

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 251



Introduced by
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative Antonio L. Tinio

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public school teachers are among the lowest paid professionals in our society. In spite of this, they are often forced to pay for everyday classroom supplies out of their own pockets.

Traditionally, the government provides classroom teachers with an annual allowance for classroom supplies, popularly known as a "chalk allowance." In the Department of Education budget for 2011, this cash allowance amounted to P700 per teacher per school year, or P3.50 per school day (given 203 school days for SY 2010-2011). Beginning 2012, this allowance was raised to P1,000 per teacher per school year, or P4.98 per school day (given an average of 201 school days since SY 2011-2012). Such a meager amount is not enough to cover the costs not only of chalk, but also of other supplies such as erasers, pens, pencils, notebooks, class records, manila paper, cartolina, bond paper, art paper, and others, that are essential for the daily functioning of teaching and learning in the classroom. With the imposition of the insufficiently funded K to 12 Program, schools were not given enough number of copies of teachers' guides and learners' materials to be used in the grade levels adopting the new curriculum (Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 7 in SY 2011-2012 and Grades 2 and 8 in SY 2012-2013).

Hence, teachers must draw from their own finances to pay for these materials which, in the first place, should be provided by the government.

This bill proposes to increase the annual allowance for classroom supplies from P1,000 to P2,000 (or P9.85 per day), thereby relieving teachers of this onerous financial burden.

Immediate approval of this bill is therefore sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Tinio".

ANTONIO L. TINIO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known and cited as the ***“Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2013.”***

SECTION 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 assist them in providing quality education to their students.

SECTION 3. *Teaching Supplies Allowance.* The cash allowance to teachers for the purchase of chalks, erasers, forms, and other classroom supplies and materials as provided in the annual appropriations for the Department of Education shall henceforth be known as the Teaching Supplies Allowance. The amount provided shall be increased from One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) per teacher per school year. Said allowance shall be paid only to classroom teachers.

SECTION 4. *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 prices of classroom supplies, 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.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* Such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,