

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand fourteen.



[REPUBLIC ACT NO. **10647**]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LADDERIZED
INTERFACE BETWEEN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND HIGHER
EDUCATION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Ladderized Education Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In line with the constitutional guarantee for the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels and to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and contributory to national development, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to institutionalize the

ladderized interface between technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education to open the pathways of opportunities for career and educational progression of students and workers, create a seamless and borderless system of education, empower students and workers to exercise options or to choose when to enter and exit in the educational ladder, and provide job platforms at every exit as well as the opportunity to earn income.

The State likewise recognizes and supports the promotion and protection of the inherent academic freedom enjoyed by all institutions of higher learning. For this purpose, the government shall uphold the academic standards, equity principles, promptness and consistency of the applications/admissions and equivalency policies of higher education institutions (HEIs).

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

(a) *Articulation* refers to a process which allows students to make the smooth transition from one (1) course, program or educational level to the next without experiencing duplication of learning. The guiding principle of articulation is that no student should repeat the same course content for which credit has already been received, even if elsewhere or from another institution. In general, articulated programs provide multiple entry and exit points and ladders of learning opportunities and allows a student to move from a technical-vocational course to a college degree program, using the principle of credit transfer;

(b) *Credit* refers to the value given to a particular course or subject, based on competencies and learning outcomes;

(c) *Credit transfer* refers to a credit conversion established to promote student mobility by ensuring that units earned from different modalities are credited by the institutions;

(d) *Embedded TVET Qualification in a Ladderized Degree Program* refers to the process of determining the TVET competencies or qualifications that lead to job platforms in the relevant higher education or bachelor's degree program. Full

TVET qualification can still be earned even if a student of a ladderized degree program chooses to exit from the program and get a job;

(e) *Equivalency* refers to a process that involves assigning equivalent academic credits to the competencies demonstrated by a student through assessment tests, thereby providing entry points to the next higher level qualification, the purpose of which is to provide opportunities to the student to continue to learn and to re-enter the educational program at a higher level without having to unnecessarily retake courses on which a student has already demonstrated competence and knowledge;

(f) *Job platform* refers to the gateway in the ladderized curriculum which one reaches upon acquiring enough skills and knowledge to seek and find employment;

(g) *Ladderized education* refers to the harmonization of all education and training mechanisms that allow students and workers to progress between technical-vocational and higher education programs, or vice-versa. It opens opportunities for career and educational advancement to students and workers. It creates a seamless and borderless education and training system that will allow transfers in terms of flexible entry and exit between technical-vocational and higher education programs in the post-secondary school educational system;

(h) *Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF)* is a national policy which describes the levels of educational qualifications and sets the standards for qualifications outcomes. It is a quality assured national system for the development, recognition and award of qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of a certain country;

(i) *Qualification* refers to a formal certification that a person has successfully achieved specific learning outcomes relevant to the identified academic, industry or community requirements; and

(j) *Recognition of prior learning* refers to the acknowledgment of a person's skills and knowledge through previous training, work or life experience, which may be used to grant status or credit for acquired competencies.

SEC. 4. *Philippine Qualifications Framework*. – The PQF has the following objectives:

(a) Adoption of national standards and levels for outcomes of education;

(b) Supporting the development and maintenance of pathways and equivalencies, which provide access to qualifications and assist people to move easily and readily between the different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labor market; and

(c) Alignment with international qualifications framework to support the national and international mobility of workers through increased recognition of the value and comparability of Philippine qualifications.

The PQF National Coordinating Committee (PQF-NCC) is composed of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Department of Education (DepED), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and is chaired by DepED.

In the development of ladderized education, the CHED, TESDA and DepED are hereby mandated to closely coordinate and effectively implement a unified PQF that establishes equivalency pathways and access ramps allowing for easier transitions and progressions between TVET and higher education. The framework shall include qualifications and articulation mechanisms, such as, but not necessarily limited to the following: credit transfer, embedded TVET qualification in ladderized degree programs, post-TVET bridging programs, enhanced equivalency, adoption of ladderized curricula/programs, and accreditation and/or recognition of prior learning.

For this purpose, the CHED, TESDA and DepED shall design harmonized guidelines and equivalency competency courses to enhance the delivery of high-quality technical-vocational and higher education courses, synchronize standards and upgrade curriculum design per discipline and adopt a strategic implementation scheme, including a massive consultation and information dissemination scheme. In so doing, the CHED, TESDA and DepED shall continue exploring and developing other mechanisms and systems that will allow the interface between TVET and higher education with the end in view of creating a seamless and borderless education system.

SEC. 5. Priority Disciplines. – As a preliminary approach to the implementation of the ladderized program and to ensure its more focused implementation, the CHED, TESDA and DepED, in consultation with the industry, the DOLE, the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and other related agencies, and consistent with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) are directed to identify priority disciplines and programs for ladderization, taking into account labor market realities. The CHED, TESDA and DepED shall implement the ladderization of other disciplines, other than those presently being implemented, should these be found necessary and beneficial based on a comprehensive study of their viability.

SEC. 6. Enhancement of the Ladderized Education Program (LEP). – The CHED, TESDA and DepED, in consultation with the PRC and the industries, as applicable, are directed to jointly devise systems, procedures, and mechanisms, as well as to issue, amend and update existing implementing guidelines, as necessary, for the efficient and effective implementation of the LEP and to ensure that the objectives of the program are met. Incentives may be given to HEIs and technical-vocational institutions to further encourage wider participation in the LEP.

The CHED, TESDA and DepED shall ensure that there are designated personnel at the regional and provincial levels responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the LEP nationwide.

SEC. 7. *Support from Other Government Agencies.* – The PRC, DOLE, DA, DOST, DTI, NEDA, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other related agencies are hereby mandated to extend the necessary support and provide relevant inputs towards the effective implementation of the ladderized system of education.

SEC. 8. *Scholarships, Grants and Loans.* – To ensure the effective implementation and greater nationwide impact of the program and its accessibility to the students and workers, the CHED, TESDA and DepED shall include in their respective budgets the provision of scholarships, grants and loans to deserving students and workers availing themselves of the ladderized system of education, in addition to the present scholarship programs being implemented by the CHED and TESDA.

SEC. 9. *Enabling Clause for HEIs.* – To encourage the widest enjoyment of the benefit of ladderized education, HEIs whose curricula have been recognized by the CHED may avail of the ladderization program: *Provided*, That the minimum curricular requirements under the joint guidelines of the CHED, TESDA and DepED are complied with and duly certified by these agencies prior to the formal offering of the ladderized education programs.

For this purpose, the HEI shall be required to submit to the CHED Regional Office a copy of the curriculum for the proposed ladderized program for monitoring, compliance and for potential objective inputs from their technical experts. The CHED shall be responsible for transmitting the curricula submitted by the HEIs to the PQF-NCC for their reference. Failure of the HEIs to submit this requirement shall be subject to administrative sanctions to be imposed by the CHED.

SEC. 10. *Academic Freedom.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as restricting the HEI in the exercise of its academic freedom. The HEI shall retain the right to assess the level and standard of previously completed TVET programs

by an applicant-student in a manner that is transparent and objective, incorporating therein its own admission requirements. The applicant-student must gain admission to the HEI's undergraduate program by meeting the prescribed criteria and program requisites and such other requirements by the HEI.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budgets and development funds of the CHED, TESDA and DepED. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act in the ensuing years shall be included in the respective annual appropriations of the CHED, TESDA and DepED in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CHED, TESDA and DepED, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in higher and technical-vocational education, shall issue within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or any part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions, as far as they are separable, shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

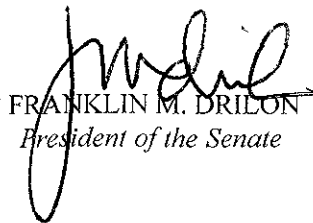
SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.


*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

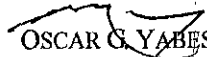


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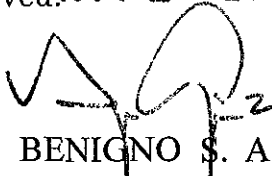
President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2272 and House Bill No. 3575 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on September 24, 2014.


MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP
Secretary General
House of Representatives


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: **NOV 21 2014**



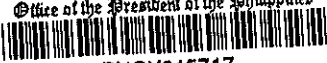


BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President of the Philippines

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Office of the President of the Philippines



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