subject to the following conditions:

29 a) The scholar shall pass the entrance or admission
30 examinations and related requirements of the school where the scholar
31 intends to enroll;

32 b) The scholar shall carry the full load of subjects prescribed
33 per semester and shall, under no circumstance, drop a course which will
34 result in under-loading;

35 c) The scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons, to defer
36 enrollment and of availing of the scholarship for a period not exceeding
37 one school year;

1 d) Upon completion of the course and other relevant training,
2 the scholar shall agree to teach in any public elementary or secondary
3 school in the scholar's home region or in any rural public school for a
4 period of at least five (5) years;

5 e) The scholar shall repay the full cost of the scholarship and
6 related benefits received in the event of the scholar's failure to complete
7 the teaching education course without valid cause; and

8 f) The scholar shall sign an agreement stating the terms and
9 conditions of the scholarship.

10
11 SEC. 6. **Secretariat.** - The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may
12 create a Secretariat to provide administrative and technical assistance to effectively and
13 efficiently implement the Program. It shall perform the duties and responsibilities as may be
14 determined and delegated by the CHED Chair. The support staff, as may be created, shall be
15 recruited preferably from any accredited teacher organization or the
16 academe.

17
18 SEC. 7. **Donations, Grants and Other Contributions.** - The
19 CHED may accept any donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in cash or
20 services, whether local or foreign, which may be made by individuals and
21 organizations, to fund the Program. Such donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in cash or
22 services shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as an allowable
23 deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor in
24 accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

25 Proceeds from at least two (2) draws of the Philippine Charity
26 Sweepstakes every year shall also be allocated to finance the Program.

27
28 SEC. 8. **Appropriations.** - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos
29 (Php50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of
30 this Act. Thereafter, such funds necessary for its continued
31 implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the
32 CHED in the annual General Appropriations Act.

33
34 SEC. 9. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty
35 (60) days from the approval of this Act, the CHED shall,
36 in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and in consultation with schools
37 offering education for teachers and other relevant stakeholders, issue such rules and regulations
38 as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,