


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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 SEP 15 P4:27

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1778

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Introduced by **SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged." (Sec. 2 (3), Article XIV).

But although there are a number of scholarship grants offered by the government, both local and national, catering to financial needs of students coming from various sectors and categories, there still exists serious need to further extend monetary aid to students belonging to economically disadvantaged families.

Considering the fact that these underprivileged students also belong to the majority group of our youth, it is but necessary to provide them with added assistance if not absolute access to quality tertiary education, despite their being financially incapable.

And it is for this reason that the passage of this legislation is earnestly sought because extending to these underprivileged students more access to quality education is empowering them, thus making them an integral part of nation-building.

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A "TULONG-DUNONG PROGRAM" FOR  
STUDENTS OF UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES AND  
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF ONE HUNDRED  
MILLION PESOS (Php100,000,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE**

*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 "*Tulong-Dunong Program Act of 2004.*"

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - In line with the Constitutional mandate of providing quality education for all Filipinos at all levels, more particularly at the college level, it is hereby declared a priority policy of the state to institute measures that would assist students from disadvantaged families.

**SEC. 3. *Institution of a Tulong-Dunong Program.*** - There is hereby instituted a student financial assistance program known as the "*Tulong-Aral Program*" with the end in view of allocating resources to augment the tuition needs of students coming from disadvantaged families.

**SEC. 4. *Definition*** - The term economically disadvantaged but deserving students who are qualified under this program shall pertain to those students of underprivileged families falling below the poverty line as determined by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), who possesses the ability to continue and finish a degree course.

**SEC. 5. *Monthly Allowance***. - The qualified beneficiaries of this program shall be entitled to a monthly allowance of three thousand pesos (Php3,000.00), tuition assistance, book allowance and other monetary assistance to be determined by the administering agency.

**SEC. 6. *Lead Agency*** - The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be the lead agency tasked with the formulation of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

**SEC.7. *Appropriations***. - The sum of one hundred million pesos (Php100,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to finance this program.

**SEC. 8. *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,