

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



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SENATE
S. No. 1337

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 2 (1) mandates that the State shall:

SEC. 2 (1). Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Though efforts have been made to improve the quality of our primary and secondary education, the Philippines has still a long way to go in meeting the global readiness standard for higher education. Many of our students remedy the situation in the higher education *fora*. To further complicate the matter, poverty has led the students to prolong their stay in the universities to be able to maintain a job while studying for their degrees.

By encouraging programs that assist remedial education in colleges and universities, we would be able to assist our students to cope with the ever increasing global standards. By encouraging programs that credits work programs, we allow our students to earn their degrees while maintaining jobs which assist their learning.

This bill seeks to establish a program that would encourage institutions of higher education to develop programs to remedy the shortcomings of our basic education and allow creditable work programs for our underprivileged students.*

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.



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SENATE
S. No. 1337

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1 AN ACT

2 PROVIDING GRANTS TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO IMPROVE REMEDIAL
3 EDUCATION, TO CUSTOMIZE REMEDIATION TO STUDENT CAREER GOALS, AND
4 TO HELP STUDENTS MOVE RAPIDLY FROM REMEDIATION INTO FOR-CREDIT
5 OCCUPATION PROGRAM COURSES AND PROGRAM COMPLETION

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Bridges from Jobs to Careers
7 Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Authorization of Program.* – The Secretary of Education, hereinafter
9 referred to as the “Secretary,” shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher
10 education for the purposes of improving remedial education, including English language
11 instruction, to customize remediation to student career goals, and to help students move rapidly
12 from remediation into for-credit occupational program courses and program completion. The
13 grants shall focus in particular on creating bridges to for-credit occupational certificate programs
14 that are articulated to degree programs,

15 SECTION 3. *Application.* – An eligible institution seeking a grant under this Act shall
16 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
17 information as the Secretary may require.

18 SECTION 4. *Priorities.* – The Secretary shall give priority to applications that are from
19 institutions of higher education in which not less than fifty (50) percent of the institution's
20 entering first-year students are enrolled in developmental courses to bring reading, writing, or

1 mathematics skills up to college-level; and propose to replicate practices that have proven
2 effective with adults and to applications that propose to collaborate with adult education
3 providers.

4 SECTION 5. *Peer Review.* – The Secretary shall convene a peer review process to review
5 applications for grants under this Act and to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding
6 the selection of grantees.

7 SECTION 6. *Mandatory Activity.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under this
8 Act shall use the grant funds to create workforce bridge programs that customize developmental
9 education curricula, including English language instruction, to the content of the for-credit
10 occupational certificate or degree programs, or clusters of programs, in which developmental
11 education students seek to enroll. Such bridge programs may include those that integrate the
12 curricula and the instruction of both remediation and college-level coursework or dual enroll
13 students in remediation and college-level coursework.

14 SECTION 7. *Permissible Activities.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under
15 this Act, in addition to creating workforce bridge programs, may use the grant funds to carry out
16 the following:

17 A. Design and implement innovative ways to improve retention in and completion of
18 developmental education courses, including but not limited to enrolling students in cohorts,
19 accelerating course content, integrating remediation and college-level curricula and instruction,
20 dual enrolling students in remediation and college-level courses, tutoring, providing counseling
21 and other supportive services, and giving small, material incentives for attendance and
22 performance.

23 B. In consultation with faculty in the appropriate departments, redesignating class
24 schedules to meet the needs of working adults, such as by creating evening, weekend, modular,
25 compressed, distance learning formats, or other alternative schedules.

1 C. Improving the quality of teaching in remedial courses through professional
2 development, reclassification of such teaching positions, or other means the eligible institution
3 determines appropriate.

4 D. Any other activities the eligible institution and the Secretary determine will
5 promote retention of and completion by students attending institutions of higher education.

6 E. Fully advise students on the range of options and programs available, which may
7 include: diploma; certification; 2-year degree; associate's degree; transfer degree to upper
8 division; and career options.

9 SECTION 8. *Grant Period.* – Grants made under this Act shall be for a period of not less
10 than thirty-six (36) months and not more than sixty (60) months.

11 SECTION 9. *Technical Assistance.* – The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to
12 grantees under this Act throughout the grant period.

13 SECTION 10. *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of program
14 impacts under the demonstration program, and shall disseminate to the public the findings from
15 the evaluation and information on best practices. The Secretary is encouraged to partner with
16 other providers of funds, such as private foundations, to allow for use of a random assignment
17 evaluation in at least one of the demonstration sites.

18 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
19 is necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

20 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
22 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,