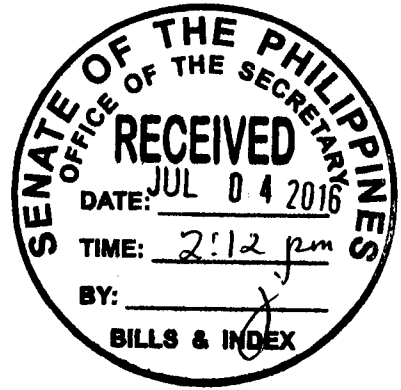


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



SENATE
S. B. 343

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH
DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Explanatory Note

It is not surprising that a young person, fresh out of college and aspiring to have a decent opportunity and livelihood, finds himself at a loss on how to pay for various pre-employment documents, clearances and applications required of him or her by a prospective employer. The requirements include Police or National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance, identification card or number from Social Security System (SSS), certification or community tax certificate from the local government, tax identification number (or TIN) and other fees to be paid, among others.

The situation is somewhat difficult and at times oppressive considering that the new graduates are usually seeking employment precisely to obtain a regular income for the first time and that by the time a student graduates, the family resources are often severely depleted because of the high costs of a college education.

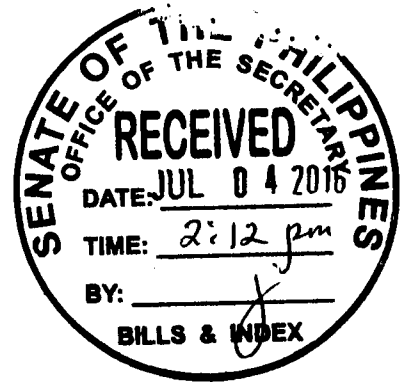
This bill seeks to address the situation illustrated above not by means of a dole-out but by a reasonable waiver of the fees collected by government for various clearances,

applications, licenses, and other documents from fresh graduates wanting to work and to be productive members of society. It is a simple measure that intends not only to provide relief but also to show the State's commitment to promote the interest of the youth. The waiver of these fees must be taken not as a loss of revenue for the government but as an investment in labor force, which is in its best interest to protect and promote.

The urgent passage of this of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "*Fresh Graduates Pre-*
2 *employment Assistance Act of 2016.*"

3
4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of
5 the youth. The State shall endeavor to provide the youth with opportunities for development
6 by creating policies that improve access to employment.

7
8 **Section 3. Waiver of fees and charges.** - All government agencies and
9 instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and
10 local government units (LGUs), shall not collect fees or charges from a fresh graduate
11 Filipino citizen; *Provided*, that such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application
12 for and the granting of licenses that serve as proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or
13 other document usually required in the course of employment; *Provided further*, that the
14 person is applying for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other
15 document within one (1) year after graduation from high school, college or any vocational or
16 technical course; *Provided, furthermore*, that the fees and charges to be waived shall not
17 include those collected in connection with the granting of a professional licensure

1 examination, by the Professional Regulation Commission or with granting of a Philippine
2 passport by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

3
4 **Section 4. *Proof of Graduation.*** - To avail of the waiver authorized this Act, a citizen
5 must submit to the government agency or instrumentality concerned a copy of his or her
6 diploma, certification, document or communication from the academic, vocational or
7 technical institution from which he or she has graduated, written or issued to the effect that
8 such person has indeed successfully completed the course required. The diploma,
9 certification, document, or communication should clearly state the date of graduation or
10 completion and the course completed or degree earned, and should be signed by the
11 institution's duly authorized representative.

12
13 Such copy of the diploma, certification, document, or communication submitted, even
14 if not original or certified true copy, shall serve as prima facie evidence of the fact and date of
15 graduation and shall be sufficient for the government agency to grant the waiver; provided,
16 that any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of graduation as
17 described in this Section, shall be liable under Article 172 (Falsification and Use of falsified
18 Documents) of the Revised Penal Code.

19
20
21 **Section 5. *Administrative Offense.*** - No government agency or instrumentality shall
22 issue unduly restrictive regulations for the carrying out of its provisions to render nugatory
23 the benefit of the waiver prescribed. Such shall constitute an administrative offense
24 punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

25
26 **Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission on Higher
27 Education (CHED) in consultation with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the
28 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall issue the relevant rules and
29 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

30
31 **Section 7. *Effectivity.*** - This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at
32 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

33
34 Approved,