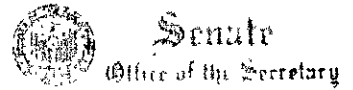


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 DEC 15 P2:42

SENATE
S. No. 2510

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO PART-TIME AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Quality education is expensive and not everybody can afford it. It is a sad reality that although education is accessible to most students since we are provided with state schools and universities, this cheap alternative comes with the cost of a poor education system.

This bill seeks to establish a grant program for part-time, independent students, and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and institutions of higher education, in order for quality education to be affordable for everybody.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
PP

¹ This bill was originally filed on the 13th Congress, Third Regular Session.

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'14 DEC 15 P2:42

SENATE
S. No. 2510

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

1 AN ACT
2 TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO PART-TIME AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Part-Time
4 Independent Students Grant Act."

5 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
6 State to provide a quality education for all and establish a grant program to foster
7 the pursuit of postsecondary education by part-time, independent students who
8 have financial need.

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

10 A. "Financial Need" means need as determined by the institution based upon
11 a need analysis standard established by the Commission on Higher
12 Education (CHED). Such standard shall take into consideration the
13 student's current annual income and exclude his or her home equity;

1. B. "Independent student" refers to a student who finances higher education
2 expenses on his/her own, without any financial assistance from anybody,
3 including family;

4 C. Part-time" means not less than 3 semester hours and not more than 11
5 semester hours per semester, or the equivalent for a quarter or term.

6 SECTION 4. *Eligibility to Participate in a Grant Program.* – A person is
7 eligible to participate in the grant program if he or she meets all of the following::

8 A. Is a part-time student;

9 B. Is an independent student;

10 C. Has obtained a high school diploma for at least the two preceding years;

11 D. Has good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime
12 involving moral turpitude;

13 E. Has complied with this act and the rules promulgated under this act by
14 CHED;

15 F. Is a Filipino citizen;

16 G. Is not enrolled in an institution whose primary purpose is to prepare
17 students for ordination or appointment as a member of the clergy of a
18 church, denomination, or religious association, order, or sect;

19 H. Is not in default on a loan guaranteed by the commission or any
20 government entity or agency; and

1 I. Is shown by the school to be making satisfactory academic progress.

2 SECTION 5. *Total Amount Granted to Educational Institutions; Use of*

3 *Funds.* – The total of the amount granted to an educational institution shall be
4 proportionate to the number of needy independent students eligible for this
5 program enrolled at the institution for the most recent year for which statistics are
6 available. Funds provided to eligible schools shall be used for awards to students,
7 not for administration of the program.

8 SECTION 6. *Maximum Grant to Eligible Student; Priority; Effect of Other*

9 *Scholarships or Grant Awards.* – Upon application of an eligible student, an
10 educational institution shall grant to the student an amount of not more than PhP
11 30,000.00 per academic year for not more than a 12-month period at any given
12 educational institution.

13 If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the money available, priority
14 shall be given to persons with the greatest financial need as determined by each
15 educational institution.

16 A student who receives a state university scholarship award or who receives
17 other scholarships or grant awards, may be eligible for funds under this act if the
18 total amount of the student's scholarships and grants is less than the student's
19 financial need. A student's scholarship and grant awards may be increased with
20 funds from the program under this act up to the level of the maximum grant as
21 provided in this section.

22 SECTION 7. *Gifts, Grants, Bequests, Donations, and Devises: Acceptance*

23 *Authorized; Annual Report.* – The commission may accept gifts, grants, bequests,

1 donations, and devises, from whatever sources, of real, personal, or mixed property
2 and money for the purposes described in this act. The commission shall prepare an
3 annual report of all gifts, grants, bequests, donations, and devises for the governor
4 and

5 SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as may be necessary for the
6 initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of
7 the CHED. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation
8 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and
9 separate item.

10 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
11 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
12 contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed,
13 modified, or amended accordingly.

14 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act
15 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not
16 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

17 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
18 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 Approved,

/apm12042014