


SENATE

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S. No. 367

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SEN. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

AN ACT

**INSTITUTING A PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY CONTINUING
EDUCATION OF TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS IN
BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite increased spending in education and various efforts for reform, the Philippines has not substantially improved learning in its schools over the past few decades. Although progress has been made in the access of education, the country still lags in educational aptitude and achievement compared to its regional neighbours.

Current literature supports the fact that teachers are the main drivers of in-school effects on student attainment. The difference made by a well-trained and effective teacher cannot be understated. Teachers are the essential link in the chain from education spending to student learning, so improving teacher effectiveness is a critical component for improving student outcomes.

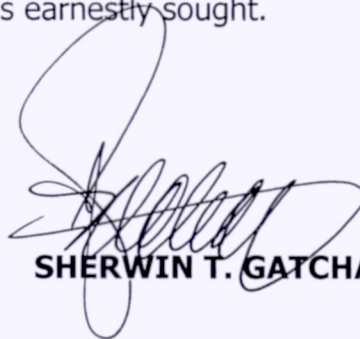
Teacher effectiveness depends on whether they know what to teach and the best way to teach it. The environment in which teachers work has significantly

changed over the past decades, yet the method of teaching has not been sufficiently adapted to the current times. Unless actions to update teaching in the new environment take place, there will not be a substantial improvement in the quality of our students.

Teaching is a noble and thankless profession. As of this moment, there are no existing free programs for continuing teacher education in our country. Teachers are left to their own devices if they wish to further develop their training and education. Acknowledging the need to continually educate our teachers and to further develop the teaching profession, this Bill seeks to provide a mandatory teacher's education program to be implemented by the government at no cost to our teachers.

Teaching is a learned skill. It must be nurtured and developed. In order for teachers to realize their full potential, they must be given the opportunity to hone their craft. The establishment of a program for mandatory continuing education for teachers will improve and enrich the effectiveness of teachers in delivering the education that the students of our country greatly deserve.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

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

1 SEC. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "*The Continuing Education*
2 *for Teachers Act*".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of teachers
4 in nation-building and development through a responsible and literate citizenry. It is
5 the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to
6 receive quality education. It is likewise universally recognized that the teacher is the
7 key to the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process by drawing out and
8 nurturing the best in the learner as a human being and a worthy member of society.
9 Towards this end, the State shall endeavour to provide and ensure quality education
10 by strengthening the education and training of teachers nationwide and equipping
11 them with the necessary training and skills so that they may keep abreast with
12 developments in instructional and teaching techniques.

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
2 are defined as follows:

- 3 a) "*Education Activity*" shall refer to an organized method of learning
4 chosen by the Provider to conduct the continuing education of
5 teachers;
- 6 b) "*Mandatory Continuing Education*" shall refer to an institutionalized
7 system whereby teachers shall complete once a year, at least
8 sixteen (16) hours of mandatory continuing education activities or
9 any number of hours not less than twenty four (24), as may be
10 determined by the Executive Committee, such as but not limited to
11 training in professional education and general education and
12 teaching methods in their field of specialization;
- 13 c) "*Program*" shall refer to the system determined by the Department
14 of Education (DepEd) with which to deliver and implement the
15 continuing education of teachers;
- 16 d) "*Provider*" shall refer to the person or entity that shall be
17 determined by the Executive Committee to conduct the Education
18 Activities that will continually educate the teachers concerned.
- 19 e) "*Teacher*" shall refer to all persons engaged in teaching at the
20 primary and secondary levels, whether on full-time or part-time
21 basis, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or
22 administrative functions in all schools in the aforesaid levels and
23 qualified to practice teaching under Republic Act No. 7836.

24 SEC. 4. *Coverage.* - The National Government shall engage and undertake a
25 complete and comprehensive national program ("Program") for mandatory
26 continuing education for all primary and secondary teachers in both private and
27 public educational institutions as well as formal and non-formal institutions of
28 learning. Teachers who possess a post-graduate degree are not covered by this Act,
29 but they may voluntarily attend and participate in the Program.

30 SEC. 5. *Implementation of the Program* - The Program shall consist of at
31 least twenty four (24) hours of mandatory continuing education activities each year
32 or any number of hours not less than twenty four (24) per year that may be

1 determined by the Executive Committee to be preferably conducted at least eight
2 (8) hours per day on consecutive days, at the end of every school year and before
3 the resumption of classes. As far as practicable, the Program shall be conducted in
4 the school district where the teachers belong to as determined by the DepEd.

5 This Section shall in no case, be a restriction on the ability of the Executive
6 Committee concerned to provide for the manner in which the required hours of
7 continuing education must be completed.

8 SEC. 6. *Guiding Principles.* - In the formulation and implementation of the
9 Program, the State shall be guided by the following principles:

- 10 a) The Program should include training and practice in the different
11 techniques, approaches and strategies that would help teachers to
12 plan and impart instruction, provide appropriate reinforcement and
13 conduct effective assessment. It shall likewise provide effective
14 classroom management skills, preparation and use of instructional
15 materials and communication skills, as well as training in new
16 developments in the school curriculum;
- 17 b) The State shall ensure that the Program is not only beneficial for the
18 students but must also be beneficial for the teacher's professional
19 growth and development;
- 20 c) The State shall provide a Program that is globally competitive and at
21 the same time customized and suited to the Philippine education
22 setting;
- 23 d) The Program shall be free and no cost shall be passed on to the
24 teachers for attendance and completion;
- 25 e) The State shall ensure that the Program shall be implemented in a
26 venue that is accessible and will not cause undue burden to the
27 teachers. It shall ensure that the venue is accessible by the usual
28 modes of travel and is at a place which will be most convenient for
29 teachers;

1 f) The Program must likewise provide, upon its completion, an
2 assessment that shall adequately quantify the effectiveness of the
3 Program.

4 SEC. 7. *Standards for Education Activities.* - All continuing teacher's
5 education activities must meet the following standards:

- 6 a) The activity shall have significant intellectual or practical content, and the
7 primary objective shall be to increase the participant's professional
8 competence as a teacher and his or her ability to deliver quality educational
9 services in an efficient and competent manner;
- 10 b) The activity shall have a curriculum dealing with matters directly-related to
11 the practice of teaching, professional responsibility, or ethical obligations of
12 teachers;
- 13 c) The activity shall have programs of learning related to classroom subjects and
14 other related academic activities which enhances teaching and non-teaching
15 skills, as well as improvements in writing and oral advocacy.

16 This Section shall in no case, be a restriction on the ability of the Executive
17 Committee concerned in formulating additional standards and regulations with
18 regard to the program and education activities.

19
20 SEC. 8. *The Executive Committee on Continuing Teacher Education.* - The
21 DepEd shall create their respective Executive Committee which shall be directly
22 responsible for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from
23 the effectivity of this Act.

24 The Executive Committee in the DepEd shall be composed of the Department
25 Secretary, as the ex-officio chairman, and a Commissioner of the Professional
26 Regulations Commission as an ex-officio member. The Chairman shall appoint the
27 other members of the committee who shall be composed of the following:

- 28 a) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
29 recommended by a government-recognized public school teacher's

1 organization from Luzon;

2 b) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
3 recommended by a government-recognized public school teacher's
4 organization from the Visayas;

5 c) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
6 recommended by a government-recognized public school teacher's
7 organization from Mindanao;

8 d) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
9 recommended by a government-recognized private school teacher's
10 organization from Luzon;

11 e) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
12 recommended by a government-recognized private school teacher's
13 organization from the Visayas;

14 f) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates
15 recommended by a government-recognized private school teacher's
16 organization from Mindanao.

17 SEC.9. *The Program for Continuing Teacher Education.* - Subject to the rules
18 that shall be adopted by the respective Executive Committees, the Program shall be
19 conducted by the Executive Committee concerned or by an accredited service
20 provider.

21 SEC.10. *Appropriations.* - The amount of One Hundred Million pesos
22 (P100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act
23 which shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the DepEd. Thereafter, the
24 amount necessary to carry out the implementation of the Program as determined by
25 the Executive Committee of the DepEd shall be incorporated in the General
26 Appropriations Act.

27 SEC. 11. *Annual Report to Congress.* - The DepEd shall respectively render
28 an annual report to the Congress reporting on the accomplishment of the Program.

1 SEC. 12. *Evaluation of the Program* - Within three (3) years from the
2 effectivity of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter, the DepEd shall
3 respectively conduct an assessment on the impact of the Program to the quality of
4 education in the country.

5 SEC. 13. *Implementing Guidelines*. - The Executive Committee of the DepEd
6 shall respectively issue the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
7 Act within One Hundred Twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act.

8 SEC. 14. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
9 or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
10 effect.

11 SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
12 presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or
13 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14 SEC. 16. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national papers of general
16 circulation.

Approved,