

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 15:32

SENATE
S. No. 1623

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1 provides that:

SEC. 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

In Section 2 paragraph 3 of the same article, the Constitution further mandates that:

SEC. 2. The State shall:

(3) 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;

In a recent letter to the editor published by the Inquirer entitled "UP Closed to the Brightest of Poor"¹, Mr. Noli Reyes highlighted the financial problems besetting our students in our country's premiere State University. The poor student was not able to neither afford the tuition fee nor figure out how to work through the system to assist him in his education. As a result, he did not pursue the degree program he worked so hard to get into. Without any connections, the poor student was not able to avail in time any of the multitudes of scholarship programs available to our impoverished youth.

By creating a centralized scholarship database online, scholarship information will be easily accessible to both the institutions granting the scholarship and their beneficiaries. It will make the application for scholarship truly competitive instead of being limited to those who have direct access to the information.

¹ Reyes, Noli N. UP Closed to the Brightest of the Poor. Philippine Daily Inquirer. June 20, 2008.

This bill seeks to democratize the access to scholarship information by making the information available online. This will effectively connect the sponsors to their intended beneficiaries and truly provide support to the less privileged but deserving students.²

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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² This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A
3 PUBLIC WEBSITE THROUGH WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY FIND A COMPLETE
4 DATABASE OF AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER
5 PROGRAMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE STUDY OF SCIENCE,
6 TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of representatives of the Philippines in*
9 *Congress assembled:*

10 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National STEM Scholarship
11 Database Act.”

12 SECTION 2. *Establishment of a Database.* – The Secretary of Education shall establish
13 and maintain, on the public website of the Department of Education, a database consisting of
14 information on scholarships, fellowships, and other programs of financial assistance available
15 from public and private sources for the study of science, technology, engineering, or
16 mathematics at the post-secondary and post-baccalaureate levels.

17 SECTION 3. *Presentation of Information.* – The information maintained on the database
18 established under the preceding section shall be displayed on the website in the following
19 manner:

20 (A) Separate information shall be provided for each of the fields of study referred to in
21 Section 2 and for post-secondary and post-baccalaureate programs of financial assistance.

22 (B) The database shall provide specific information on any programs of financial
23 assistance which are targeted to individuals of a particular gender, ethnicity, or other
24 demographic group.

1 (C) If the sponsor of any program of financial assistance included on the database
2 maintains a public website, the database shall provide hyperlinks to the website.

3 (D) In addition to providing the hyperlink to the website of a sponsor of a program of
4 financial assistance as required under subparagraph (C), the database shall provide
5 general information that an interested person may use to contact the sponsor, including
6 the sponsor's electronic mail address.

7 (E) The database shall have a search capability which permits an individual to search for
8 information on the basis of each category of the information provided and on the basis of
9 combinations of categories of the information provided, including whether the
10 scholarship is need- or merit-based and by relevant academic majors.

11 (F) The database shall include a recommendation that students and families should
12 carefully review all of the application requirements prior to applying for aid, and a
13 disclaimer that the scholarships presented in the database are not provided or endorsed by
14 the Department of Education.

15 SECTION 4. *Dissemination of Information on Database.* – The Secretary shall take such
16 actions as may be necessary on an ongoing basis, including sending notices to secondary schools
17 and institutions of higher education, to disseminate information on the database established and
18 maintained under this Act and to encourage its use by interested parties.

19 SECTION 5. *Use of Vendor to Obtain Information.* – In carrying out this Act, the
20 Secretary of Education shall enter into a contract with a private entity under which the entity
21 shall furnish and regularly update all of the information required to be maintained on the
22 database established under this section.

23 SECTION 6. *Encouraging the Provision of Information.* – In carrying out this Act, the
24 Secretary of Education and the contracted entity shall consult with public and private sources of
25 scholarships and make easily available a process for such entities to provide regular and updated
26 information.

1 SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
2 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

3 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
5 valid and subsisting.

6 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
7 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
8 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

9 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11 Approved,

/apm062708