

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE

S. No. 2513

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government has always valued the role of education in nation building. In fact, the education sector always gets the largest share in the annual appropriations of the national government.

One of the many legislations which broadens access to education is RA 6728, as amended by RA 8545, which provides government assistance to students and teachers in the private education in the form of supplements in their tuition fees.

The existing law, however, has limited both the amount of assistance to be extended to deserving college students as well as the course to be covered by the scholarship program by only including the so-called "priority course program" to be determined by the concerned agencies of the government.

This proposed legislation seeks to address the said restriction by means of providing the college students beneficiaries with a higher amount of scholarship assistance from half to full coverage of the tuition fee. This bill likewise encourages college students to take up any technical course or college degree of their choice other than those identified by the government under its priority program.

Realizing that the limitations set forth in the existing Government Assistance Student Education Act are primarily due to the government's limited resources, this proposed piece of legislation will authorize the government to accept financial support from private donors with the hope of accumulating enough funding to fully support student grantees under this program.

Considering the urgency to provide assistance to the country's impoverished but well deserving students, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT

FURTHER EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE COLLEGE STUDENT BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE STUDENT VOUCHER SYSTEM OF PRIVATE EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (PESFA) PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8545 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1 – Section 8 (a) of RA 8545, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 8. Assistance to College Freshmen. - (a) The Voucher System of Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA) Program. XXX. The program shall be equitably allocated to provinces and cities TO ANY DEGREE AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL COURSE BEING OFFERED BY PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. [in accordance with regional and national plans to priority courses as determined by the CHED and the TESDA.]

XXX.

SEC. 2 – Section 9 of RA 8545, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. Further Assistance to Students in Private Colleges and Universities.- Tuition fee supplements for students of private post secondary vocational and technical institutions and higher educational institutions enrolled in ANY DEGREE AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL COURSE [priority course programs determined by the TESDA and the

CHED] shall be provided by the government through a voucher system in the following manner:

“For students in PESFA PROGRAM ENROLLED in ANY DEGREE AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL COURSE [priority programs] in schools charging an effective per unit tuition rate of such amount as may be determined by the State Assistance Council, the government shall provide the student with a voucher for the amount of tuition fee supplement RANGING FROM ONE HALF TO FULL AS determined by the State Assistance Council.

“XXX”

SEC. 3. – Insert a new Section 10 -

“SEC. 10 – SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FUND. – THE GOVERNMENT MAY ACCEPT SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS FROM ANY SOURCE, DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN, WHICH WILL FORM PART OF A SCHOLARSHIP FUND BENEFITTING COLLEGE STUDENTS UNDER THE VOUCHER SYSTEM: PROVIDED, THAT ANY DONATION WHICH WILL BE MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FUND, SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM TAXES OF ANY KIND AND SHALL CONSTITUTE ALLOWABLE DEDUCTION FROM THE INCOME OF THE DONORS.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, order or administrative rules and regulations or any part thereof which may be inconsistent with the provision of this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,