

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10238



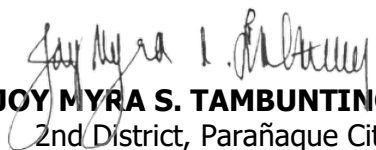
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall 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 all¹." It likewise provides that "The State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement²."

Consistent with these constitutional provisions, this proposed measure introduces reforms on teacher education with the end in view of improving the delivery of quality education in the country. This is anchored upon research findings that teachers determine the educational quality and student learning outcomes. This measure proposes to strengthen the Teacher Education Council through the expansion of the Council membership to include the Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and a diverse set of representatives from public school teachers, school leaders from private educational institutions, tertiary level educators, deans of colleges of education, and technical-vocational educators. This measure likewise provides for the institutionalization of the National Educators Academy of the Philippines which shall provide quality professional development programs on teacher education to in-service teachers, school leaders, and other teaching-related personnel in all public and private basic education institutions.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ Article XIV, Section 1

² Article XIV, Section 5, Par 4

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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS, STRENGTHENING
THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7784,
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL EDUCATORS ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Teacher Education Excellence Act”.

Sec. 2. Coverage. – This Act shall apply to teachers and school leaders in all public and private basic education institutions, and to all public and private teacher education institutions (TEIs).

Sec. 3. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7784, entitled “An Act to Strengthen Teacher, Education in the Philippines by Establishing Centers of Excellence, Creating a Teacher Education Council for the Purpose, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and [shall] **TO** take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. It is likewise universally recognized that the teacher is the key to [the effectiveness of the] **EFFECTIVE** teaching-learning processes by drawing out and nurturing the best in the learner as a human being and a worthy member of society. **THE SCHOOL LEADER SUPPORTS THE TEACHER BY FOSTERING AN EFFECTIVE TEACHING CULTURE THAT PROMOTES ENTHUSIASTIC AND INDEPENDENT LEARNERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO LIFELONG LEARNING.**

[Thus, this Act aims to provide and] **TOWARDS THIS END, THE STATE SHALL** ensure quality education by [strengthening the education and training of teachers nationwide through a national system of excellence teacher education.] **PROVIDING A DYNAMIC, MODERN, AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE TEACHER**

EDUCATION COUNCIL WHICH IS MANDATED TO CARRY OUT THIS VISION THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS WHO ARE

[Our vision is a teacher education system whose mission is to educate and train teachers] of unquestionable integrity and competence, and who are committed to their continuing professional growth and obligation to help [their students] **LEARNERS** grow as responsible individuals and citizens of the Philippines and of the world.”

Sec. 4. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

[(d)] **(A)** [“] **TEACHER EDUCATION** [C] **Center of [e]Excellence** [“ shall be] **REFERS TO** a public or private college, institute, school or agency, **WHICH MAY EXIST BY ITSELF OR WITHIN A UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE**, engaged in [the] pre-service and continuing education, formal and non-formal, of teachers and teacher educators, that has established and continues to maintain [a] **AN EXCELLENT** track record in teacher education [(in terms of number of graduates and their performance in the government examination for teachers and their professional achievement),] **IN THE AREAS OF INSTRUCTION, FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS, STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**, research, [and community service] **EXTENSION SERVICES, LINKAGES AND OTHERS AS SPECIFIED IN THE CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING TEACHER EDUCATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS ACT** [;whose graduates are models of integrity, commitment, and dedication in education. The centers of excellence may exist by themselves or within a university or college].

[(c)] **(B)** [“] **Excellence** [“ pertains] **REFERS** to the efficient, effective, and innovative delivery of relevant, functional, and quality programs in teacher education **PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTION**, training, research, and [community service] **EXTENSION SERVICES.**

(C) FORMAL EDUCATION REFERS TO THE SYSTEMATIC AND DELIBERATE PROCESS OF HIERARCHICALLY STRUCTURED AND SEQUENTIAL ACADEMIC LEARNING FROM KINDERGARTEN TO DOCTORAL STUDIES.

(D) NON-FORMAL EDUCATION REFERS TO ANY ORGANIZED AND SYSTEMATIC EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SELECTED TYPES OF LEARNING TO A SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

(E) PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OF TEACHING COVERING MANDATORY CURRICULUM AND PRACTICUM SPECIFICATIONS.

(F) OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL REFERS TO THOSE WHO PERFORM TEACHING-RELATED FUNCTIONS SUCH AS GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND LIBRARIANS, AND OTHER PERSONNEL TO BE DETERMINED BY THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL.

(G) PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REFER TO PUBLIC DOCUMENTS THAT SET OUT EXPECTATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS ACROSS THEIR RESPECTIVE CAREER STAGES. THE COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), AND ENSURE THEIR INTEGRITY THROUGH RIGOROUS REVIEWS AFTER EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS, OR WHEN THE COUNCIL DEEMS IT NECESSARY.

(H) SCHOOL-LEADERS REFER TO HEAD TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND SUPERVISORS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THEIR EQUIVALENT POSITIONS IN THE PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM, WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO PRACTICE THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND MANAGE AND LEAD TEACHERS.

[(a)] (I) [“] Teachers [” shall mean] REFER TO all persons engaged in the [classroom] PRACTICE OF teaching AS DEFINED UNDER EXISTING LAWS [of any subject, including practical/vocational arts,] at the elementary and secondary levels [of instruction including persons performing guidance and counseling, instructional supervision in all private or public education institutions, but shall not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists, school administrators, and other school administrative support employees.], WHETHER ON A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARTS OR VOCATIONAL TEACHERS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS PERFORMING SUPERVISORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OR BOTH IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE AFORESAID LEVELS, AND [g] Graduates of education who [have passed the government examination for teachers] BECAME TEACHERS although not actually employed as such[, are hereby included in this definition].

[(b)] (J) [“] Teacher education [” shall mean] REFERS TO THE FORMAL EDUCATION UNDERTAKEN BY TEACHERS, PARTICULARLY [the] pre-service [education], in-service [education], and graduate education [of teachers,] in various areas of specialization.

(K) TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS REFER TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS RECOGNIZED BY . THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), OFFERING FORMAL DEGREE PROGRAMS ON BACHELOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BACHELOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, BACHELOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, OR OTHER FORMAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(L) TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS REFER TO RECOGNIZED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, SUCH AS BACHELOR AND GRADUATE DEGREES,

THAT ENABLE PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TEACHERS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.”

Sec. 5. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. Teacher Education Centers of Excellence. – There shall be identified, designated, [established] and developed in strategic places in each of the regions of the country, one or more **TEACHER EDUCATION [c]Centers of [e]Excellence [for teacher education]** based on **THE** criteria listed hereunder, assessed and adjudged by the Council. These **TEACHER EDUCATION [c]Centers of [e]Excellence** shall be initially chosen from among existing public and private educational institutions by the Teacher Education Council created under this Act.

[Should the need arise, certain centers of excellence for teacher education at the provincial level may later be identified and developed.]

The criteria in identifying schools and colleges as **TEACHER EDUCATION [c]Centers of [e]Excellence** shall include the following:

- (a) highly educated, professionally qualified and experienced faculty **MEMBERS RECOGNIZED IN THEIR FIELDS OF STUDY, SERVING AS ROLE MODELS OF EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, COMMITMENT, AND IN THE PROMOTION OF FILIPINO CULTURE, AND** dedicated to the philosophy, mission, vision and goals of the institution and education;
 - (b) well-selected students;
 - (c) adequate library, research and study facilities;
 - (d) competent administrative and support staff;
 - (e) well-planned and relevant **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, [instructional] INSTRUCTION, AND RESEARCH** programs;
 - (f) adequate student development programs;
 - (g) adequate student services;
 - (h) relevant extension services, **LINKAGES**, and outreach programs;
 - (i) percentage of graduates who become teachers; [and]
 - (j) **GRADUATES WHO BECOME PROFESSIONALS IN THE EDUCATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, OR LEADERS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR OR BOTH; AND**
- [j] **(K)** such other criteria as may be established and operationalized by the Teacher Education Council.

The Teacher Education Center**S** of Excellence shall form a national network which in turn shall network with elementary schools, high schools and/or a part thereof for laboratory purposes.

Any **DESIGNATED TEACHER EDUCATION [e]Center of [e]Excellence [that is established]** shall be [maintained for at least five (5) years before any proposal or Review is made to transfer it elsewhere] **SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY REVIEW**

EVERY THREE (3) YEARS TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO POSSESS THE CRITERIA PRESCRIBED UNDER THIS ACT."

Sec. 6. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Objectives and Functions of a **TEACHER EDUCATION** Center of Excellence. – The objectives and functions of a **TEACHER EDUCATION** [c]Center of [e]Excellence shall be to:

(a) Experiment and try out relevant and innovative pre-service[/] **AND** in-service teacher education[/] **AND** training programs, **INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY PROGRAMS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO EDUCATION, CONTINUITY OF LEARNING, AND RESILIENCE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM;**

(b) Organize and coordinate collaborative research on identified areas for systematic investigation in teacher education as basis for improving teacher education **POLICIES AND** programs;

(c) Serve as teacher resource center for curricular[/] **AND** instructional materials development;

(d) Serve as the central node for networking specific disciplines in teacher education in the region;

(e) Provide professional assistance to [Teacher Education Institutions (] **TEIS** [)] that have expressed the need for such assistance;

(f) Encourage mutual support among TEIs in the region for upgrading and improving their programs; [and]

(g) [Facilitate and help expedite accreditation among TEIs] **MENTOR TEIS IN PREPARING FOR AND PURSUING APPROPRIATE PATHWAYS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE;**

(H) DEVELOP HIGH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ON TEACHER EDUCATION, PUBLISH RESEARCH PAPERS THEREON IN LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS, AND FACILITATE THEIR ACCESSIBILITY AND DISSEMINATION TO TEIS AND CONCERNED AGENCIES; AND

(I) PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL AGENDA FOR RESEARCH IN TEACHER EDUCATION THAT SHOULD COVER PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE CONTINUOUS ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND DEVELOPMENT FOR PURPOSES OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION."

Sec. 7. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. [Creation of the] Teacher Education Council[.]; **COMPOSITION. – THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE COUNCIL, SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8 HEREOF.**

[There shall be a Teacher Education] **THE** Council **IS** composed of [eleven (11)] **THIRTEEN (13)** members, [with the] **AS FOLLOWS:**

A) Secretary of Education [,Culture and Sports] as ex officio [chairman,] **CHAIRPERSON;**

B) CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHED AS EX OFFICIO VICE CHAIRPERSON; and

C) [three (3)] **TWO (2)** other ex officio members, namely: [a Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), a representative of the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA),]

1) DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA); and

2) [the Chairman] CHAIRPERSON of the Professional Regulation[s] Commission (PRC).

D) The [seven (7)] **NINE (9)** regular members of the Council who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines (**PRESIDENT**) are **AS FOLLOWS:**

[(a) Three (3) representatives of centers of teacher education: one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from the Visayas, and one (1) from Mindanao who shall take into account the views of the parents teachers and community associations, student associations, nongovernmental organizations, and people organizations concerned with basic education;

One (1) representative of science teachers;

One (1) representative of mathematics teachers;

One (1) representative of social studies teachers; and

One (1) representative of language teachers.]

1) ONE (1) TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE FROM A PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTION;

2) ONE (1) SCHOOL LEADER REPRESENTATIVE FROM A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTION;

3) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS;

4) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF DEANS OF COLLEGES OF EDUCATION;

- 5) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS OR PROFESSORS;
- 6) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF SCIENCE TEACHERS;
- 7) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF MATHEMATICS TEACHERS;
- 8) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS; AND
- 9) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE OF TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING TEACHERS.

THE TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER REPRESENTATIVES SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS, NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH BASIC EDUCATION FROM LUZON, VISAYAS, AND MINDANAO. THEY SHALL LIKEWISE GIVE UTMOST CONSIDERATION TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF TEACHERS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS OR PROFESSORS SHALL HAVE -AN ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND ADVANCING THE INTEREST OF TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

[The other officers of the Council shall be elected by the members from among the regular members.]

The members of the Council shall serve without any compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in carrying out their duties under this Act.

The Council shall meet at least four (4) times a year and hold such other meetings at the call of the [chairman] **CHAIRPERSON** or a majority of the members.

All regular members of the Council shall [hold office] **SERVE** for a period of [three (3)] **FIVE (5)** years."

Sec. 8. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Criteria for the Selection of Regular Council Members. – The criteria for the selection of the regular Council members are as follows:

- (a) Integrity;
- [(d)] **(B)** Willingness to serve[.];
- [(b)] **(C) RELEVANT [e]Expertise and experience [in teacher education]; [(c)** Recognized as an expert, nationally or internationally;] and
- (D) MUST BE ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING FOR AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS."**

Sec. 9. A new section designated as Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. ADVISOR TO THE COUNCIL. – THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY, THE DESIGNATED NATIONAL CENTER FOR TEACHER EDUCATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9647, SHALL SERVE AS THE ADVISOR TO THE COUNCIL BY PROVIDING RESEARCH-BASED, STRATEGIC AND INNOVATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT ON TEACHER EDUCATION."

Sec. 10. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. [7] 8. Powers and Functions of the Council. – The Council shall [have] EXERCISE the following powers and functions:

[(f)] (A) [Design] ESTABLISH A ROADMAP FOR TEACHER EDUCATION WHICH SHALL SERVE AS GUIDE FOR DESIGNING RELEVANT, RESPONSIVE, INNOVATIVE, CREATIVE AND collaborative programs [or projects that will enhance pre service teacher training, in service training, retraining, orientation, and teacher development];

(B) STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN PRE-SERVICE AND IN- SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY COLLABORATING WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NATIONAL EDUCATORS ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES (NEAP);

(c) [Initiate a periodic review of curricula and programs for teacher education and training through participatory methods, such as self assessment of institutions] MANDATE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND MONITOR AND QUALITY ASSURE COMPLIANCE THEREWITH TO ENSURE A STRONG AND TRANSPARENT LINK BETWEEN THE OUTCOMES OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS, RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE. IT SHALL LIKEWISE ENSURE THAT SUCH MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ARE IMPLEMENTED BY THE CHED;

[(a)] (D) [To] [i]Identify and designate among existing [private and public schools, teacher education institutions] PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TEIS, [as] TEACHER EDUCATION Centers of Excellence [for Teacher Education, at the national, regional, and provincial levels] AND FORMULATE A STRATEGIC PLAN TO PROACTIVELY DEVELOP TEACHER EDUCATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EVERY REGION;

[(b)] (E) [To] [f]Formulate EVIDENCE-BASED policies and standards that [shall] strengthen and improve the [system of teacher education in all existing public and private schools] QUALITY OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PRESCRIBING A NATIONAL

EXAMINATION TO DETERMINE THE MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION INTO A RECOGNIZED TEI PRE-SERVICE PROGRAM;

[(e) To encourage the establishment of consortia and other cooperative arrangements among teacher education schools, public or private, for greater efficiency and economy in the use of resources;]

(F) UPHOLD AND MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS;

(G) ESTABLISH POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF RECOGNITION AFFIRMING THE CAREER STAGES ACHIEVED BY BASIC EDUCATION TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS BASED ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, AND INSTITUTE AND MAINTAIN A POOL OF NATIONAL ASSESSORS FOR SUCH RECOGNITION;

(h) [To review existing and recommend new legislation and policies of the government in order to improve teacher education and promote the welfare of teachers] **MONITOR THE QUALITY AND UNIFORMITY OF ALL CAREER-STAGE RECOGNITION PROCESSES BEING IMPLEMENTED;**

[(d)] **(I) [To adopt] PROPOSE TO THE CONGRESS** an adequate and effective system of incentives such as scholarships [grants, loan programs, subsidies, stipends and other similar benefits and incentives], **GRANTS-IN-AID, STUDENT LOANS, AND OTHER STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE NECESSARY BUDGET THEREFOR,** in order to attract and encourage outstanding high school graduates, whether from public or private schools, to pursue teacher education. **THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF INCENTIVES APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) BOARD PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10687, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIFAST ACT;**

(j) [To call upon any department; bureau, office, or government corporation, local government unit and other concerned agencies for assistance in areas falling within their mandate.] **SYSTEMATICALLY MONITOR, EVALUATE AND REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE NEAP OR OTHER PROVIDERS, TO PROMOTE EXEMPLARY PRACTICES OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE STANDING OF THE PROFESSION IN THE COMMUNITY;**

(K) ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM TO PROFESSIONALIZE TEACHERS ALIGNS WITH THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, INCORPORATES FEEDBACK MECHANISMS TO STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION IN TEIS, AND INVOLVES COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE

PERFORMANCE OF GRADUATES IN SUCH PROFESSIONALIZATION. THE CONDUCT OF A LICENSURE EXAMINATION SHALL GUARANTEE TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE RELEASE OF THE MOST RECENT LICENSURE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR ADMINISTRATION BY THE PRC TO THE COUNCIL, ITS ADVISOR, AND THE PUBLIC;

[(g)] (L) [To direct the] UNDERTAKE, APPLY, AND SHARE RESEARCH RELATED TO TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP THAT SHALL SERVE AS A CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF LITERATURE. ON TEACHER EDUCATION, AND conduct [of] relevant studies as may be needed in the formulation of policies and in the planning and successful implementation of plans, programs and projects required in attaining the purposes of this Act;

(M) CREATE OFFICES UNDER THE SECRETARIAT WHICH SHALL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL IN EXECUTING ITS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND FORM COMMITTEES WHICH SHALL RENDER ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE FUNCTIONS STATED IN THIS SECTION;

[(i)] (N) [To] [r]Recommend appropriate measures to the President, Congress, and heads of other government offices and agencies to improve, enhance, and strengthen teacher education, **AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS;** and

(O) PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT."

Sec. 11. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. [8] **9. Secretariat.** - [The Council shall organize and appoint a] **A [s]Secretariat, WHICH SHALL BE ATTACHED TO THE DEPED AND** headed by an executive director, [that shall] **IS CREATED TO** assist the Council in executing its policies and programs, and [provide] **IN PROVIDING** the necessary administrative support **AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** therefor.

THE COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE OR MERGE OFFICES UNDER THE SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE QUALITY TEACHING OFFICE, QUALITY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP OFFICE, QUALITY PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION OFFICE, POLICY RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OFFICE, AND FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, AND DETERMINE THEIR RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS. IT SHALL LIKEWISE HAVE THE POWER TO ABOLISH OFFICES AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY.

THE COUNCIL SHALL FIX THE STAFFING PATTERN OF THE SECRETARIAT AND DETERMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS, FUNCTIONS, AND COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR THE POSITIONS TO BE CREATED. IT SHALL FURTHER PREPARE THE NECESSARY BUDGET FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT."

Sec. 12. A new section designated as Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. APPOINTMENTS. – THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL. HE OR SHE SHALL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS UNLESS SOONER REMOVED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MUST BE ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING FOR AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS, HOLDER OF AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION OR ANY RELATED FIELD, AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHER QUALITY OR TEACHER EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY. HE OR SHE SHALL HAVE THE RANK, PRIVILEGES, AND EMOLUMENTS OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR V.

THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTORS SHALL LIKEWISE BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND DIRECTORS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING POSITION AND COMPENSATION CLASSIFICATION PLAN."

Sec. 13. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7784 shall be renumbered as Section 11.

Sec. 14. A new section designated as Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. POLICY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT. – FOR THE PURPOSE OF FULLY OPTIMIZING POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND REINFORCING THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL IN LINKING PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING, THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHED SHALL CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE PERIODIC REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE DEPED AND CHED'S IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ON TEACHER EDUCATION."

Sec. 15. A new section designated as Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 13. INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NEAP. – PURSUANT TO THE STATE MANDATE TO ENHANCE THE RIGHT OF TEACHERS TO PROFESSIONAL

ADVANCEMENT AND TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO QUALITY EDUCATION, THE NEAP IS HEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZED TO PROVIDE QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON TEACHER EDUCATION TO IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. IT SHALL EMPLOY A WORLD-CLASS APPROACH TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THAT IS FOUNDED ON A STRONG EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH BASE AND ASSISTED BY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND GLOBALLY BENCHMARKED INNOVATIONS.

THE NEAP SHALL BE A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE DEPED. IT SHALL BE HEADED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NEAP, FIX THE STAFFING PATTERN, AND DETERMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS, FUNCTIONS, AND COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITIONS TO BE CREATED."

Sec. 16. A new section designated as Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NEAP. – FOR THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL IN ALL PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, THE NEAP SHALL:

- A) COLLABORATE WITH THE COUNCIL TO PROMOTE COHERENCE AND CONTINUITY BETWEEN PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING;**
- B) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE TEACHING EXPERTISE AND EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP OVER THE COURSE OF A CAREER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS;**
- C) COORDINATE AND OVERSEE THE CONDUCT OF NEAP-RECOGNIZED COURSES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY OTHER DEPED BUREAUS, SERVICES OR UNITS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS;**
- D) CONDUCT RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS PROVIDED UNDER SUB-PARAGRAPH C;**
- E) ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THESE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS;**

- F) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL TO PURSUE ADVANCED STUDIES IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS SUBJECT TO CORRESPONDING SERVICE OBLIGATIONS;**
- G) ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL WITH THEIR CAREER PROGRESSION. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE NEAP SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH SHALL CONTAIN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED BY THE NEAP, THE PROVIDERS THEREOF, AND THE LIST OF IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE WITH THEIR CORRESPONDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT UNITS EARNED;**
- H) STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION WITH LEARNING SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS;**
- I) COORDINATE WITH THE PRC FOR THE RECOGNITION OR ACCREDITATION OF ITS PROGRAMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT;**
- J) COLLABORATE WITH TEIS IN THE DELIVERY OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL;**
- K) CHARGE REASONABLE FEES FOR THE USE OF ITS FACILITIES AND FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS NOT ADEQUATELY FUNDED FROM THE DEPED BUDGET; RECEIVE IN TRUST LEGACIES, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTIES OF ALL KINDS; AND RECORD SUCH FEES, LEGACIES, GIFTS AND DONATIONS AS A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR FUND OTHER THAN THE GENERAL FUND, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NEAP FUND, AND ADMINISTER THE SAME EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEAP OR FOR AID TO TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL FOR THEIR IN-SERVICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SUBJECT TO GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE DEPED AND OTHER APPLICABLE RULES OR REGULATIONS;**
- L) MANAGE THE AMOUNT TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPED'S APPROPRIATED BUDGET, WHICH SHALL BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS, OPERATION, IMPROVEMENT, PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES; AND**
- M) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT.**

THE NEAP SHALL PROVIDE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS, SCHOOL LEADERS, AND OTHER TEACHING-RELATED PERSONNEL. IT MAY EXTEND SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY."

Sec. 17. A new section designated as Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

- "SEC. 15. CREATION OF NEW ITEMS AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS. –**
- A) THE PERSONNEL OF THE EXISTING TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL, SHALL, IN A HOLDOVER CAPACITY, CONTINUE TO PERFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STAFFING PATTERN OF THE SECRETARIAT SHALL HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT; PROVIDED, THAT THE PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STAFFING PATTERN SHALL, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, RESPECT AND ENSURE THE SECURITY OF TENURE AND SENIORITY RIGHTS OF AFFECTED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**
 - B) WITHIN TWO (2) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE PRESIDENT SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, APPOINT THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. THE EXISTING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE IN HOLDOVER CAPACITY UNTIL A FULL AND PERMANENT COUNCIL IS CONSTITUTED AND FUNCTIONING.**
 - C) WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, THE PRESIDENT SHALL, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL, APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT.**
 - D) WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE SECRETARIAT SHALL SUBMIT THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, STAFFING PATTERN, AND COMPENSATION SCHEDULE OF THE COUNCIL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) FOR FUNDING.**
 - E) THE EXISTING PERSONNEL IN THE NEAP SHALL BE TRANSITIONED TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO BE CREATED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION. NEW ITEMS SHALL BE CREATED TO AUGMENT THE PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT OF THE NEAP, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DBM.**
 - F) RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, AND HIRING OF NEW PERSONNEL SHALL FOLLOW THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS ON PERSONNEL ACTION."**

Sec. 18. A new section designated as Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. REPORT TO CONGRESS.- THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO CONGRESS, ON OR BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR, ITS REPORT ON THE STATUS AND PROGRESS OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND TEACHER QUALITY IN THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH TEACHER EDUCATION.

THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AND OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN TO BE STIPULATED UNDER THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT:

- A) ROADMAP FOR TEACHER EDUCATION AND THE REGULAR PROGRESS THEREON;**
- B) ISSUES AND PROBLEMS ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND THE SOLUTIONS PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL; AND**
- C) PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING AND THE COUNCIL'S INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE SAME.**

THE SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL COMMENCE THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL."

Sec. 19. A new section designated as Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7784 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 17. JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (JCOC) ON TEACHER EDUCATION. – THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A JCOC TO OVERSEE, MONITOR, AND EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE JCOC SHALL BE COMPOSED OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS EACH FROM THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES ON BASIC EDUCATION OF BOTH HOUSES AS CO-CHAIRS. THE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF BOTH HOUSES SHALL LIKEWISE BE DESIGNATED AS MEMBERS OF THE JCOC. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL DESIGNATE THE OTHER. THREE (3) MEMBERS OF THE JCOC OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, RESPECTIVELY, FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON BASIC EDUCATION, ONE (1) MEMBER OF WHICH SHALL BE FROM THE MINORITY."

Sec. 20. The subsequent sections of Republic Act No. 7784 are hereby renumbered accordingly.

Sec. 21. Appropriations. – The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the DepEd's budget the amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the amount for its continuous implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act of the DEPED, CHED, TESDA, and PRC.

Sec. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council created under Section 7 herein shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation. The IRR issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Copies of the IRR as published shall be transmitted to the Chairs of the Committees on Basic Education not later than six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 23. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 24 Repealing Clause. – All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 25. Effectivity. – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,