

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -2 A9 59

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 318

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is considered an earnest wealth. The significance of education is thus reflected in the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution:

1. "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. "The State shall

(3) *establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which should be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially the underprivileged.*"

The empowerment of the people through education is therefore a mission and which is addressed by this bill through the institutionalization and the strengthening of an existing program for free education to deserving employees in the national and local government. This is consistent with the declared provision in the 1987 Philippine Constitution stating, "[t]he Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the Government, shall establish a career service and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy in the civil service. It shall strengthen the merit and rewards system, integrate all human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability x x x" (Art. E-B, Sec. 3).

This legislation is submitted with the intention of professionalizing the public sector. Scholarship grants in the skill and training level, as well in courses leading to baccalaureate degrees and graduate school programs are guaranteed to deserving government employees under this Act. To the government, an advantage is likewise noted: core areas of studies which may be the demand of the future are the premier concentration of this program.

Premises considered, the immediate enactment of this legislation is recommended.

Cynthia A. Villar
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



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1
2 **AN ACT**
3 **INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT**
4 **EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO DESERVING NATIONAL AND**
5 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND**
6 **FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
7

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

10
11 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Tulong Aral sa Empleyado
12 **ng Gobyerno Act".**

13
14 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is declared a policy of the State to promote
15 morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness and courtesy in the civil
16 service; to institutionalize a merit and reward system in the form of free education or
17 scholarship grant to deserving civil servants; to integrate scholarship programs towards
18 human resources development in the government; and to establish a management
19 climate where potentials are tapped and utilized to the fullest and the best virtues
20 harnessed and instilled in the minds of every proud government personnel.

21
22 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms** - As used in this Act, the following words and
23 phrases shall have the following definitions:

- 24
25 a. "Tulong Aral sa Empleyado ng Gobyerno" shall refer to the comprehensive
26 government sponsored program under this Act providing free education or
27 scholarship grants to deserving employees of the national and local
28 governments.
29
30 b. "Short-term training grants" shall refer to the government assistance under this
31 Act for scholarship or training programs of not more than six (6) month duration
32 in upgrading of skills of government employees in clerical, trade, crafts, custodial,
33 technical and related services.
34
35 c. "Baccalaureate degree grants" shall refer to government assistance under this
36 Act for scholarship programs consisting in four- or five-year continuous studies
37 leading to an academic title or course diploma.
38
39 d. "Graduate school grants" shall refer to government assistance under this Act in a
40 specialized field of study in post graduate level where a baccalaureate degree or
41 training experience is a prerequisite.
42

1 **SEC. 4. The Scholarship Program** - There is hereby adopted the "Tulong Aral
2 sa Empleyado ng Gobyerno" program, a nationwide scholarship program offering free
3 education or scholarship grant to all government employees in the national and local
4 government levels who want to pursue short-term trainings/courses, baccalaureate
5 degree courses, and/or graduate school education programs in accordance with the
6 requirements under this Act.

7
8 For this purpose, the existing Local Scholarship Program (LSP) and the Local
9 Scholarship Program for Skilled Workers in Government (LSPSWG) being undertaken
10 and handled by the Civil Service Commission shall be incorporated into the "Tulong Aral
11 sa Empleyado ng Gobyerno" program under this Act.

12
13 **SEC. 5. Scholarship Grant Thrusts** - The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in
14 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical
15 Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), shall formulate the core areas of
16 studies for the training, education or scholarship grants covered under this Act,
17 including, but not limited to the sciences, fiscal management and public finance,
18 economics, the technical and technological, entrepreneurial fields and similar other
19 areas which are geared towards technology development and modern governance and
20 management approaches.

21
22 **SEC. 6. Selection Procedure** - Employees in the national and local
23 governments who possess the following qualifications shall be eligible under the
24 scholarship program:

- 25
26 a. A permanent or temporary appointment at the time of filing;
27 b. An aggregate of at least two (2) years work experience in government;
28 c. A performance rating of at least 'Satisfactory' in the last two (2)
29 performance appraisal periods;
30 d. Not more than forty-five (45) years old as of last birthday;
31 e. Good health; and
32 f. Absence of pending administrative case:

33
34 Provided, That in the case of the graduate school grants, the consecutive rating
35 periods; following additional requirements shall also be imposed:

- 36
37 a. A bachelor's degree from a college or university of good standing;
38 b. Absence of a masteral degree; and
39 c. Non-availment of any foreign/local scholarship grant from the government
40 in the past two (2) years prior to the school year the employee will study:

41
42 Provided, further, That a written or oral examination may be administered by the
43 Civil Service Commission or through a Screening and Selection Committee to be
44 chaired by the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, with the Secretaries of the
45 Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Department of Science and
46 Technology, the Department of Interior and local Government and the Chairman of the
47 Commission on Higher Education, or their representatives, with the rank of at least an
48 Assistant Secretary, as members.

49
50 **SEC. 7. Private Sector Initiative** - Private sectors are encouraged to align their
51 existing free education or scholarship programs with the program envisioned under this
52 Act.

53 Contributions to the fund supporting the scholarship program under this Act shall
54 be deductible from the annual taxable income to the extent of twenty percent (20%)
55 thereof in the case of individual taxpayers and one hundred twenty percent (120%)
56 thereof in the case of corporations, firms or entities, or such contributions may be
57 considered as an input value-added tax, at the election of the contributor.

1
2 **SEC. 8. Rules and Regulations** - The CSC, in coordination with the DECS and
3 CHED, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of
4 this Act and the determination of courses covered under the program, as well as the
5 application procedure, the nomination process, if any, responsibilities of the grantee;
6 additional benefits; and other matters.

7
8 **SEC. 9. Funding Source** - The sources of funds for the implementation of this
9 Act shall be, as follows:

- 10
11 a. For its first year of implementation, the appropriations set aside for the
12 Local Scholarship Program and Local Scholarship Program for Skill
13 Workers in all offices of the Government.
14
15 b. For the succeeding years of implementation, such amounts as are needed
16 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and
17 complemented by the savings generated from the different bureaus,
18 offices and agencies and by contributions extended by private
19 corporations, companies and entities.
20

21 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause** - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
22 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not
23 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
24

25 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
26 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended
27 or modified accordingly.
28

29 **SEC. 12. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
30 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
31 circulation, whichever comes earlier.
32

33
34 Approved,