

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE SENATE

04 SEP 15 P 4:28

SENATE

S. B. No. 1780

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

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- the symbol of most people's culmination of academic pursuit. Also, through this legislative measure, we are able to provide these youth with the basic leverage in securing descent employment for themselves in the near future.

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


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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S.B. No. _____

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Introduced by **SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

**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.*

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Free*
2 *Public Education System Act of 2004.*”

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

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

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

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

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

- 20 1. The University of the Philippines System;
21 2. Philippine Normal University;

- 1 3. Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila;
- 2 4. National Teachers College;
- 3 5. Polytechnic University of the Philippines; and
- 4 6. Other government owned and controlled universities and
- 5 colleges situated in the various provinces of the Philippines.

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
17 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the
18 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,