

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

FEB 22 P 3 :46

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 206

Submitted by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance on FEB 22 2024.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2568

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1908, taking into consideration House Bill No. 9015.

Sponsor: Senator Francis G. Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 1908**, introduced by Senator Villar, M., entitled:

**"AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP)
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

taking into consideration **House Bill No. 9015**, introduced by Representatives Romualdez (Y.M.), Acidre, Go (M.), Dalipe, Primicias-Agabas, *et al.*, entitled:

**"AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2568** prepared by the Committees entitled:

**"AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP) AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bili No. 1908, taking into consideration House Bill No. 9015, with Senators Viliar (M.), Escudero and Angara as authors thereof.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairpersons:

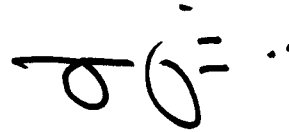


SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO
Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Finance



SEN. SONNY ANGARA
Committee on Finance

Vice Chairpersons:



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*Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
Committee on Finance*

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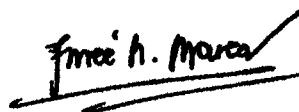
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SEN. GRACE POE
Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher, Technical
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SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Committee on Finance

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Committee on Finance

Ex Officio Members:

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA

President Pro Tempore

Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance



SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA

Majority Leader



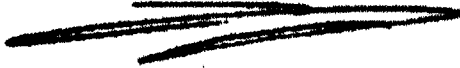
SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

Minority Leader

HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

Senate President

Ex Officio Members:



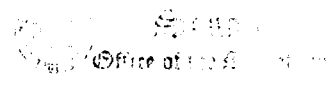
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Senate President

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



24 FEB 22 P3:59

SENATE

RECEIVED BY by

SENATE BILL NO. 2568

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance with Senators Villar (M.), Escudero, and Angara as authors thereof

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP) AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 "Expanded Tertiary
2 *Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take
5 appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all, and to establish,
6 maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
7 relevant to the needs of the people and society. Towards this end, and in line with
8 the need to encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as
9 well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly
10 those that respond to community needs, the State shall develop and maintain
11 innovative educational and training pathways and equivalencies which facilitate the
12 flexible entry and exchange among formal, non-formal and informal leaning systems,
13 and between these systems and the labor market.

1 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act:

2 (a) *Accreditation* shall refer to the process of identifying, assessing, validating
3 and recognizing learning obtained by the individual through formal, non-formal and
4 informal training or experiences;

5 (b) *Center of Excellence / Center of Development* shall refer to a public or
6 private higher education institution (HEI) that has attained a certain level of quality
7 or standard in a given field of instruction, research, or extension as identified by the
8 Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

9 (c) *Equivalency* shall refer to the process of assigning academic credits
10 equivalent to the competence demonstrated by an individual by means of
11 assessment test, demonstrations, or actual work performance;

12 (d) *Formal Learning* shall refer to the hierarchically structured and chronically
13 graded learning organized and provided by the formal school system and for which
14 certification is required in order for the learner to progress through the grades or
15 move to higher levels;

16 (e) *Higher Education Institution (HEI)* shall refer to an institution of higher
17 learning which primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by CHED
18 and leading to the conferment of a diploma;

19 (f) *Informal Learning* shall refer to non-structured and non-directed learning
20 obtained from experiences at home, place of work, community, civil society, religious
21 institutions, mass media, and other incidental sources;

22 (g) *Non-Formal Learning* shall refer to the intentional learning gained through
23 participation in organized workplace-based training, non-credit courses, and
24 workshops wherein the completion of which does not lead to the receipt of formal
25 credit;

26 (h) *Program* or *ETEEAP* shall refer to the Expanded *Tertiary Education*
27 *Equivalency and Accreditation Program* as institutionalized and defined in Section 4
28 of this Act;

29 (i) *Refugee* shall refer to a natural person who, owing to well-founded fear of
30 being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a
31 particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her
32 nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself or herself

1 of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside
2 the country of his or her former habitual residence as a result of such events is
3 unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it; and

4 (j) *Stateless Person* shall refer to a natural person not considered a national
5 by any State under the operation of its domestic law.

6 *Sec. 4. The Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation*
7 *Program.* – The Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation
8 Program, hereinafter referred to as ETEEAP or the Program, adopted under
9 Executive Order No. 330 s. 1996, is hereby institutionalized as a comprehensive
10 program of government to identify, assess, validate, and assign equivalent
11 undergraduate level of prior learning from formal, non-formal and informal learning
12 systems, relevant work experiences and completion of competency enrichment and
13 other program requirements towards the grant of appropriate academic degrees to
14 qualified individuals.

15 *Sec. 5. Qualifications.* – Filipino citizens, whether residing in the Philippines or
16 abroad, may apply for equivalency and accreditation if they satisfy the following
17 requirements:

18 (a) Must not be less than twenty-three (23) years of age at the time of
19 application;

20 (b) Must complete a secondary school program as evidenced by a high school
21 diploma, or a result of the Philippine Educational Placement Test or Alternative
22 Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency Assessment and Certification stating
23 that the individual concerned is qualified to enter first year college; and

24 (c) Must attain at least five (5) years of aggregate work experience in the
25 industry related to the academic degree program or discipline where equivalency of
26 learning is sought: *Provided,* That in lieu thereof, the applicant may submit
27 documentation of training programs and workshops attended or a favorable result in
28 a competency assessment administered by deputized HEI as a prequalifying
29 requirement.

30 *Sec. 6. Lead Agency.* – The CHED shall serve as the lead agency in the
31 implementation of the Program.

1 *Sec. 7. Powers and Functions of CHED.* – In addition to the powers and
2 functions under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education
3 Act of 1994”, and other existing laws, the CHED shall exercise the following:

4 a) Determine and approve the academic degrees to be opened for the
5 Program;

6 b) Certify, after thorough evaluation, the pertinent work experiences and
7 knowledge of expertise acquired by individuals from high-level, non-formal and
8 informal training towards the awarding of an appropriate academic degree;

9 c) Determine the deficiencies of an applicant/awardee that would need
10 remedial studies or academic supplementation through formal course work in order
11 to satisfy pertinent requirements of an academic degree applied for;

12 d) Develop, on a continuing basis and with the assistance of technical panels
13 and other competent authorities, standards, creative methodologies, and criteria for
14 a diversified mode of assessing skills, values, knowledge, and levels of competence
15 which should include, but not limited to, instruments such as written examinations,
16 practical work and/or laboratory demonstrations, and qualification portfolio
17 assessments;

18 e) Grant or revoke for cause the authority to HEIs to implement the Program
19 including the conduct of equivalency assessments, development of assessment tools
20 and techniques, and/or award of degrees within their area of competence or
21 specialization;

22 f) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Program by deputized
23 HEIs based on standardized monitoring tool to be developed by CHED;

24 g) Safeguard the continuing integrity and quality measures of the Program by
25 linking and cooperating with appropriate development and regulatory agencies and
26 institutions.

27 h) Update the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and
28 Development Authority (NEDA) Board on the implementation of the Program for
29 policy coordination and monitoring purposes;

30 i) Set standard fees and other administrative charges for accreditation that
31 will contribute to and be part of the Special Account of the ETEEAP under the Higher
32 Education Development Fund;

1 j) Convene an advisory body in accordance with Section 8 of this Act; and
2 k) Exercise such other powers and functions consistent with the provisions of
3 this Act.

4 *Sec. 8. ETEEAP Advisory Body.* – The CHED may convene, as the need arises,
5 an advisory body for the purpose of providing broad-based, inter-agency
6 consultation. The Advisory Body shall be composed of the following:

- 7 a) Chairperson of the CHED as the Chair;
8 b) Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
9 Authority (TESDA) as the Vice-Chair;
10 c) Undersecretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
11 d) Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
12 e) Undersecretary of the NEDA;
13 f) Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
14 g) Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);
15 h) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC);
16 i) Representative of private higher educations to be designated by the
17 Coordinating Council of Private Educational Assistance (COCOPEA);
18 j) Representative of state universities and colleges to the designated by the
19 Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC);
20 k) Representative of local universities and colleges to the designated by the
21 Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU); and
22 l) Representative of the business sector to be designated by the Philippine
23 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

24 *Sec. 9. Deputization of Higher Education Institutions.* The CHED may, in the
25 implementation of the ETEEAP, deputize public and private higher education
26 institutions that satisfy the following conditions:

27 (a) That the HEI concerned is a Center of Excellence or Center of
28 Development in the program or discipline to be offered through ETEEAP; or

29 (b) That the HEI concerned has a formal accredited status for the academic
30 degrees or disciplines to be offered through ETEEAP equivalent to a Level II
31 accreditation awarded by any accrediting agencies duly recognized by CHED:

1 *Provided*, That a Certificate of Program Compliance shall also be required from public
2 HEIs: *Provided, further*, That in meritorious cases, CHED may, in lieu of a Level II
3 accreditation, consider programs of equivalent qualification including but not limited
4 to: international recognition or accreditation, performance in licensure exams,
5 research productivity, faculty recognition, and similar factors.

6 Sec. 10. *Eligibility of Refugees and Stateless Persons.* – Refugees and
7 stateless persons residing in the Philippines shall be eligible to participate in the
8 Program in accordance with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
9 and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless
10 Person: *Provided*, That the refugee or stateless person concerned shall satisfy the
11 requirements as enumerated under Section 5 of this Act.

12 Sec. 11. *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Division.*
13 – To ensure effective implementation of this Act, an Expanded Tertiary Education
14 Equivalency and Accreditation Division (ETEEAD) shall be created under the Office of
15 Programs and Standards Development of CHED. In the performance of its functions,
16 the ETEEAD shall coordinate with the Technical Panel for ETEAAP of the CHED.

17 The CHED shall determine the organizational and staffing pattern of the
18 ETEEAD, in accordance with existing civil service laws, rules and regulations and
19 subject to the review and approval by the Department of Budget and Management
20 (DBM). The functions currently being performed by other offices and divisions of the
21 CHED in relation to Program, as well as the personnel, equipment, funds, and
22 records pertaining thereto, are hereby transferred to the ETEAAD.

23 Sec. 12. *Report to Congress.* – The CHED shall submit to the President and to
24 Congress its report on the status of the Program, as well as its recommendation for
25 the promotion of innovative educational and training pathways and equivalencies
26 and the realization of other objectives of this Act.

27 Sec. 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of
28 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

29 Sec. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
30 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DBM and the

1 ETEEAP Advisory Body created pursuant to Section 8 of this Act, promulgate the
2 rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

3 Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
5 remain in full force and effect.

6 Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
7 rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
8 this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

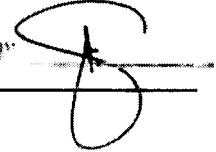
9 Sec. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately following its
10 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

SENATE
S. No. 1908

23 FEB 21 P3:24

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP) AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poverty remains to be a hindrance to achieve a student's dream to graduate. According to a report dated November 2022, there are over 5.6 million Filipino families living in poverty according to findings of the "Listahanan survey" released by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Living below the poverty line normally causes students to surrender their dream careers and immediately seek for jobs to help for family expenses.

This is very true especially during the COVID-19 pandemic where the poor chose their family's survival at the expense of the dreams of their children. While they were able to gain immediate income due to their employment, it cannot be denied that they need to continue their education for them to qualify for promotion and salary increase as it entails educational qualification despite vast knowledge and experience.

The government is aware of this situation and had been helping Filipinos to continue their education while they were working. This is the objective of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) - an alternative education program in the Philippines that allows working professionals, but were either unable to finish their college education or were completely unable to step into college for different reasons, to earn a bachelor's degree without going through traditional schooling methods.

Under ETEEAP, work experience is evaluated and converted to creditable educational units to reduce the number of subjects that a working professional has to earn to obtain a degree. With this program, only the remaining courses or subjects that did not have any equivalent in the evaluation process will be enrolled and should be completed in the traditional way.

This bill seeks to institutionalize ETEEAP as an integral part of the educational system in the Philippines. Through this bill, the existing ETEEAP shall be

strengthened and the criteria for basic qualifications thereof shall be laid down by the law to make it more accessible to Filipinos who wants to earn a degree while working. The law shall also create a consultative body headed by the Commission on Higher Education to provide a broad based inter-agency consultation to ascertain that the objective and reach of this program is being met by the government.

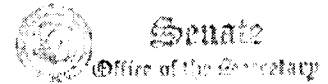
This is consistent with Section 2, Article XIV of the Constitution which provides that the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society and, that the State shall encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, all well as self-learning, and out of school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

For this purpose, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARK A. VILLAR

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



23 FEB 21 P3:24

SENATE
S. No. 1908

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP) AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Expanded Tertiary*
2 *Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act*”.

3 Sec 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right of all citizens to qualify education at all levels and
5 shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

6 Further, Section 2, Article XIV of the Constitution provides that the State shall
7 establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of
8 education relevant to the needs of the people and society and, that the State shall
9 encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, all well as self-
10 learning, and out of school study programs particularly those that respond to
11 community needs.

12 In line with this, it is the goal of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency
13 and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) to strengthen the system of academic
14 equivalency and validation of the knowledge and expertise derived by individuals

1 from relevant work experience and high-level, non-formal training in order to
2 harness their full potentials.

3 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms
4 shall mean:

- 5 a. *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program* refers
6 to the alternate education program in the Philippines that allows working
7 professionals but were either unable to finish their college education or
8 were completely unable to step into college for different reasons, to earn
9 bachelor's degree without going through traditional schooling methods;
- 10 b. *Higher Education Institution* refers to an institution of higher learning
11 which primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the
12 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and leading to the conferment of
13 a diploma; and
- 14 c. *Tertiary Education* refers to higher education degree programs and post-
15 secondary technical-vocational programs.

16 *Sec. 4. Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program.*
17 – Under this program, professionals with an aggregate of five (5) or more years of
18 work experience can use the knowledge, experiences, achievements, and skills and
19 obtained through their jobs to earn school credits that are then deducted from the
20 total number of units or credits that they are required to earn before they graduate.

21 The following are the requirements to qualify for the program:

- 22 a) Filipino citizens, whether in the Philippines or abroad;
- 23 b) Has at least five (5) years of working experiences;
- 24 c) Birth Certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 25 d) 23 years of age or above;
- 26 e) Resume/Curriculum Vitae/Personal Data Sheet;
- 27 f) Duly accomplished ETEEAP application form;
- 28 g) Service Record or Employment Certificate signed by the Employer;
- 29 h) Job Description signed by the Employer; and
- 30 i) Transcript of Records.

31 *Sec. 5. Commission on Higher Education.* – The Commission on Higher
32 Education (CHED) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of the provisions

1 of this Act. It shall accredit colleges and universities that seeks to offer the ETEEAP
2 as part of their academic program.

3 *Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – For purposes of this Act,
4 the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall discharge the following additional
5 powers and functions in relation of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and
6 Accreditation Program (ETEEAP):

- 7 a) Certify, after thorough evaluation, the pertinent work experiences and
8 knowledge of expertise acquired by individuals from high-level, non-formal
9 and informal training towards the awarding of an appropriate academic
10 degree;
- 11 b) Determine the deficiencies of an applicant/awardee that would need
12 remedial studies or academic supplementation through formal course work
13 in order to satisfy pertinent requirements of a degree applied for;
- 14 c) Develop, on a counting basis and with the assistance of technical panels
15 and other competent authorities, standards, creative methodologies, and
16 criteria for a diversified mode of assessing skills, values, knowledge, and
17 levels of competence which should include, but not limited to, instruments
18 such as written examinations, practical work and/or laboratory
19 demonstrations, and qualification portfolio assessments;
- 20 d) Deputize and/or accredit agencies, organizations and higher education
21 institutions which will conduct equivalency assessments, develop
22 assessments, and/or award degrees within their area of competence or
23 specialization;
- 24 e) Safeguard the continuing integrity and quality measures of the Expanded
25 Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program by linking and
26 cooperating with appropriate development and regulatory agencies and
27 institutions.
- 28 f) Update the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and
29 Development Authority (NEDA) Board on the implementation of the
30 program for policy coordination and monitoring purposes;
- 31 g) Set standard fees and other administrative charges for accreditation that
32 will contribute to and be part of the Special Account of the Expanded

1 Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program under the
2 Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF);

3 h) Convene a consultative or advisory body for the purpose of providing
4 broad-based inter-agency consultation, to be composed of:

- 5 1) Chairman of the CHED as the Chair;
- 6 2) Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
7 Authority (TESDA) as the Vice-Chair;
- 8 3) Undersecretary for Programs of the Department of Education,
9 Culture, and Sports (DECS) as member;
- 10 4) Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology as
11 member;
- 12 5) Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as
13 member;
- 14 6) Chairman of the National Youth Commission (NYC) as member;
- 15 7) Representative of private higher educations to be designated by the
16 Coordinating Council of Private Educational Assistance (COCOPEA)
17 as member;
- 18 8) Representative of state universities and colleges to be designated
19 by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges
20 (PASUC) as member;
- 21 9) Representative of the business sector to be designated by the
22 Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) as member;
23 and

24 i) Such other powers and functions as may be provided by law.

25 *Sec. 7. Technical Secretariat.* – To ensure the effective implementation of the
26 Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), the
27 CHED shall organize a permanent Technical Secretariat composed of highly
28 competent individuals with recognized expertise in alternative learning systems and
29 educational assessment. The Technical Secretariat shall provide technical support to
30 and shall be provided by and be lodged with the CHED. In addition, the CHED may
31 contract the services of external experts and authorities on equivalency and
32 education measurement.

1 Sec. 8. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
2 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. However, the Special
3 Account in the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF) may be used by the
4 CHED as a supplemental source of funding whenever necessary and required for
5 effective implementation of the Program.

6 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
7 approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate
8 the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

9 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
10 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions which are not affected
11 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

12 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, circulars,
13 rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of
14 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Nothing in this Act shall result
15 in the diminution of the benefits and/or assistance given to overseas Filipino and
16 migrant workers as provided in other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and
17 issuances.

18 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general
20 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9015

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, GO (M.), DALIPE, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, EUDELA, DOMINGO, ROQUE, MERCADO-REVILLA, ZAMORA (M.C.), CHATTO, NAVA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, GALEOS, AQUINO, VERZOSA, ORTEGA, ZUBIRI, BORDADO, CARDEMA, SUANSING (M.A.), GUINTU, PADIERNOS, CAJAYON-UY, RODRIGUEZ (E.), CO-PILAR, SUAN, SALO, TUTOR, PUMAREN, OLIVAREZ, CUARESMA, CARI, GARDIOLA, HERNANDEZ, GULLAS, FUENTEBELLA, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), CALDERON, DUJALI, YU (J.V.), RILLO, LUMAYAG, COLLANTES, KHO (R.), CAOAGDAN, ANGARA, ONGCHUAN, BALINDONG, PAGLAS, YU (D.G.), AMATONG, SALCEDA, BUHAIN, ADIONG, HATAMAN, CO (E.), QUIMBO, PALMA, ALBANO, VIOLAGO, BAUTISTA-LIM, ABANTE, ESPINA, BAUTISTA, SINGSON (R.V.), CAMPOS, DEL MAR, VARGAS-ALFONSO, LARA, GONZAGA, CABREDO, CUA, ALONTE, DY (F.), MATUGAS, BONGALON, ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, LOYOLA, HARESCO, CELESTE, ALVAREZ (M.), UMALI, YAP (ERIC), VERGARA, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), BASCUG, TAN (J.), SALI, CRUZ (R.), CRUZ (A.), PLEYTO, MATIBAG, FORTES, MACEDA, FRESNEDI, LAZATIN, REVILLA (R.J.), ALMARIO, ASISTIO, TALLADO, YAP (C.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), MASTURA, PADUANO, DAGOOC, GUTIERREZ, ABALOS, LEE, BOSITA, ACHARON, ALVAREZ (P.), BIRON, CAGAS, FERRER (J.M.), GORRICETA, HAGEDORN, MALAPTTAN, TAN (K.M.) AND LACSON-NOEL

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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 *Expanded Tertiary Education*
2 *Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act.*

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect
5 and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and take appropriate steps
6 to make such education accessible to all.

7
8 Further, Section 2, Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall
9 establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
10 relevant to the needs of the people and society and shall encourage nonformal, informal, and
11 indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study
12 programs, particularly those that respond to community needs.

13
14 In line with this, the ETEEAP aims to strengthen the system of academic equivalency and
15 accreditation at the college level, including the validation of the knowledge and expertise
16 derived by senior high school graduates, postsecondary technical-vocational graduates, and
17 college undergraduate students from relevant work experiences and high-level, nonformal
18 training in order to harness their full potentials.

19
20 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

21
22 (a) *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program* refers to the
23 alternative education program in the Philippines that allows working professionals who were
24 either unable to finish their college education or were completely unable to advance into
25 college for different reasons to earn a bachelor's degree without going through the traditional
26 schooling methods;

27
28 (b) *Higher education institution* refers to an institution of higher learning which
29 primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the Commission on Higher
30 Education and leading to the conferment of a diploma; and

31
32 (c) *Tertiary education* refers to both higher education degree programs and
33 postsecondary technical-vocational programs.

34
35 **SEC. 4. Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program**
36 **(ETEEAP).** – The ETEEAP is an equivalency and accreditation pathway for obtaining a college
37 degree for senior high school graduates, postsecondary technical-vocational graduates, and
38 college undergraduates who have become professionals with an aggregate of five (5) or more
39 years of work experience. The knowledge, experiences, achievements, and skills obtained
40 through their jobs shall be used to earn school credits that are then deducted from the total
41 number of units or credits that they are required to earn before they graduate. They shall also
42 fulfill the requirements of Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11510, otherwise known as the
43 "Alternative Learning System Act", with regard to certification from the Department of
44 Education (DepEd).

1 To qualify for the ETEEAP, the applicant must be a Filipino citizen, at least twenty-three (23)
2 years of age, with at least five (5) years work experience, and must submit the following
3 documentary requirements:
4

- 5 (a) Duly accomplished ETEEAP Application form;
- 6 (b) Certification of having passed the Accreditation and Equivalency Assessment
7 conducted by the DepEd;
- 8 (c) Employment Certificates;
- 9 (d) Birth Certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority;
- 10 (e) Resume, Curriculum Vitae, or Personal Data Sheet;
- 11 (f) Service Record or Employment Certificate signed by the Employer;
- 12 (g) Job Description signed by the Employer; and
- 13 (h) Transcript of Records.

14
15 **SEC. 5. Role of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).** – The CHED shall be
16 the lead agency in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall accredit colleges
17 and universities that seek to offer the ETEEAP as part of their academic program.
18

19 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the CHED.** – For purposes of this Act, the CHED shall
20 discharge the following additional powers and functions in relation to the ETEEAP:
21

22 (a) Deputize higher education institutions (HEI) which will conduct equivalency
23 assessments, develop assessment instruments, provide academic supplementation, or award
24 degrees within their area of competence or specialization;

25 (b) Safeguard the continuing integrity and quality measures of the ETEEAP by linking
26 and cooperating with appropriate development and regulatory agencies and institutions;

27 (c) Update the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and
28 Development Authority (NEDA) Board on the implementation of the program for policy
29 coordination and monitoring purposes;

30 (d) Set standard fees and other administrative charges for accreditation that will
31 contribute to and be part of the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF);

32 (e) Establish criteria, procedure and documentary requirements to ensure its integrity,
33 quality and successful implementation;

34 (f) Monitor and evaluate deputized HEIs based on developed standardized tool;

35 (g) Convene a consultative or advisory body for the purpose of providing broad-based
36 inter-agency consultation, to be composed of:

37 (1) Chairperson of the CHED, as Chairperson;

38 (2) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
39 Authority, as Vice-Chairperson;

40 and as members:

41 (3) Undersecretary of the Department of Education;

42 (4) Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology;

43 (5) Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;

44 (6) Secretary of the NEDA;

45 (7) Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission;

46 (8) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission;

47 (9) Representative of private higher education to be designated by the
48 Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines;

49 (10) Representative of the state universities and colleges (SUCs) to be
50 designated by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges;

- 1 (11) Representative of the local universities and colleges (LUCs) to be
2 designated by the Association of Local Colleges and Universities; and
3 (12) Representative of the business sector to be designated by the Philippine
4 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

5 (h) Perform such other powers and functions as may be provided by law.
6

7 **SEC. 7. Technical Secretariat.** – To ensure the effective implementation of the ETEEAP,
8 the CHED shall organize a permanent Technical Secretariat composed of highly competent
9 individuals with recognized expertise in alternative learning systems and educational
10 assessment. The Technical Secretariat shall be composed of the existing personnel of the
11 CHED.

12 In addition, the CHED may contract the services of external experts and authorities on
13 equivalency and educational measurement, subject to existing budgeting and auditing rules and
14 regulations.
15

16 **SEC. 8. Functions of Deputized HEIs.** – Deputized HEIs shall have the following
17 functions:
18

19 (a) Certify, after thorough evaluation, the pertinent work experiences and knowledge
20 of expertise acquired by the individuals from high-level, nonformal and informal training
21 towards the awarding of an appropriate academic degree;

22 (b) Determine the deficiencies of an applicant or awardee that would need remedial
23 studies or academic supplementation through formal course work in order to satisfy pertinent
24 requirements of a degree applied for;

25 (c) Develop, on a continuing basis and with the assistance of technical panels and other
26 competent authorities, standards, creative methodologies, and criteria for a diversified mode of
27 assessing skills, values, knowledge, and levels of competence which shall include, but not be
28 limited to, instruments such as written examinations, practical work or laboratory
29 demonstrations, and qualification portfolio assessments.
30

31 **SEC. 9. Priority in Deputization.** – For the grant of deputization by the CHED, priority
32 shall be given to the following:
33

34 (a) An HEI, which is recognized as a Center of Excellence or Center of Development in the
35 program or discipline to be offered through the ETEEAP;

36 (b) An undergraduate program or discipline to be offered via the ETEEAP mode with a formal
37 accredited status equivalent to Level II from any of the accrediting agencies recognized by
38 the CHED: *Provided*, That a Certificate of Program Compliance shall be required in the
39 case of SUCs and LUCs.
40

41 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
42 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the CHED. Thereafter, such
43 amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
44

45 The HEDF may be used as a supplemental source of funding whenever necessary and
46 required for the effective implementation of the ETEEAP.

1 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
2 approval of this Act, the CHED shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to
3 carry out the provisions of this Act.
4

5 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
7

8 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances, or
9 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are repealed or modified accordingly.
10 Nothing in this Act shall result in the diminution of the benefits or assistance given to overseas
11 Filipinos and migrant workers as provided in other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and
12 issuances.
13

14 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
15 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,