

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 908



Introduced by Rep. Sonny L. Lagon, *Party List*, AKO BISAYA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the minimum salary grade level of public elementary and secondary school teachers from Salary Grade 11 to Salary Grade 15 in recognition of their invaluable roles in national development and pursuant to the Constitutional mandate to ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfilment (Article XIV, Section 5, par. 5).

Teaching is heralded as the noblest of professions and teachers are touted as the architects of the future generations being responsible in moulding the Filipino youth into responsible, God-fearing, law-abiding and productive members of society. Charged with the task of shaping young minds, it is not an exaggeration to say that teachers impact the lives of the people and the society in general.

The present plight of our public school teachers, however, betray their supposed lofty roles in society. This is notwithstanding the best intention of the Constitution relative to the teaching profession. The fact is, they are not accorded the recognition and appreciation that they deserve. Worse, they are overworked but underpaid pushing many of our qualified and well-trained teachers to shift professions or find greener pastures in other countries. Not a few of them are now working as domestic helpers abroad just to provide better lives to their loved ones.

With the cost of living constantly on the upward trend, it is necessary that the salaries of public school teachers are likewise adjusted from time to time to enable them to provide for their families and maintain an economic standing that is commensurate to the important tasks entrusted to them by the government.

If we are to raise the quality of public education as an important key to enhance the Filipinos' competitiveness in the global stage, we must start by giving our public school teachers the remuneration that they deserve to encourage them to give their best in the difficult task of shaping the character and competence of our youth. Otherwise, giving them accolades is just an empty rhetoric devoid of any meaning and substance.

In view of the above premises, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SONNY L. LAGON
Party List, AKO BISAYA

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AN ACT
UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS
FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 15

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Public School Teachers” Salary Upgrading Act of 2019”.

SECTION 2. *Reiteration of Policy.* – It is hereby reiterated that “it is the policy of the State to ensure that education receives the highest priority in governance, and that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfilment”.

SECTION 3. *Upgrading the Minimum Salary Grade Level.* – The present minimum salary grade level of public school teachers in the elementary and secondary schools shall be upgraded from Salary Grade Level 11 to Salary Grade 15. The salary grade levels of those holding higher positions shall be adjusted accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public school teachers in the elementary and secondary levels, whether nationally or locally funded, including those in technical and vocational schools and state universities and colleges.

SECTION 5. *Priority in Budget Allocation.* – The amount necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act shall take precedence over non-educational and non-agricultural budgetary allocations.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The initial funding required for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and such other sources as the President of the Philippines may determine. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education and the Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees and orders inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,