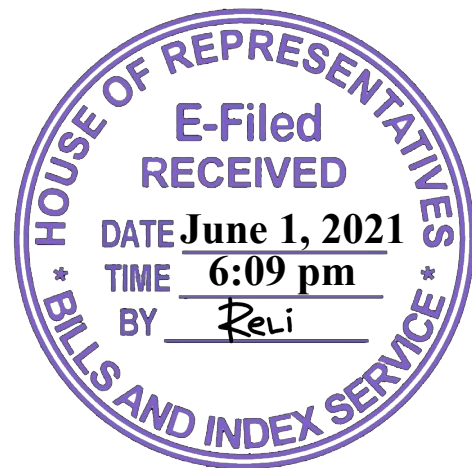


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 39

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE 5 YEARS REQUIREMENT OF
LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS UNDER SECTION 8 OF
THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013 BASED ON SECTION 4
(Z) OF *BAYANIHAN TO HEAL AS ONE ACT* OR REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11469

WHEREAS, under Republic Act 10533 or *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*, Section 8 states that "Hiring of Graduates of Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering and Other Specialists in Subjects with a Shortage of Qualified Applicants, Technical-Vocational Courses and Higher Education Institution Faculty. — Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 26, 27 and 28 of Republic Act No. 7836, otherwise known as the "Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994", the DepED and private education institutions shall hire, as may be relevant to the particular subject:

- (a) Graduates of science, mathematics, statistics, engineering, music and other degree courses with shortages in qualified Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) applicants to teach in their specialized subjects in the elementary and secondary education. Qualified LET applicants shall also include graduates admitted by foundations duly recognized for their expertise in the education sector and who satisfactorily complete the requirements set by these organizations: Provided, that they pass the LET within five (5) years after their date of hiring: Provided, further, that if such graduates are willing to teach on part-time basis, the provisions of LET shall no longer be required; xxx";

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) officially announced the postponement of the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT) scheduled for March 2020 due to Proclamation No. 922, which declared a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines. Again, PRC postponed the September 2020 LEPT and the exam will no longer be conducted for 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to PRC Resolution 1256, s. 2020, “wherein LEPT is classified as a large-scale licensure examination that should not be administered during this pandemic”. For the third time, PRC postponed the March 28, 2021 LEPT and will be rescheduled on September 26, 2021;

WHEREAS, there is no certainty if the LEPT will push through on September 26, 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the ongoing pandemic and the postponement of licensure exams for two years have made the requirement under Section 8 of RA 10533 impossible conditions. Thus, expecting compliance therewith from the teachers hired under the provision and terminating or otherwise adversely affecting their employment for their failure to comply will be both unreasonable and uncompassionate;

WHEREAS, due to the K to 12 Law and the postponement of licensure exams, teachers’ job security are at risk and vulnerable to shifting to part-time, reduced teaching loads and worse, termination of employment if they will not fulfill the license requirement. Even if the teachers are willing to take the examination, however, there is an impediment due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, our office received several reports from both teachers of private and public schools that they might lose their job. More than 1,000 Senior High School teachers will lose their job starting May 31, 2021 due to the lapse of the 5 years’ timeline for license. These teachers were hired on probationary status since 2016 and failed to comply with the license requirement. Even teachers who are holders of other licenses are still required to secure a professional teacher license to be considered as permanent. Considering that we are in the time of pandemic, these teachers cannot afford to look for another job and in effect their families will suffer;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, Section 4. (z), “***Move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease the burden on individuals under Community Quarantine***”;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education should implement the statutory relief accorded by Republic Act 11469 to teachers of both private and public schools to ease their burden and to hold in status quo their employment status until the ongoing pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and Senate in Congress assembled suspend the 5 years requirement of Licensure Examination for Teachers under Section 8 of the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013* based on Section 4 (z) of *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act* or Republic Act No. 11469 and humanitarian considerations.

Adopted,



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
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