



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9015

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, GO (M.), DALIPE, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, EUDELA, DOMINGO, ROQUE, MERCADO-REVILLA, ZAMORA (M.C.), CHATTO, NAVA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, GALEOS, AQUINO, VERZOSA, ORTEGA, ZUBIRI, BORDADO, CARDEMA, SUANSING (M.A.), GUINTU, PADIERNOS, CAJAYON-UY, RODRIGUEZ (E.), CO-PILAR, SUAN, SALO, TUTOR, PUMAREN, OLIVAREZ, CUARESMA, CARI, GARDIOLA, HERNANDEZ, GULLAS, FUENTEBELLA, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), CALDERON, DUJALI, YU (J.V.), RILLO, LUMAYAG, COLLANTES, KHO (R.), CAOAGDAN, ANGARA, ONGCHUAN, BALINDONG, PAGLAS, YU (D.G.), AMATONG, SALCEDA, BUHAIN, ADIONG, HATAMAN, CO (E.), QUIMBO, PALMA, ALBANO, VIOLAGO, BAUTISTA-LIM, ABANTE, ESPINA, BAUTISTA, SINGSON (R.V.), CAMPOS, DEL MAR, VARGAS-ALFONSO, LARA, GONZAGA, CABREDO, CUA, ALONTE, DY (F.), MATUGAS, BONGALON, ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, LOYOLA, HARESCO, CELESTE, ALVAREZ (M.), UMALI, YAP (ERIC), VERGARA, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), BASCUG, TAN (J.), SALI, CRUZ (R.), CRUZ (A.), PLEYTO, MATIBAG, FORTES, MACEDA, FRESNEDI, LAZATIN, REVILLA (R.J.), ALMARIO, ASISTIO, TALLADO, YAP (C.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), MASTURA, PADUANO, DAGOOC, GUTIERREZ, ABALOS, LEE, BOSITA, ACHARON, ALVAREZ (P.), BIRON, CAGAS, FERRER (J.M.), GORRICETA, HAGEDORN, MALAPITAN, TAN (K.M.) AND LACSON-NOEL

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM 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 *Expanded Tertiary Education*
2 *Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act.*

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect
5 and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take appropriate steps
6 to make such education accessible to all.

7
8 Further, Section 2, Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall
9 establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
10 relevant to the needs of the people and society and shall encourage nonformal, informal, and
11 indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study
12 programs, particularly those that respond to community needs.

13
14 In line with this, the ETEEAP aims to strengthen the system of academic equivalency and
15 accreditation at the college level, including the validation of the knowledge and expertise
16 derived by senior high school graduates, postsecondary technical-vocational graduates, and
17 college undergraduate students from relevant work experiences and high-level, nonformal
18 training in order to harness their full potentials.

19
20 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

21
22 (a) *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program* refers to the
23 alternative education program in the Philippines that allows working professionals who were
24 either unable to finish their college education or were completely unable to advance into
25 college for different reasons to earn a bachelor's degree without going through the traditional
26 schooling methods;

27
28 (b) *Higher education institution* refers to an institution of higher learning which
29 primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the Commission on Higher
30 Education and leading to the conferment of a diploma; and

31
32 (c) *Tertiary education* refers to both higher education degree programs and
33 postsecondary technical-vocational programs.

34
35 **SEC. 4. *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program***
36 **(*ETEEAP*).** – The ETEEAP is an equivalency and accreditation pathway for obtaining a college
37 degree for senior high school graduates, postsecondary technical-vocational graduates, and
38 college undergraduates who have become professionals with an aggregate of five (5) or more
39 years of work experience. The knowledge, experiences, achievements, and skills obtained
40 through their jobs shall be used to earn school credits that are then deducted from the total
41 number of units or credits that they are required to earn before they graduate. They shall also
42 fulfill the requirements of Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11510, otherwise known as the
43 “Alternative Learning System Act”, with regard to certification from the Department of
44 Education (DepEd).

1 To qualify for the ETEEAP, the applicant must be a Filipino citizen, at least twenty-three (23)
2 years of age, with at least five (5) years work experience, and must submit the following
3 documentary requirements:

- 4
5 (a) Duly accomplished ETEEAP Application form;
6 (b) Certification of having passed the Accreditation and Equivalency Assessment
7 conducted by the DepEd;
8 (c) Employment Certificates;
9 (d) Birth Certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority;
10 (e) Resume, Curriculum Vitae, or Personal Data Sheet;
11 (f) Service Record or Employment Certificate signed by the Employer;
12 (g) Job Description signed by the Employer; and
13 (h) Transcript of Records.
14

15 **SEC. 5. Role of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).** – The CHED shall be
16 the lead agency in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall accredit colleges
17 and universities that seek to offer the ETEEAP as part of their academic program.
18

19 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the CHED.** – For purposes of this Act, the CHED shall
20 discharge the following additional powers and functions in relation to the ETEEAP:
21

22 (a) Deputize higher education institutions (HEI) which will conduct equivalency
23 assessments, develop assessment instruments, provide academic supplementation, or award
24 degrees within their area of competence or specialization;

25 (b) Safeguard the continuing integrity and quality measures of the ETEEAP by linking
26 and cooperating with appropriate development and regulatory agencies and institutions;

27 (c) Update the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and
28 Development Authority (NEDA) Board on the implementation of the program for policy
29 coordination and monitoring purposes;

30 (d) Set standard fees and other administrative charges for accreditation that will
31 contribute to and be part of the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF);

32 (e) Establish criteria, procedure and documentary requirements to ensure its integrity,
33 quality and successful implementation;

34 (f) Monitor and evaluate deputized HEIs based on developed standardized tool;

35 (g) Convene a consultative or advisory body for the purpose of providing broad-based
36 inter-agency consultation, to be composed of:

37 (1) Chairperson of the CHED, as Chairperson;

38 (2) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
39 Authority, as Vice-Chairperson;

40 and as members:

41 (3) Undersecretary of the Department of Education;

42 (4) Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology;

43 (5) Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;

44 (6) Secretary of the NEDA;

45 (7) Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission;

46 (8) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission;

47 (9) Representative of private higher education to be designated by the
48 Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines;

49 (10) Representative of the state universities and colleges (SUCs) to be
50 designated by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges;

- 1 (11) Representative of the local universities and colleges (LUCs) to be
2 designated by the Association of Local Colleges and Universities; and
3 (12) Representative of the business sector to be designated by the Philippine
4 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

5 (h) Perform such other powers and functions as may be provided by law.
6

7 **SEC. 7. Technical Secretariat.** – To ensure the effective implementation of the ETEEAP,
8 the CHED shall organize a permanent Technical Secretariat composed of highly competent
9 individuals with recognized expertise in alternative learning systems and educational
10 assessment. The Technical Secretariat shall be composed of the existing personnel of the
11 CHED.

12 In addition, the CHED may contract the services of external experts and authorities on
13 equivalency and educational measurement, subject to existing budgeting and auditing rules and
14 regulations.
15

16 **SEC. 8. Functions of Deputized HEIs.** – Deputized HEIs shall have the following
17 functions:
18

19 (a) Certify, after thorough evaluation, the pertinent work experiences and knowledge
20 of expertise acquired by the individuals from high-level, nonformal and informal training
21 towards the awarding of an appropriate academic degree;

22 (b) Determine the deficiencies of an applicant or awardee that would need remedial
23 studies or academic supplementation through formal course work in order to satisfy pertinent
24 requirements of a degree applied for;

25 (c) Develop, on a continuing basis and with the assistance of technical panels and other
26 competent authorities, standards, creative methodologies, and criteria for a diversified mode of
27 assessing skills, values, knowledge, and levels of competence which shall include, but not be
28 limited to, instruments such as written examinations, practical work or laboratory
29 demonstrations, and qualification portfolio assessments.
30

31 **SEC. 9. Priority in Deputization.** – For the grant of deputization by the CHED, priority
32 shall be given to the following:
33

34 (a) An HEI, which is recognized as a Center of Excellence or Center of Development in the
35 program or discipline to be offered through the ETEEAP;

36 (b) An undergraduate program or discipline to be offered via the ETEEAP mode with a formal
37 accredited status equivalent to Level II from any of the accrediting agencies recognized by
38 the CHED: *Provided*, That a Certificate of Program Compliance shall be required in the
39 case of SUCs and LUCs.
40

41 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
42 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the CHED. Thereafter, such
43 amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
44

45 The HEDF may be used as a supplemental source of funding whenever necessary and
46 required for the effective implementation of the ETEEAP.

1 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
2 approval of this Act, the CHED shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to
3 carry out the provisions of this Act.
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5 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
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8 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances, or
9 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are repealed or modified accordingly.
10 Nothing in this Act shall result in the diminution of the benefits or assistance given to overseas
11 Filipinos and migrant workers as provided in other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and
12 issuances.
13

14 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
15 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,