AN ACT
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE
ASSIGNED OUTSIDE OF THEIR CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND
PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 5, provides:

(1) The State shall take into account regional and sectoral
needs and conditions and shall encourage local planning in the
development of educational policies and programs.

(5) The State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to
education and 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
fulfillment.

Public school teachers occupy a socio-historical role and are looked up
as a source of enlightenment. Filipino teachers are among the noblest public
servants in the country. Their duties and responsibilities for their students
and the school administration often goes beyond the six hours each day of
instruction time.

However, notwithstanding the passage of Republic Act No. 8190 in
1996, thousands of teachers are still assigned very far from their
cities/municipalities and/or provinces. This entails additional expenses on
the part of the teachers and invariably affects the quality of education.
This bill seeks to alleviate the plight of our distant public school teachers or the teachers assigned outside of their cities, municipalities, and provinces by providing for a monthly incentive allowance. It is the hope of this measure to properly recognize and compensate our public school teachers who dedicate their lives to promoting quality and accessible education amidst the hardships of being assigned outside of their residence.

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

ALFRED VARGAS
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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 “Distant Public
School Teachers Incentive Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to provide
incentives to public school teachers who are assigned to teaching jobs outside
of their respective cities, municipalities, and provinces. As much as possible,
public school teachers shall be assigned to the cities/municipalities of their
residence.

SECTION 3. Assignment to Another Town Within the Same Province. –
Any public school teacher who is assigned to a city/municipality other than
the city/municipality of their residence, shall, in addition to their basic salary
and benefits under the Salary Standardization Law, be entitled to Two
Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) monthly as incentive allowance.

SECTION 4. Assignment to Another Province. – Any public school teacher
who is assigned to a city/municipality of another province, other than their
own, shall in addition to their basic salary and benefits under the Salary
Standardization Law, be entitled to receive Four Thousand Pesos (₱4,000.00)
monthly as incentive allowance.
SECTION 5. Applicability. – The provisions of this Act shall apply to any public school teacher who is officially transferred from their original assignment in accordance with the lawful orders of their superiors.

SECTION 6. End of Benefit. – A public school teacher who has received benefits under this Act but is eventually transferred to their own city/municipality of residence shall cease to be entitled to such incentive allowance as of the effective date of such transfer.

The establishment of a residence by a public school teacher in the city/municipality where they are assigned shall have the same effect as being transferred to their own city/municipality as provided in the previous paragraph.

SECTION 7. Tax Exemption. – Incentive allowance received under the provisions of this Act shall be exempt from tax liability.

SECTION 8. Proof of Residence. – For purposes of determining the city/municipality or province of origin of a public school teacher, the scholastic records filed in the Department of Education shall be consulted; otherwise, the sealed certification from the city/municipality mayor or the provincial governor shall be used.

SECTION 9. Emergency Assignment. – The incentive allowance provided in this Act shall not be availed of by public school teachers who are assigned to a different city/municipality or province in the event of a national disaster or national emergency.

SECTION 10. Funding. – The President is hereby authorized to realign or transfer any item of appropriation within the Department of Education and/or utilize any savings therein to carry out the purpose of this Act during the first year of its effectivity. Thereafter, the amounts required for the implementation of this Act shall be included as a separate item in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education shall, in coordination with other stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
SECTION 12. **Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,