


SENATE

S. B. No. **2275**

(In substitution of SB No. 93)

11 JUN 2014 

Prepared Jointly by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance
with Senators (A.) Cayetano and (P.) Cayetano as authors

AN ACT
MANDATING ALL STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO ANNUALLY
CONFER AUTOMATIC ADMISSION AND PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
TO THE TOP TEN (10) PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THEIR
GRADUATING CLASS, AND ALLOCATE FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Iskolar Ng*
2 *Bayan Act of 2014.*"

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State is mandated to increase
4 access to quality education to alleviate poverty and promote the intellectual well-
5 being of the youth. It shall likewise give priority to measures that reduce social
6 and economic inequalities. As such, it is the policy of the State to democratize
7 access to education at the tertiary level and make higher education available to
8 underprivileged but deserving students.

9 **SECTION 3. Iskolar ng Bayan Program.** - The Top Ten (10) public high
10 school students of their graduating class, based on the cumulative results at the
11 final grading period, shall be given automatic admission to State Universities and
12 Colleges (SUCs) of his or her choice subject to the provisions of this Act.

13 The scholar shall be entitled to automatic admission in the SUCs of his or
14 her choice within his or her province, subject to evaluation or admission criteria of
15 each school with respect to the course that the scholar wants to take, given the
16 following guidelines:

17 a. Given the various sizes of the SUCs in the different provinces and the
18 diverse course offerings in each SUC, CHED is tasked with the
19 responsibility to ensure that the *Iskolars ng Bayan* are accommodated
20 in an SUC within their provinces, or in an SUC in another province
21 should there be limited slots or course offerings in their own province;

22 b. CHED, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills
23 Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Education
24 (DepEd), and in consultation with the business industry, Department of
25 Labor and Employment (DOLE), Professional Regulation Commission
26 (PRC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic

1 and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Science and
2 Technology (DOST) and other related agencies, are directed to identify
3 priority disciplines, programs and courses, taking into account labor
4 market realities. The SUCs shall have the option to offer scholarship
5 for these preferred courses; *Provided*, That the *Iskolar ng Bayan* shall
6 be given preference in the slots available;

7 c. SUCs that are recognized as centers of excellence in their regions
8 shall accordingly allocate more slots for the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program;
9 and

10 d. Within Metro Manila, the *Iskolar ng Bayan* can apply without cost to at
11 most three (3) SUCs.

12 **SECTION 4. Coverage.** – This act shall cover all SUCs except the
13 University of the Philippines because of its institutional autonomy as the national
14 university under Republic Act No. 9500 or the "*University of the Philippines*
15 *Charter of 2008*"; *Provided*, that the University of the Philippines shall come up
16 with its own scholarship programs for the Top Ten (10) students from public high
17 schools.

18 **SECTION 5. Requirements for Automatic Admission.**– The CHED shall
19 issue guidelines to implement the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program, subject to the
20 following conditions:

- 21 a. The students graduated in the Top Ten (10) of their batch from public high
22 schools within two (2) years prior to the academic year for which the
23 student is applying;
- 24 b. The students submitted a complete application as defined by the SUC
25 within the given deadline; and
- 26 c. The applicants' high school principal/administrators shall submit a
27 certificate bearing the school's name, location, number of students, rank of
28 applicant/s in his/her graduating class and other relevant information.

29 CHED may impose other reasonable requirements after consultation with the
30 SUCs.

31 **SECTION 6. Assistance to Iskolar ng Bayan.** – For the full and
32 successful implementation of the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program, assistance may be
33 given by the following stakeholders:

34 I. Government Agencies - these government agencies shall implement
35 the following mandates:

36 A. CHED

- 37 1. Conduct seminars for the SUCs regarding the *Iskolar ng*
38 *Bayan* program;
- 39 2. Together with the SUCs, develop a system, including the
40 appointment of advisers, which shall provide assistance and
41 guidance to the scholars in the determination of the
42 appropriate course and SUC which will best suit their
43 aspirations and strengths;
- 44 3. Ensure compliance with the law by the SUCs which are
45 under their supervision; and
- 46 4. In coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd)
47 and the SUCs, issue guidelines for the proper

1 implementation of this Act.

2 B. DepEd

- 3 1. Disseminate information on the implementation of the *Iskolar*
4 *ng Bayan* program to all public high schools;
- 5 2. Provide timely reminders about the *Iskolar ng Bayan*
6 program to all public high schools towards the second half of
7 the school year in order to give the prospective Top Ten (10)
8 graduates ample preparation time to avail of the program;
9 and
- 10 3. Ensure compliance by all public high schools.

11 C. SUCS

- 12 1. Provide information to the faculty, administrative officials and
13 staff, and parents about the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program;
 - 14 2. Provide a summer bridge program, should the scholar fail to
15 meet the academic admission requirements for his or her
16 preferred course, in order to enable the scholar to comply
17 with the minimum academic requirements and/or allow the
18 scholar to enroll in another course; and
 - 19 3. Ensure that full assistance is granted to the scholars to
20 enable them to avail of the program.
- 21 II. Local Government Units (LGUs) - LGUs may create their own
22 scholarship program to implement or complement the *Iskolar ng Bayan*
23 program for their constituents;
- 24 III. Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) – PHEIs are encouraged
25 to provide scholarships under the *Iskolar ng Bayan* program; and
- 26 IV. Private Corporations – Private Corporations may likewise support the
27 *Iskolar ng Bayan* program under their corporate social responsibility
28 projects.

29 **SECTION 7. Form of Scholarship Grants.** - Scholarship grants are
30 hereby provided in the form of:

- 31 a. Free tuition fee and other school fees to the *Iskolar ng Bayan* in all SUCs;
- 32 b. Reasonable textbook allowance per academic year as may be determined
33 by CHED based on annual inflationary rates; and
- 34 c. Reasonable monthly living allowance based on the cost of living as
35 determined by NEDA for Full Scholarship.

36 **SECTION 8. Annual Reporting.** Each SUC shall annually report to CHED
37 and DepEd under this Act on or before a date set by the
38 Commission/Department. This report shall likewise be submitted to Congress.
39 The report shall include the number of students admitted under the *Iskolar ng*
40 *Bayan* Program, the courses they are enrolled in, and other relevant information
41 that will help improve the Program.

42 **SECTION 9. - Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – CHED and
43 DepEd shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the
44 speedy and effective implementation of this scholarship Act.

45 The implementation of this Act shall commence on the next school year
46 after the effectivity of the law.

1 **SECTION 10. *Funding*** - The amount needed to carry out the
2 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
3 Act (GAA).

4 **SECTION 11. *Separability Clause***. - If any part or provision of this Act
5 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not
6 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7 **SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause***. - All laws, presidential decrees,
8 executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are not consistent
9 with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

10 **SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause***. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
11 days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers
12 of general circulation.

Approved,