



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

23 JAN 12 P5:47

SENATE

S. No. 1668

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN AND
DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agriculture industry, which is regarded as one of the foundations of our society, responds to the needs of our public health by ensuring food security for every Filipino. However, while playing a vital part in our society, Filipino agricultural workers continue to be one of the poorest and most marginalized populations. The Philippine Statistics Authority recorded that farmers and fisherfolks have the highest poverty incidences among the basic sectors.

This proposed measure, therefore, seeks to grant educational assistance to their children and dependents from basic education until their completion of tertiary education in public school. The educational assistance includes free educational materials, board and lodging, transportation expense, clothing and other similar expenses. This is based on the idea that education can be used to combat poverty and to advance the economy.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MARK A. VILLAR



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*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 “*Educational Assistance*
2 *for Children and Dependents of Farmers and Fisherfolks Act.*”

3 Sec. 2. *Educational Assistance for Children and Dependents of Farmers and*
4 *Fisherfolks.* – Children and dependents of farmers and fisherfolks listed in the Registry
5 System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) shall be entitled educational
6 assistance from basic education until their completion of tertiary education in public
7 school. The educational assistance includes free educational materials, board and
8 lodging, transportation expense, clothing and other similar expenses.

9 Sec. 3. *Special Funds for Educational Benefits.* – In order to carry out the
10 provisions of this Act, there is hereby established a Special Fund, to be known as the
11 “*Educational Benefits for Farmers and Fisherfolks Fund*”, in the amount of Fifty Million
12 Pesos (P50,000,000.00). Such Fund shall be perpetually maintained and used
13 exclusively for the benefit of children and dependents of farmers and fisherfolks;
14 *Provided, That* not more than 5% of this Fund shall be used for the administration of
15 the Special Fund.

1 Sec. 4. *Administration of the Fund.* – The Unified Student Financial Assistance
2 System for Tertiary Education Governing (UniFAST) Board in consultation with the
3 Department of Agriculture and three (3) representatives from the farmers and
4 fisherfolks selected from a verified procedure of selection as agreed upon by the
5 farmers and fisherfolks, shall have the primary responsibility of managing and
6 supervising the Fund. It shall also formulate policies, implement rules and regulations,
7 guidelines and other related functions to oversee, manage and supervise operations
8 of the Fund.

9 The UniFAST Secretariat shall serve as the Secretariat providing administrative
10 support to the Board and shall perform functions as authorized by the UniFAST Board.

11 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board in consultation with the Department of
13 Agriculture shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

14 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any section or provision of this Act shall be
15 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or the provisions not affected
16 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
18 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
19 amended or modified accordingly.

20 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
21 its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,