



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

13 JUL -8 P5:24

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**SENATE**

SENATE BILL NO. 662

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Education serves as the backbone of all industrialized and industrializing countries in the world today.

The framers of the 1987 Constitution made sure that education should be a priority thrust of the government by incorporating it in the supreme law as clearly enunciated under Article XIV, Section 1, which provides that "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."

Moreover, the 1987 Constitution stipulates further that the State should 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.

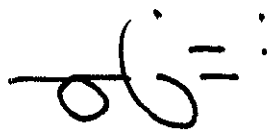
Considering the high cost of education in the private educational institutions and the decreasing subsidies in the State Universities and Colleges, large number of Filipino youth suffers the anxiety and uncertainty of not finishing their education. Should the State continue to neglect its duty to provide adequate support to poor but deserving students, the country may face an intellectual and moral drain in the future.

This bill seeks to set a mechanism and support system for the poor but deserving students so that they would be able to finish their education and provide the government the needed intellectuals for the development and growth of this country. Along with the other educational measures, which the author introduced in the Chamber, this bill will certainly provide a big relief to the large mass of students who are financially drained to continue their college education.

On the side of the private educational institutions, this mechanism of providing scholarship grants to intelligent but poor students in the universities and colleges, will certainly provide them competent graduates and future topnotchers in the various field of professional exams.

Given that situation, it would not only benefit the government but the private educational institutions as well. Thus, all educational institutions will be required to grant full tuition scholarships to at least 10% of its college student population.

It is for these reasons that the approval of this bill is fervently sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending from the left side of the first letter.

**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**



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**SENATE**

SENATE BILL NO. 662

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT TO AT LEAST TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THEIR STUDENT POPULATION WHO ARE POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 Scholarship Program for Poor but Deserving Students Act.**”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** – The State shall give priority to education, protect and promote the right of all citizens to qualify education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, there shall be provided scholarship grants for poor but deserving Filipino students.

**SECTION 3. Nature and Extent of Scholarship Grants** – College Scholarship grants are hereby extended in the form of free tuition fee to at least ten percent (10%) of the student population of all colleges and universities who are poor but deserving students.

**SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the speedy and effective implementation of this scholarship program.

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

Approved,