

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2697



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. De Venecia

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our public school teachers remain as one of the most undercompensated workers and professionals in our country. This is despite their responsibility of fostering the futures of our young learners. On top of their day-to-day expenses, and the preparation of learning materials, they are further burdened by shouldering the costs of their classroom supplies. These classroom supplies, at the minimum, encourage the creativity of the teacher, and, at the learner’s end, makes the learning process a creative and enjoyable one.

Traditionally, what is provided by the government is what is called the “chalk allowance,” for the purpose of the purchase of chalk, erasers, and other supplies and materials for classroom learning. From the provision of Php3,500 in the years 2018-2020, it was increased to Php5,000 in School Year 2020-2021, to include a Php1,500 internet allowance, brought about by the remote internet learning.

Such amount is still not sufficient to cover the multitude of supplies that teachers need to purchase, including but not limited to, pens, pencils, cartolinas, manila papers, art papers, scissors, tape, glue, and other essential learning materials. It is of no help that prices are also rising due to inflation in our economy.

This bill thus seeks to formalize the allowance by calling it the Teaching Supplies Allowance, and to increase its value from Php3,500 to a minimum Php5,000 a year, or roughly, Php24.04 per school day.

Thus, immediate approval of this bill is sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toff/De Venecia". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

HON. CHRISTOPHER "TOFF" V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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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 “*Teaching Supplies Allowance Act*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote and improve the economic status of teachers, and to assist them in providing quality education to their students.

SEC. 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* - The cash allowance to teachers for the purchase of chalk, erasers, papers, and other related educational supplies and materials for the classroom as provided in the annual appropriations of the Department of Education shall be known as the “Teaching Supplies Allowance”.

SEC. 4. *Amount.* The amount of the Teaching Supplies Allowance is hereby increased from Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 3,500) to Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) on the first year of implementation immediately following the passage of this Act.

The amount of future Teaching Supplies Allowances shall not be less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000), and its increases shall be subject to the recommendation of the Secretary of Education in the following Section.

SEC. 5. *Periodic Review for Increases.* - The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking into account the current market prices, and if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance. The amount required to cover the increase shall be included in the Department’s budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* - Such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,