

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. B. 298

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

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Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidize and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private school, especially to the underprivileged.

While there are existing scholarship programs for the specially gifted students, a study grant for members of the National Cultural Communities, and the CHED Scholarship Program, these programs provide only limited slots.

To date, there is no ambitious government program that takes care of the mass of secondary level graduates who want to pursue higher education, but fail to do so due to poverty or financial difficulties.

For this reason, this bill on student financial assistance program is introduced to provide educational assistance to secondary graduates who, because of poverty or financial difficulties, could not pursue higher education. This educational assistance program is designated for students of financially disadvantaged families and is intended more as an economic aid rather than a merit award.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is requested.

*Cynthia Villar*  
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
FOR STUDENTS OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES  
AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE**

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established a student financial assistance program  
2 in the collegiate level for poor but deserving students to be administered by an  
3 appropriate body to be determined by the Commission on Higher Education.  
4

5 SEC. 2. The term "economically disadvantaged but deserving students" who are  
6 qualified under this program shall mean those students of underprivileged families  
7 failing below the poverty line, as determined by the National Economic and  
8 Development Authority (NEDA), who are able and willing to continue and finish a  
9 degree course.  
10

11 SEC. 3. The beneficiaries under this program shall be entitled to a reasonable  
12 monthly stipend depending on costs of living in a particular educational institution, free  
13 tuition, book allowance and other miscellaneous fees to be determined by the  
14 administering agency.  
15

16 Sec. 4. The sum of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby authorized  
17 to be appropriated initially from the General Appropriations Act of the year following the  
18 enactment of this law. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued  
19 implementation of the Program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
20 Act.  
21

22 SEC. 5. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the  
23 Department of Education (DepEd), is hereby authorized to formulate the rules and  
24 regulations to implement this Act.  
25  
26

27 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least  
28 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
29  
30

31 Approved,  
32  
33