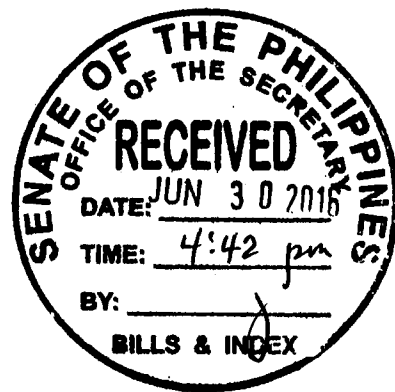


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S.B. No. 133

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO ENABLE POOR FILIPINO FAMILIES TO HAVE AT
LEAST ONE COLLEGE GRADUATE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED STUDENT
GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ESGP-PA) AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 4, Section I of the Constitution mandates that the State should "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." However, access to tertiary education in the country remains a challenge especially to the poor and the underprivileged.

A nationwide NEDA-commissioned survey entitled "Ambisyon 2040", which looks into the aspirations, values and principles of Filipinos, showed that 79 percent of Filipinos aspire for a simple and comfortable life which includes having the capacity to provide college education for their family. Unfortunately, an Annual Poverty Indicators Survey released by the Philippine Statistics Office showed that almost 30 percent of high school graduates could not attend college because of its high cost.

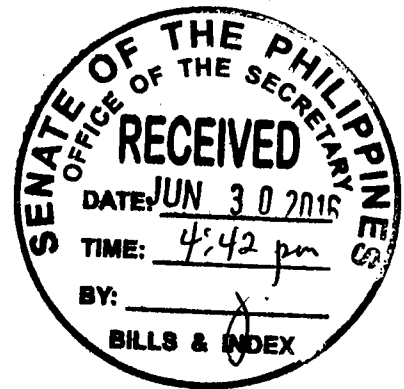
This bill seeks to appease this problem by establishing a mechanism that will enable poor Filipino families, especially the beneficiaries of the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), to have at least one college graduate. Through the institutionalization of the Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA), a student-grantee will be entitled to a maximum of P60,000 per academic year to cover the cost for tuition and other school fees to complete the student-grantee's degree program. State universities and colleges shall monitor the academic performance of the grantees at the end of each academic year until the grantees have graduated.

This bill ultimately ensures that even the poor and underprivileged Filipino families will be provided the opportunity to have at least one family member who graduated from college, an effective tool that will help every Filipino family rise from poverty, and enable them to contribute to national development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sonny Angara".

SONNY ANGARA

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the **"One Family, One Graduate Act"**.

2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of
4 all Filipino citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make
5 such education accessible to all. Further, it is the policy of the State to establish and maintain a
6 system of grants, scholarships and subsidies, which shall be available to deserving students,
7 especially to the underprivileged, to help poor families rise above poverty and contribute to
8 national development.

9

10 **SEC. 3. Objective.** This Act aims to contribute to the National Government's thrust to
11 effectively address poverty by increasing the number of graduates in higher education among
12 poor households and by ensuring that these graduates are employed in high-value occupations.
13 This ensures that qualified household beneficiaries of the government's *Pantawid Pamilyang*
14 *Pilipino Program (4 Ps)* shall have at least one family member who graduated from college.

15

16 **SEC. 4. Establishment of an Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty**
17 **Alleviation.** An Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty (ESGP-PA) shall be
18 established, which shall be exclusively granted and used for the tertiary education of poor but
19 deserving students belonging to indigent households under the National Household Targeting
20 System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), identified by the Department of Social Welfare and
21 Development (DSWD), or informal sector families. Potential student-grantees shall be enrolled
22 in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in course offerings aligned with the priorities of the
23 government.

24

1 **SEC. 5. Coverage.** Grantees of ESGP-PA shall be limited to poor but deserving students,
2 giving priority to 4Ps beneficiaries who are qualified to enroll in selected SUCs to take up priority
3 programs of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).
4

5 **SEC. 6. Entitlement.** A student-grantee shall be entitled to a maximum of Sixty Thousand
6 Pesos (P60,000.00) per academic year or Thirty Thousand (P30,000) per semester. The
7 amount shall cover the cost of tuition and other school fees, academic and extracurricular
8 expenses, purchase of textbooks, board and lodging, transportation, clothing, medical needs
9 and other valid related education expenses and support services to complete the student-
10 grantee's degree program.
11

12 **SEC. 7. Selection of Student-Grantees and Role of DSWD.** The DSWD shall identify and
13 validate potential student-grantees from among the household beneficiaries of the 4Ps Program,
14 which shall be submitted to participating SUCs for admission process. It shall likewise
15 coordinate necessary interventions for the student-grantee and family at the local level, and co-
16 monitor with CHED the implementation of the program.
17

18 **SEC. 8. Creation of the National ESGP-PA Committee.** A National ESGP-PA Committee
19 shall be created, which shall be composed of the following:
20

- 21 1. CHED Chairperson, as Chairperson of the Committee
 - 22 2. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), member
 - 23 3. Secretary of the Department of Welfare and Development (DSWD), member
 - 24 4. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), member
 - 25 5. President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC),
26 member
- 27

28 **SEC 9. Functions of the National ESGP-PA Committee.** The Committee shall have the
29 following functions:
30

- 31 1. Oversee the operation and implementation of the program;
- 32 2. Enhance the policies that will ensure that the services provided by the program shall
33 serve the target student-grantees;
- 34 3. Orient SUCs on the implementation of the program;
- 35 4. Reallocate unfilled slots to other equally deserving student-grantees
- 36 5. Decide on appeals, grievances, complaints, request for additional slots; and
- 37 6. Monitor and evaluate the administration and implementation of the program.

1 **SEC. 10. Qualifications of Student-Grantees.** Student-grantees must have the following
2 qualificatons to be eligible for the program:

- 3
- 4 1. Identified "4Ps" beneficiary;
- 5 2. Physically and mentally fit;
- 6 3. High school graduate or equivalent;
- 7 4. No other higher education scholarship/grant from public institutions;
- 8 5. Pass the entrance exam and academic requirements set by the SUCs;
- 9 6. Pass the requirements set by the National ESGP-PA Committee; and
- 10 7. Must enroll in CHED Priority programs.

11

12 **SEC. 11. Responsibilities of Student-Grantees.**

- 13
- 14 1. Carry a full load per semester as prescribed in the curriculum and finish within the
- 15 required period of the program.
- 16 2. Maintain a satisfactory academic performance in accordance with the policies and
- 17 standards of the SUC.
- 18 3. Enter into a return service agreement of 2 years after graduation.
- 19 4. Adhere to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Contract.
- 20

21 **SEC. 12. Responsibilities of Parents/Guardian of Student-Grantees.**

- 22
- 23 1. Sign the Contract with the SUCs as the executor of the program.
- 24 2. Ensure that related expenses and other incidental expenses for health and clothing
- 25 shall be paid on time.
- 26 3. Ensure that recipient will religiously attend his/her classes, minimize absences, and
- 27 complete school requirements.
- 28 4. Ensure that all financial benefits directly received by the grantee shall only be spent
- 29 on legitimate purposes and on time.
- 30 5. If the beneficiary is the head of the family, he shall assume the foregoing
- 31 responsibilities to complete his studies.
- 32

33 **SEC. 13. Monitoring and Reporting by State Universities and Colleges.** State Universities
34 and Colleges (SUCs) where grantees of the ESGP-PA are enrolled shall monitor and report to
35 the ESGP-PA Committee the academic performance of the grantees at the end of each
36 academic year until the grantees have graduated.

37

38 **SEC. 14. Appropriations.** The DBM shall release directly to the respective SUCs the amount
39 of Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (P2,500,000.00) for the student-grantees and the
40 activities of the program for each academic year, which shall be included in the Annual General
41 Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The CHED, in consultation with the DSWD,
2 DOLE, DBM and PASUC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
3 provisions of this Act, within six (6) months from its effectivity.

4
5 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or
6 invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

7
8 **SEC 17. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders,
9 administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this
10 Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

11
12 **SEC 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a
13 newspaper of general circulation.

14
15 Approved,