

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



'13 JUL -1 AM 55

SENATE

S. B. No. 53

INTRODUCED BY: *ju*

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to protect and uphold the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all (Section 1, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). The State has the sacred duty to educate its people regardless of their age, status, or property.

However, according to the 2010 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, sixteen percent (16%) of the estimated 39 million Filipinos, aged 6 to 24 years old, are Out-of-School-Youth (OSY). This translates to 6.24 million OSY or one out of eight Filipinos aged between 6 to 24 is an out-of-school youth. The survey also revealed that the foremost reasons were: 1) high cost of education; 2) employment/looking for work; and 3) lack of personal interest, which when taken together, is indicative of the need to provide means to make education more accessible to the students.

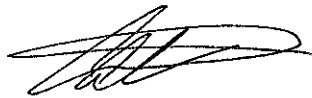
Taking into consideration these circumstances, this bill aims to help students gain access to College Education despite meager resources. As of May 2012, the Daily Minimum Wage is set at P446. According to the 2009 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, an average Filipino family allocates 4.3% of the family's income to education. This means that a family living on a daily minimum wage income could only allot P20 per day for education. Computing this amount with the current prices of service and commodities, this would merely cover the jeepney ride of a single student in the family.

In order to remedy this huge gap between family income and financial requirement for education, the government must step in and provide significant and effective measures in the form of scholarships for the youth.

With this bill, students who graduate as the top 10 in their class shall be granted scholarships by the government in the state college or university where they applied. This would encourage these students to study harder and excel academically in order to become part of the top Ten (10) of their graduating class and avail of the benefits of this Act. Also, this would give opportunity to deserving but underprivileged students to finish their studies. In sum, it would serve as an incentive for students to do better in elementary and high school by rewarding their hardwork and dedication to studies with free and guaranteed college education.

Notably, there are 4,981 public high schools and 110 State Universities and Colleges in the Philippines. The top ten (10) students coming from these public high schools will be given the chance to pursue their studies in reputable educational institutions. Our state colleges and universities will be good vehicles to further invest in our youth, since the top ten (10) students are the best, the cream of the crop of public schools.

In light of the vital significance of education in nation building, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -1 A11 :55

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

S. B. No. 233

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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AN ACT

MANDATING ALL STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO CONFER AUTOMATIC ADMISSION AND PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO THE TOP TEN (10) PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THEIR GRADUATING CLASS, ANNUALLY , AND ALLOCATE FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Iskolar Ng Bayan Act of 2013*"

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - The State recognizes the vital role of youth in nation building and shall promote their intellectual well-being. It is the policy of the State to protect and uphold the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Similarly, it is the policy of the State to provide quality education to the best of the best of our Public School students.

To achieve these aims, automatic admission to state colleges and universities shall be accorded and scholarship granted to the top ten (10) public high school students of their graduating class, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations of the state universities and colleges aimed at maintaining schools' standards, policies and requirements.

**SECTION 3. *Form of Scholarship Grants.*** - Scholarship grants are hereby granted in the form of:

- a. Free tuition fee and other school fees to the top ten (10) public high school students of their graduating class in all state colleges and universities;
- b. Exemption from payment of entrance exam fees for a maximum of three (3) of his/her chosen state college/university;
- c. Textbook allowance of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000) per academic year;
- d. Monthly living allowance of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000) for Full Scholarship.

**SECTION 4. *Top Ten (10) Rule.*** - High school students who graduate in the top ten (10) of their graduating class shall have automatic admission to state colleges and public universities. Class rank shall be based on the cumulative results at the final grading period.

**SECTION 5. *Requirements for Automatic Admission.***- Top ten (10) students who graduate in public high schools shall have automatic admission to state colleges and public universities if they meet the following conditions:

- a. The students graduated from public high schools within two years prior to the academic year for which the student is applying;
- b. The students submitted a complete application as defined by the state college or university before the expiration of their established deadline;
- c. The students' ranks shall be reported by the applicants' high school principal/administrators in a certificate bearing the school's name, location, number of students, rank of student in his/her graduating class and other relevant information;
- d. The students obtained the college entrance examination rating for scholarships as prescribed by the state college or university;
- e. A state college or university may limit the number of students admitted under this Act if the number of applicants eligible and applying for admission to the college or university exceeds by more than 5% of the average number of first-time freshmen admitted the previous two (2) academic years. Clear guidelines shall be established by the college or university for the selection of students.

**SECTION 6. *Annual Reporting.*** Each state college or university shall annually report to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Education (DEPED) the composition of the entering class of first-time freshmen students admitted under this Act. This report shall be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education and Department of Education on or before a date set by the Commission/Department.

**SECTION 7. *Allocation of Funds.*** - The funds for the scholarship grants covering fees and allowances mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of Section 3 of this Act, shall be appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the Commission on Higher Education.

**SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the speedy and effective implementation of this scholarship Act.

**SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,