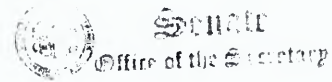



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'22 JUL 14 P4 :09

SENATE  
S. No. 655

RECEIVED BY. 

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**Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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**AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR GIFTED AND  
TALENTED STUDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 2 (3) of the 1987 Constitution provides that: "The State shall: [e]stablish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged."

In this regard, state support is an important factor in enabling students to pursue excellence in the fields of math, science, humanities, arts and sports, which would then translate to high-valued skills and intellectual capital. Incentivizing and subsidizing the education of deserving students not only recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building but also opens up avenues for innovation and occupational specialization.

Gifted and talented learners can become the source of national pride in different fields as they represent the country in competitions and showcases. Once they reach their potentials, they may even provide creative solutions to pressing development issues. The first step in capacity-building is to create a conducive atmosphere for learning that takes into account their specific needs. This is where the current government paradigm falls short.

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At present, there is no institutionalized system that aptly caters to the academic demands of gifted and talented learners. Such students require a different treatment and certain adjustments in educational programs as the lack of challenging learning opportunities may cause stagnation that would inhibit them from fully developing.

Gifted education in the Philippines has been limited to a few science and mathematics programs offered by the Philippine Science High School System under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and music and arts programs offered by the Philippine High School for the Arts under the National Commission of Culture, and Arts (NCCA). Elite private schools in urban areas mostly monopolize gifted education across the country and access to these institutions can be difficult for marginalized learners.

In sum, there is no unifying body or organization advocating and supervising gifted education in the Philippines. While science schools all over the country have become the current haven for gifted and talented learners, there is much to be desired in terms of access to opportunities and state support.

In order to give effect to the Constitutional mandate and to institutionalize state sponsorship for gifted learning, this bill aims to provide the following:

- (a) A system of acceleration in academic curriculum and student engagement with external mentors from concerned fields of study;
- (b) Scholarships, grants and incentives for gifted and talented learners as well as sponsorships in local or international competitions and showcases to enhance competitiveness;
- (c) Fellowship placements in various governmental institutions to address the "brain drain" debacle.

Verily, the potential of gifted and talented learners to create meaningful solutions that could fuel job creation, improve lives and increase efficiency in

government services is limitless. It is in the national interest of the Government to hone the brightest minds and give them the opportunity to contribute in addressing the Nation's challenges. Considering the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is respectfully requested.



**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR GIFTED AND**  
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**OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **Section 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Henyong Kabataang  
2 Pinoy Act of 2022."

3           **Section 2. *State Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan program,  
5 subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both  
6 public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

7           The State affirms the role of students who are gifted and/or talented in different  
8 intellectual, physical, creative or social domains in nation building and recognizes their  
9 potential to significantly contribute to national development through innovative  
10 strategies and creative solutions.

11           The State endeavors to increase the access of gifted and/or talented learners  
12 to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities aligned with their individual  
13 learning needs, strengths, interests and goals.



1           **Section 3. *Scope and Limitations.*** The Act shall be limited in scope,  
2 application, and effectivity to Filipino students in primary, secondary, and tertiary  
3 education.

4           **Section 4. *Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of the Act, the following  
5 terms shall mean:

- 6           a) Government Fellows Program – refers to the program that enables  
7 gifted and/or talented learners who are beneficiaries of scholarships,  
8 grants, and other such benefits to devote prescribed years to work in  
9 the public sector to be able to bring back to the community;
- 10          b) Gifted Learner – refers to those students whose potential is distinctly  
11 above average in one or more areas of human cognition. Gifted  
12 students have exceptional abilities in one or more academic subjects  
13 such as mathematics, science, history and geography;
- 14          c) Talented Learner – refers to those students whose skills are distinctly  
15 above average in one or more areas of human performance. Talented  
16 learners have exceptional abilities in one or more practical subjects  
17 such as dance, music, arts, sports, among others;
- 18          d) Mentorship Program – refers to a system where in a mentor or a  
19 partner with specific skills and knowledge are connected with gifted or  
20 talented learners who need or want the same skills and advantages to  
21 move up in work, skill level, or school performance;
- 22          e) Service Obligation Contract – refers to an undertaking by the gifted  
23 and/or talented learners, who enjoyed any of the benefits under this  
24 Act, to serve in the public sector for a specific number of years after  
25 completion of tertiary education;

26           **Section 5. *Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program.*** A  
27 “Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program” (Program) shall be created to  
28 address the special needs of gifted and/or talented learners. This shall include

1 comprehensive and aligned services that use individualized, consultative and  
2 collaborative methods to enhance student performance in cognitive and affective  
3 areas.

4 Gifted and/or talented learners shall have access to learning resources such  
5 as technology infused learning, internships, acceleration, enrichment programs,  
6 mentorships or individual projects based on student interest and areas of giftedness  
7 or talent: *Provided* that, to ensure the proper education approach, the Department  
8 of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and all other  
9 concerned agencies shall formulate and adopt policies geared towards the full  
10 development of gifted and/or talented learners.

11 **Section 6. Local and International Scholarships.** Gifted and Talented  
12 Learners who meet the requirements of the selection process shall enjoy any or all  
13 of the following scholarship grants:

14 a) Primary and Secondary Education – Gifted and/or talented learners  
15 shall have immediate access to specialized high schools such as the  
16 Philippine Science High School and the Philippines High School for the  
17 Arts, among others.

18 In case the student chooses a private educational institution,  
19 scholarships grants including, but not limited to, the cost of tuition and  
20 miscellaneous fees shall be subsidized.

21 b) Tertiary Education and Vocational Education – Tertiary and Vocational  
22 Education, scholarship grants, aids and other assistance shall be  
23 governed by Republic Act No. 10687, otherwise known as the “Unified  
24 Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST)  
25 Act of 2015,” and Republic Act No. 10648, otherwise known as the  
26 “Iskolar ng Bayan Act of 2014”: *Provided*, that the high school  
27 graduation requirement for application shall be waived for  
28 exceptionally gifted and/or talented students; *Provided further*, that  
29 enjoyment of benefits under the aforementioned laws shall not

1 prejudice the conferment of additional benefits and incentives given to  
2 gifted and/or talented learners under this Act; *Provided finally*, that in  
3 the event that the UniFAST Program or the Iskolar ng Bayan Program  
4 shall not be applicable to selected gifted and/or talented learners, the  
5 Committee shall formulate the necessary scholarship program/s that  
6 would allow such learners access to quality education and training  
7 relevant to their needs.

- 8 c) International Education Programs – If international scholarships and  
9 programs are available to qualified students, the Committee shall  
10 encourage and assist in the application process of gifted and/or  
11 talented learners. All fees pertinent thereto, including the cost of the  
12 program, shall be shouldered by the State.

13 **Section 7. Additional Benefits.** In addition to scholarship grants, gifted  
14 and/or talented learners shall be entitled to the following monthly benefits:

15 a) Educational Expenses Allowance in the amount of Five  
16 Thousand Pesos (Php5,000);

17 b) Medical Allowance in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos  
18 (Php2,000);

19 c) Transportation Allowance in the amount of One Thousand Pesos

20 d) (Php1,000);

21 e) Board and Lodging Allowance in the amount of Ten Thousand  
22 Pesos (Php10,000) for underprivileged and/or marginalized learners from far  
23 flung areas who will be dislocated from their residences;

24 f) Subsidies and Sponsorships for Local and International  
25 Competitions and Showcases shall be available to learners representing the  
26 Philippines. Application fees, transportation fees, board and lodging for the  
27 learner and one (1) parent or guardian shall be shouldered by the State.



1 Furthermore, Competition or Showcase Allowance for local and international  
2 events shall be determined by the Committee.

3 **Section 8. Acceleration Program.** The DepEd, CHED, and other concerned  
4 agencies shall devise an "Acceleration Program" to address the advanced learning  
5 requirements of gifted and/or talented learners. Such as entrance to school at a  
6 younger age than their peers, grade-skipping or early entry to tertiary education  
7 regardless of their age.

8 **Section 9. Mentorship Program.** A Mentorship Program shall be made  
9 available to gifted and/or talented students. The Committee shall facilitate in the  
10 appropriate matching of an in-school and external mentor, who may come from the  
11 private or public sector. The designated mentor shall supervise the content  
12 enrichment, transfer of knowledge and specific gift-based or talent-based skills  
13 development of the learner.

14 **Section 10. Government Fellows Program.** To encourage participation in  
15 policy development, all gifted and/or talented learners who enjoyed any of the  
16 scholarships, grants and other benefits under this Act shall enter into a "Government  
17 Fellows Program" requiring public service for a specific number of years after  
18 completing tertiary education. They shall be bound by a Service Obligation Contract  
19 and the terms therein shall be equitably determined by the Committee.

20 **Section 11. Gifted and Talented Education Committee.** To carry out  
21 the purposes of this Act, a Gifted and Talented Education Committee (Committee)  
22 shall be created. It shall be attached to the DepEd, composed of the Secretary of the  
23 DepEd as ex officio Chairperson, the CHED Commissioner, and other heads of  
24 concerned agencies as may be determined by the Implementing Rules and  
25 Regulations.

26 The Committee shall formulate and approve policies and strategies for gifted  
27 and/or talented learners and review existing policies to ensure consistency with  
28 policy framework under this Act. It shall also promulgate the minimum guidelines



1 and rules and regulations for determining qualified Beneficiaries for the Gifted and  
2 Talented Learners Education Program.

3 **Section 12. Appropriations.** The amount of One Hundred Million  
4 (Php100,000,000) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, specifically for  
5 the creation of the Committee and the initial implementation of this Act, shall be  
6 charged against the current year's appropriation of the DepEd. Thereafter, such  
7 amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be  
8 included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

9 **Section 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – For the purpose of  
10 establishing an institutionalized government support system for gifted and/or  
11 talented learners, a committee composed of the Department of Education,  
12 Commission on Higher Education, Department of Science and Technology, National  
13 Center for Culture and the Arts, National Sports Commission and other concerned  
14 government agencies shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations in  
15 order to carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its  
16 effectivity.

17 **Section 14. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is held  
18 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain  
19 in full force and effect.

20 **Section 15. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
21 proclamations, rules and regulations, and other executive issuances which are  
22 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,  
23 modified, or repealed accordingly.

24 **Section 16. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
25 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
26 circulation.

*Approved,*