



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

'16 SEP 29 A9:16

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 1175

---

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

---

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IN  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN STATE  
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As enshrined in the 1987 Constitution, it is the State's policy to provide quality education at all levels and to establish a system of grants, subsidies and incentives which shall be available to deserving students, especially the poor and underprivileged, in order to enable them to truly participate in the development of the society.

To fulfill this mandate, this bill seeks to widen the coverage of government scholarship grants by providing free college education to qualified students intending to enroll or who are already enrolled in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) courses offered in state universities and colleges (SUCs). This will give out-of-school youth and poor students the chance to receive quality education and later earn an ICT degree.

While this legislative proposal primarily seeks to help financially challenged students, it also seeks to enhance the public image of ICT as a vital component to national development and encourage young people to consider ICT as an alternative career. Likewise, this measure will nurture new breeds of ICT experts that would spearhead in improving and strengthening the information-communication infrastructure of the Philippines.

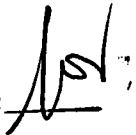
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator



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

'16 SEP 29 A9:16

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 1175

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IN  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN STATE  
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as "Free College Information and  
2           Communications Technology Act".

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to provide quality education  
5           to all qualified citizens at all levels of education and to establish a system of grants, subsidies and  
6           incentives which shall be available to deserving students, especially the poor and underprivileged,  
7           in order to enable them to truly participate in the development of a democratic society and share  
8           in the benefits therefrom.

9  
10           **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

- 11           A. *Free college education* refers to any college degree course or program in Information and
- 12           Communications Technology (ICT) offered in or conducted by state universities and
- 13           colleges (SUCs);
- 14  
15           B. *Other school fees* refer to fees which cover the other necessary costs supportive of
- 16           instruction such as medical and dental, athletic, library and laboratory fees;
- 17  
18           C. *Qualified beneficiaries* refer to persons who have completed secondary education in public
- 19           high schools;
- 20  
21           D. *State universities and colleges* refer to institutions of higher learning, including specialized
- 22           schools maintained and funded by the national government; and
- 23  
24           E. *Tuition fee* refers to the fee representing direct costs of instruction and training facilities.
- 25  
26

27           **SEC. 4. Provision of Free ICT College Education.** - The Commission on Higher  
28           Education (CHED) shall provide for free college education to qualified students intending to enroll

1 or who are already enrolled in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) courses  
2 offered in state universities and colleges (SUCs).  
3

4 **SEC. 5. *Qualified beneficiaries.*** - Qualified beneficiaries of the free ICT College  
5 Education program are students intending to enroll or who are already enrolled in Information and  
6 Communications Technology (ICT) courses offered in state universities and colleges (SUCs).  
7

8 They shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and other school fees and shall be entitled to  
9 other incentives or subsidies as may be granted in accordance with the rules and regulations to be  
10 promulgated to carry out the provisions of this Act. However, fees related to membership in student  
11 organizations or college activities may be collected: *Provided*, That nonpayment of these fees shall  
12 not in any case prejudice the enrollment or graduation of a qualified beneficiary: *Provided, further*,  
13 That nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the reduction or removal of any benefit which the  
14 national or local government may grant to qualified beneficiaries prior to the enactment of this  
15 Act.  
16

17 **SEC. 6. *Place of Study and Admission.*** - The qualified beneficiary shall take the free ICT  
18 college education in the chosen SUC situated in the city or province of residence of the student.  
19

20 Should there be no SUC in the city or province where the qualified beneficiary resides, or should  
21 the university or college facilities therein be unable to accommodate all qualified beneficiaries, a  
22 student may avail of the free college benefit in any SUC within the region. In the absence of SUCs  
23 within the region where a qualified beneficiary is residing, enrollment in any SUC in the nearest  
24 region may be allowed.  
25

26 **SEC. 7. *Implementation of Free ICT College Education.*** - The free ICT College  
27 Education program as provided in this Act shall commence in the school year following the  
28 approval of this Act.  
29

30 **SEC. 8. *Disqualification.*** - In case of grade failure in the majority of the subjects enrolled  
31 in during the course of the study for two (2) consecutive semesters, the student-beneficiary shall  
32 be disqualified from availment of the free ICT college education.  
33

34 **SEC. 9. *Penal Provisions.*** - It shall be unlawful for any SUC to refuse admission of any  
35 qualified beneficiary for any reason other than the limitation of funds and facilities. Any higher  
36 education institution (HEI) official or employee found violating the provisions of this section shall  
37 be subject to suspension.  
38

39 In addition, the CHED may impose disciplinary action or sanctions against an HEI official or  
40 employee violating this Act pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as  
41 the "Higher Education Act of 1994".  
42

43 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act  
44 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
45

1           **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the  
2 effectivity of this Act, the CHED, in consultation with the association of SUCs, shall promulgate  
3 the rules and regulations implementing its provisions.  
4

5           **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,  
6 the remainder of this Act or the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.  
7

8           **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of  
9 this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.  
10

11           **SEC 13. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
12 Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*