

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1960

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

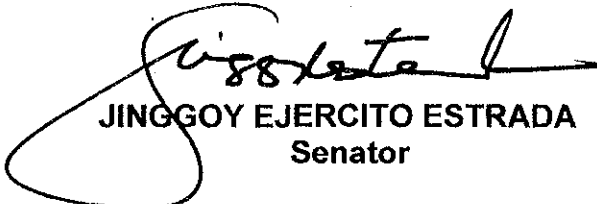
The 1987 Constitution states that *"the State shall protect and promote the rights of its citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such educational at all levels"*.

But due to the ever unstable economic condition the fluctuating inflation rate and the worsening unemployment percentage that befall our citizens, access to quality tertiary education is slowly becoming a rich man's option rather than a regular and normal phase to undertake in every people's academic endeavor.

It is therefore, imperative upon the State to provide all available government resources in affording its people, especially those who are economically distressed, a system of free public college education that will give them equal opportunity in earning and acquiring the necessary college degree, primordially required in joining a more competitive and profitable working environment.

By instituting a free public college education system in our country, we would be helping more of our less privileged constituents in realizing their dream of obtaining a college diploma. Also, through this legislative measure, we are able to provide these youth with the basic leverage in securing descent employment for them in the near future.

In view of this, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO INSTITUTE A FREE PUBLIC COLLEGE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "***Philippine Free Public Education System Act of 2013***".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the state to provide all available government resources to the enactment of education at all levels. In this regard, the state shall actively pursue a free public college education system in the country.

SEC. 3. *Institution of a Free Public College Education System.* There is hereby instituted a free public education system in the country open to all qualified and deserving Filipino students.

SEC. 4. *Courses.* The system shall initially offer general courses in Liberal Arts, Education, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, and Political Science, Business Management and Administration, Accounting, Humanities, Philosophy and Literature. The Commission of Higher Education (CHED) shall propose additional courses *as it may deem appropriate at the proper time.*

SEC. 5. *Lead Agency.* The CHED shall be the lead agency tasked with the principal implementation of the Free Public College Education System.

SEC. 6. *Participating Education Institutions.* Initially, the educational institutions that will offer their facilities and services for the System are as follows:

- (1) The University of the Philippines System;
- (2) Philippine Normal University;
- (3) Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila;
- (4) National Teacher's College;
- (5) Polytechnic University of the Philippines; and
- (6) Other government owned and controlled universities and colleges situated in the various provinces of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The CHED in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management shall formulate and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* If any portion of this Act were to be declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,