

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

8 SEP -2 019

SENATE
S. No. **2586**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 2 (1) mandates that the State shall:

SEC. 2 (1). Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Philippines is the only country that maintains a 10-year mandatory schooling requirement, as compared to the 12-year standards in other countries. Though efforts have been made to improve the quality of our primary and secondary education, we have still a long way to go in meeting the global readiness standard for higher education. Many of our students remedy the situation in the higher education fora. To further complicate the matter, poverty has led the students to prolong their stay in the universities to be able to maintain a job while studying for their degrees.

By encouraging programs that assist remedial education in colleges and universities, we would be able to assist our students to cope with the ever increasing global standards. By encouraging programs that credits work programs, we allow our students to earn their degrees while maintaining jobs which assist their learning.

This bill seeks to establish a program that would encourage institutions of higher education to develop programs to remedy the shortcomings of our basic education and allow creditable work programs for our underprivileged students.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO COLLEGES TO IMPROVE REMEDIAL EDUCATION, TO
CUSTOMIZE REMEDIATION TO STUDENT CAREER GOALS, AND TO HELP
STUDENTS MOVE RAPIDLY FROM REMEDIATION INTO FOR-CREDIT OCCUPATION
PROGRAM COURSES AND THROUGH PROGRAM COMPLETION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Bridges from Jobs to Careers Act.”

SECTION 2. *Authorization of Program.* – The Secretary of Education, hereinafter referred to as Secretary, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education for the purposes of improving remedial education, including English language instruction, to customize remediation to student career goals, and to help students move rapidly from remediation into for-credit occupational program courses and through program completion. The grants shall focus in particular on creating bridges to for-credit occupational certificate programs that are articulated to degree programs.

SECTION 3. *Application* – An eligible institution seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

SECTION 4. *Priorities.*—The Secretary shall give priority to applications that —

1 A. are from institutions of higher education in which not less than 50 percent of the
2 institution's entering first-year students are enrolled in developmental courses to bring
3 reading, writing, or mathematics skills up to college-level; and

4 B. propose to replicate practices that have proven effective with adults and to
5 applications that propose to collaborate with adult education providers.

6 SECTION 5. *Peer Review.* – The Secretary shall convene a peer review process to review
7 applications for grants under this section and to make recommendations to the Secretary
8 regarding the selection of grantees.

9 SECTION 6. *Mandatory Activity.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under this
10 section shall use the grant funds to create workforce bridge programs that customize
11 developmental education curricula, including English language instruction, to the content of the
12 for-credit occupational certificate or degree programs, or clusters of programs, in which
13 developmental education students seek to enroll. Such bridge programs may include those that
14 integrate the curricula and the instruction of both remediation and college-level coursework or
15 dual enroll students in remediation and college-level coursework.

16 SECTION 7. *Permissible Activities.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under
17 this section, in addition to creating workforce bridge programs, may use the grant funds to carry
18 out the following:

19 A. Design and implement innovative ways to improve retention in and completion of
20 developmental education courses, including but not limited to enrolling students in
21 cohorts, accelerating course content, integrating remediation and college-level
22 curricula and instruction, dual enrolling students in remediation and college-level
23 courses, tutoring, providing counseling and other supportive services, and giving
24 small, material incentives for attendance and performance.

1 B. In consultation with faculty in the appropriate departments, redesignating class
2 schedules to meet the needs of working adults, such as by creating evening, weekend,
3 modular, compressed, distance learning formats or other alternative schedules.

4 C. Improving the quality of teaching in remedial courses through professional
5 development, reclassification of such teaching positions, or other means the eligible
6 institution determines appropriate.

7 D. Any other activities the eligible institution and the Secretary determine will promote
8 retention of and completion by students attending institutions of higher education.

9 E. Fully advise students on the range of options and programs available, which may
10 include: diploma; certification; 2-year degree; associate's degree; transfer degree to
11 upper division; and career options.

12 SECTION 8. *Grant Period.* – Grants made under this section shall be for a period of not
13 less than 36 months and not more than 60 months.

14 SECTION 9. *Technical Assistance.* – The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to
15 grantees under this section throughout the grant period.

16 SECTION 10. *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of program
17 impacts under the demonstration program, and shall disseminate to the public the findings from
18 the evaluation and information on best practices. The Secretary is encouraged to partner with
19 other providers of funds, such as private foundations, to allow for use of a random assignment
20 evaluation in at least one of the demonstration sites.

21 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
22 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

23 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
24 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
25 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
3 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6 Approved,

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