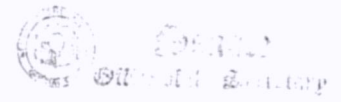


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'18 MAY 10 P 2:19

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. **731**

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLOCATIONS AND UTILIZATIONS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF) BY VARIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, WITH THE END GOALS OF MAXIMIZING THE ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION OF SAID FUND AND RATIONALIZING THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE FUND'S COVERED PROJECTS AND/OR ITEMS

WHEREAS, it is a Constitutionally mandated policy of the State to "give priority to education"¹ and that the State "shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all"²;

WHEREAS, Section 272 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", provides that "the proceeds from the additional one percent (1%) tax on real property accruing to the Special Education Fund (SEF) shall be automatically released to the local school boards" to be allocated by the concerned local school boards for the following:

- a. Operation and maintenance of public schools;
- b. Construction and repair of school buildings, facilities and equipment;
- c. Educational research;
- d. Purchase of books and periodicals; and
- e. Sports development;

¹ Section 17, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution.
² Section 1, Article 14 of the 1987 Constitution.

WHEREAS, it has been reported by the Department of Education (DepEd) that they are expecting around 29 million students from both public and private elementary and secondary schools nationwide this incoming school year 2018-2019;

WHEREAS, as of June 2016, the DepEd had revealed that it has a shortage of 66,000 classrooms and it has to hire more than 8,000 teachers;

WHEREAS, DepEd noted that the continuously growing student population increased the demand for classrooms, which also translated to shortages in school chairs, supplies, textbooks and laboratory equipment;

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, in 2016, claimed that DepEd also lacked 235.4 million instructional and other learning materials, 2.2 million seats for 2016 and 66,492 table-and-chair sets (45 seats and 1 teacher's desk) and 44,538 computer packages;

WHEREAS, given the above-mentioned steady increase of enrollees in public schools every school year and the recent development in the K-12 curriculum, there is a need to re-assess the utilization of the SEF and the possible expansion of the allowable items that could be charged against said fund to help DepEd meet its goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, Local Government and Finance to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the allocations and utilizations of the Special Education Fund (SEF) by various Local Government Units, with the end goals of maximizing the allocation and utilization of said fund and rationalizing the possible expansion of the fund's covered projects and/or items;

Adopted.


GRACE POE
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