



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4860

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMULO, ESCUDERO, TEVES, LOBREGAT, BELMONTE (J.), CAYETANO, GULLAS, VARGAS, ALVAREZ (F.), VILLAR, ABAYA, ALPING, PIAMONTE, CORTUNA, DELOSO-MONTALLA, PAQUIZ, CAMINERO, TEJADA, BIAZON, TINIO, MAGSAYSAY, OAMINAL, LAGMAN, UNGAB, ALMARIO, CUA, BATAOL, ANTONINO-NADRES, TING, RODRIGUEZ (M.), DEL ROSARIO (A.G.), ILÁGAN, ABUEG, HICAP, TAN (A.), GUTIERREZ, ABAYON AND PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 382

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AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO TOP GRADUATES OF ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS ENROLLING FOR THEIR FIRST YEAR IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -- This Act shall be known as the "Iskolar ng  
2 Bayan Act".

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is the declared policy of the State  
4 to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible  
5 education at all levels and to establish and maintain a financial assistance  
6 system that shall be available to deserving students, especially the  
7 underprivileged.

8           For this purpose, the government shall democratize access to higher  
9 education by institutionalizing a college scholarship program to be named the

1 “Iskolar ng Bayan Program” for top graduates of public high schools in the  
2 country, subject to the academic standards, application and admission policies  
3 and such other reasonable rules and regulations of state universities and  
4 colleges (SUCs).

5 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – The academic scholarships provided under the  
6 “Iskolar ng Bayan Program”, hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall  
7 cover all public high school students belonging to the top ten (10) of the  
8 graduating class, based on the guidelines and criteria set by the Department of  
9 Education (DepED), who will enroll in SUCs as freshmen: *Provided,* That they  
10 meet the admission requirements of the SUCs where they intend to enroll in.

11 A public high school with more than one thousand (1,000) graduates  
12 shall be entitled to one (1) additional scholarship slot in SUCs for every five  
13 hundred (500) graduates. *The additional slots shall be given to graduates*  
14 *whose ranks immediately follow the top ten (10) students and who will enroll*  
15 *in SUCs after meeting the admission requirements for freshmen.*

16 SEC. 4. *Limitations of the Program.* – The scholarship grant provided  
17 under this Act shall be limited to the full amount of tuition and miscellaneous  
18 fees for the first year of college. It shall exclude monthly living allowances,  
19 book allowances, board and lodging, and other allowances.

20 The full scholarship shall be given only during the entire freshman year  
21 of the student beneficiary covering the full semesters of the academic year  
22 enrolled in. Thereafter, the student beneficiary shall be covered by the regular  
23 student financial assistance programs of the Commission on Higher Education  
24 (CHED), if qualified.

25 SEC. 5. *Admission in SUCs.* – Any public high school student who  
26 belongs to the top ten (10) bracket of the graduating class shall be entitled to  
27 the scholarship grant provided under this Act in any SUC of choice upon  
28 compliance with the following conditions:

1 (a) The student has graduated from any public high school in the  
2 country within two (2) years prior to the academic year being applied for in the  
3 SUC;

4 (b) The student has complied with the application requirements of the  
5 SUC;

6 (c) The student's rank is reported by the public high school principal or  
7 administrator in a certificate bearing the name of the school and its location,  
8 the number of students, the rank of the student applicant in the graduating  
9 class, and other relevant information; and

10 (d) After taking the entrance examination in the chosen SUC, the  
11 student has obtained a rating which has been designated by the SUC as the  
12 minimum rating for a student to be able to qualify for the scholarship program.

13 *SEC. 6. Limitation in the Acceptance of Top Public High School*  
14 *Graduates by SUCs.* – All SUCs shall provide scholarships to qualified  
15 public high school graduates under this Act: *Provided,* That the applicants  
16 have successfully passed the entrance examination and have complied with the  
17 admission requirements of the SUCs.

18 The SUC, however, may limit the number of students to be admitted  
19 under this Act if the number of applicants eligible and applying for admission  
20 exceeds by more than five percent (5%) the average number of first-time  
21 freshmen admitted to the SUCs during the first two (2) academic years  
22 preceding the entry of the applicant.

23 All SUCs must have a uniform selection criteria. The guidelines should  
24 be established by the CHED, to be observed and complied with by all SUCs.

25 *SEC. 7. Support to the Program.* – The following government  
26 agencies/entities shall provide support for the effective implementation of the  
27 Program:

28 (a) CHED

1           (1) Conduct a review of the number of graduating public high school  
2 students in each province to ensure that the SUCs therein have the capacity to  
3 absorb the Iskolars ng Bayan;

4           (2) Together with the SUCs, develop a system, including the  
5 appointment of advisers, which shall provide assistance and guidance to the  
6 scholars in the determination of the appropriate course and the SUC which will  
7 best suit their aspirations and strengths; and

8           (3) Ensure the SUCs' compliance with the law.

9           (b) DepED

10          (1) Disseminate information to all public high schools on the  
11 implementation of the Program and the availability of scholarship slots;

12          (2) Conduct a census of the number of graduating public high school  
13 students in each province for submission to the CHED;

14          (3) Identify the top ten (10) graduates in each public high school, as  
15 well as the additional top graduates in case the public high school has more  
16 than five hundred (500) graduates;

17          (4) Provide timely reminders about the Program to all public high  
18 schools towards the second half of the school year in order to give the  
19 prospective top graduates ample preparation time to apply for the Program;  
20 and

21          (5) Ensure compliance by all public high schools.

22          (c) SUCs

23          (1) Provide information to the faculty, administrative officials and staff,  
24 and parents about the Program;

25          (2) Inform the CHED of their capacity to absorb the students applying  
26 under the Program; and

27          (3) Ensure that full assistance is granted to the scholars to enable them  
28 to avail of the Program.

1 (d) Local Government Units (LGUs)

2 Assist qualified graduates in their localities on the procedure for  
3 availing themselves of the benefits under the Program.

4 SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirements of SUCs.* – Each SUC shall report  
5 annually to the CHED on or before a date set by the Commission. The report  
6 shall include the number of students admitted under the Program, the courses  
7 they are enrolled in, their academic standing, and other relevant information  
8 that will help improve the Program.

9 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the  
10 provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the CHED or the  
11 concerned SUCs in the annual General Appropriations Act

12 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CHED and the  
13 DepED, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in higher education, shall  
14 issue within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the rules and  
15 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

16 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or any  
17 part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions,  
18 as far as they are separable, shall remain in force and effect.

19 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
20 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this  
21 Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

22 SEC. 13. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
23 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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