Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

Introduction by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is in the 1987 Philippine Constitution to always put education first, budget-wise. In consideration of this fact, it only but logical to give the same appreciation to teachers, who in this context are our first-responders. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) evidently showed lapses in our system, especially in providing accessible quality education. Our teachers bridged and filled those gaps. Through producing and printing modules amid a state of emergency and personally delivering the same to far-flung areas, they were somehow able to heed to the immediate educational needs of their students.

Needless to say, the current system is imperfect. The difficulty of online learning becomes apparent, as it is expensive and not as effective due to fluctuating to no signal and other factors. Further, some students have developed mental health problems during these difficult times. One thing that stands out, however, is the fact that our teachers have always been within reach and ready to offer a helping hand.

This bill seeks to grant hardship allowance to teachers assigned in remote areas and provide other measures for their protection. They go through extreme lengths in looking after their students and so it is only fitting that we establish strict measures to do the same for them.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.
AN ACT
GRANTING HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE TO TEACHERS ASSIGNED IN REMOTE AREAS AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MEASURES FOR THEIR PROTECTION

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 “Teachers for the Barrios Act”.

SEC. 2. a) All teachers assigned to far-flung areas shall be entitled to a monthly hardship allowance equivalent to double the total expenses that said teacher will incur every month in additional public transportation from the nearest capital town or urban center of the school where he/she is assigned, assuming that said teacher will go back and forth to said school daily.

b) For this purpose, Section 19 of Republic Act 4670 “Magna Carta for Public School Teachers” is hereby amended to include teachers assigned to far-flung areas or barrios as recipients of such hardship allowance.

SEC. 3. In the event teachers assigned to far-flung areas would need to stay in a temporary house in the locality where they are teaching, the Barangay Captain of the said locality is hereby mandated to secure a suitable and safe housing for said teachers.

SEC. 4. The Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.
SEC. 6. All laws, orders, issuance rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,