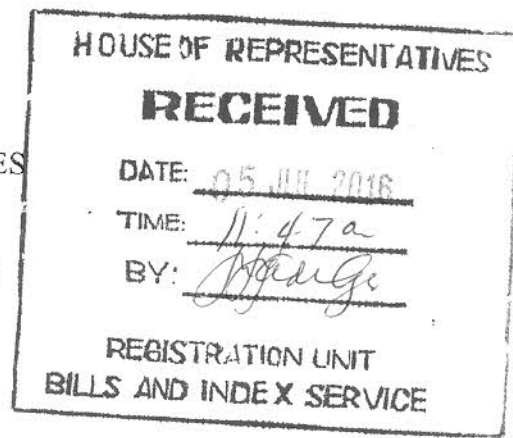


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1088



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

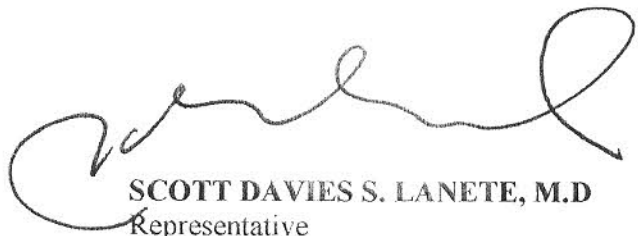
As stated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is the prime duty of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. It is also its solemn mandate to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Teachers are the primary instruments of knowledge. It is an established fact that most of the country's youth education greatly rely on public schools due to heavy financial burdens private schools impose.

Moreover, children with disabilities find it difficult to secure quality education because of the lack of teachers equipped with the necessary training and expertise in such field. It is a fact that most teachers who are specifically trained to teach children with disabilities are found within Metro Manila. Rarely do these teachers venture into the rural areas of the country. As such, children with disabilities who live in rural areas turn out uneducated, if not adequately educated. This is a gloomy reality which the State needs to urgently address.

As a solution to this predicament, it is essential that the State take a proactive step by establishing a program that would attract teachers whose expertise lies in training children with disabilities, to settle and teach in rural areas. Only through such solution will the State accord these children their right to education. The number of teachers that will find employment in rural areas satisfactory will inevitably result in the empowerment of children with disabilities for future employment consequently transforming them into gems that will expedite the country's development.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO RETAIN
HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

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 “*Rural Teacher Retention Act of 2016.*”

SEC. 2. *Definition.* The following terms as used in this Act shall be defined as follows:

- a) “Child with a disability” means a minor who has a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, or neurological conditions that prevent the exercise of a normal body function or that substantially impair cognitive function, and include but is not limited to, impairments requiring the use of an artificial device to move, walk, see, hear or breathe, such as a wheelchair, braces, crutches, respirator, or other supportive equipment, or use of a guide dog or other guiding device, and which renders such person incapable of adequately providing for his or her own health and personal care.
- b) “Department” means the Department of Education.
- c) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 3. *Grant.* The Secretary shall carry out a 5-year pilot program under which the Secretary awards grants, on a competitive basis, to not more than 10 different provinces, to enable them to award salary bonuses to highly qualified teachers or highly qualified special education teachers who teach, or commit to teach, for at least 3 academic years in such institution.

SEC. 4. *Basis.* The Secretary shall award grants under this section on the basis of the needs of rural local educational agencies within a province for recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers or highly qualified special education teachers.

SEC. 5. *Consideration of Needs.* In determining the needs of rural local educational agencies for recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and highly qualified special education teachers under Section 5, the Secretary shall consider 1 or more of the following:

- a) The impact on a rural local educational agency of low-income students who are served by the rural local educational agency.
- b) The impact on a rural local educational agency of children with a disability who are served by the rural local educational agency.
- c) The long-term plans of a province to improve the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers and highly qualified special education teachers in rural local educational agencies with the province.

SEC. 6. *Application.* A province that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. The application shall contain a plan for the proposed distribution and use of the grant funds among rural local educational agencies within the province.

SEC. 7. *Use of Funds.* Grant funds under this section shall be used to provide salary bonuses for highly qualified teachers or highly qualified special education teachers who teach, or commit to teach, for at least 3 academic years, in an elementary school or secondary school served by the same rural local educational agency.

SEC. 8. *Study.* The Secretary shall carry out a study of each project that is funded under this Act. The study shall track and assess the implementation and effectiveness of each project.

SEC. 9. *Report.*

- a) ANNUAL REPORTS FROM PROVINCES – Each province receiving a grant under this Act shall submit an annual report to the Secretary regarding each project within the State that is funded under this Act. The report shall contain such information as the Secretary determines necessary to evaluate the project.
- b) REPORT TO CONGRESS – The Secretary shall submit a report on the study described in Section 8 to the appropriate committees in the Senate and in the House of Representatives within 5 years from the effectivity of this Act.
 1. the number of rural local educational agencies assisted under this Act:
 - a. the characteristics of such local rural educational agencies with respect to the considerations of needs described in section 5(c);
 2. the number and demographic characteristics of teacher receiving bonuses under this Act;
 3. the impact of the bonuses provided under this Act on the ability of rural local educational agencies assisted under this Act to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and highly qualified special education teachers; and
 4. such other information and analysis as the Secretary determines necessary to evaluate the projects.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

SEC. 11. 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. 12. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,