



SENATE

S. No. 1431

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PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES  
ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT; EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE; AND  
FINANCE WITH SENATOR VILLANUEVA AS AUTHOR

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AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE LABOR FORCE  
COMPETENCIES COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM,  
ESTABLISHING FREE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL  
AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as  
4 the “Tulong-Trabaho Act of 2017”.

5 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Philippine  
6 Constitution provides that the State shall promote a just  
7 and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity  
8 and independence of the nation, and free the people from  
9 poverty through policies that provide adequate social

1 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of  
2 living, and an improved quality of life for all. For this  
3 purpose, the Constitution encourages nonformal, informal,  
4 and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning,  
5 independent, and out-of-school study programs, particularly  
6 those that respond to community needs.

7 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - The objectives of this Act shall  
8 be:

9 a) To strengthen the qualifications of the Filipino  
10 workforce to meet the challenges of the rapidly evolving  
11 workplaces and work structures;

12 b) To provide for more innovative approaches to  
13 education and training linked to the requirement of  
14 industry to primarily address unemployment and job-skill  
15 mismatch;

16 c) To facilitate access to quality technical education  
17 and training; and

18 d) To encourage the participation of industry and  
19 communities in competencies formation and upgrading

1 towards a more competitive Filipino workforce.

2           SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms  
3 shall be used in this Act:

4           a) *Competency* refers to the standard knowledge,  
5 skills, attitude, and values required to complete a work  
6 activity in a particular job, trade, or occupation.

7           b) *Competency-based learning system* refers to a  
8 system by which the learner is trained on the basis of  
9 demonstrated ability.

10          c) *Direct training expenses* refers to item of costs that  
11 are specifically traced to, or caused by the training, and  
12 includes consumables used in the course of the program,  
13 training supplies, materials, utilities, venue and  
14 equipment, trainers' fees and other related expenditures.

15          d) *Formal education* refers to the systematic and  
16 deliberate process of hierarchically structured and  
17 sequential learning corresponding to the general concept of  
18 elementary and secondary level of schooling. At the end of

1 each level, the learner needs a certification in order to  
2 enter or advance to the next level.

3 e) *Industry Board* or *Body* refers to industry  
4 organizations recognized by TESDA according to set  
5 guidelines, and those that are duly authorized to receive  
6 funding in accordance with this Act.

7 f) *Informal Education* refers to a lifelong process of  
8 learning by which every person acquires and accumulates  
9 knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights from daily  
10 experiences at home, at work, at play and from life itself.

11 g) *Philippine TVET Competency Assessment and*  
12 *Certification System* refers to a quality-assured system in  
13 recognition of the attainment of competencies (knowledge,  
14 skills, attitudes and values) as referred to the competency  
15 standards set for middle-level occupation. It is the process  
16 of determining the qualification level of a person and a tool  
17 in identifying the training needs of a person with  
18 competency gaps.

1           h) *Program* refers to the Philippine Labor Force  
2 Competencies Competitiveness Program established in  
3 accordance with this Act.

4           i) *TESDA* refers to the Technical Education and  
5 Skills Development Authority.

6           j) *Technical Vocational Education and Training*  
7 (*TVET*) refers to the education or training process  
8 involving general education, the study of technologies and  
9 related sciences, acquisition of practical skills relating to  
10 occupations in various sectors of economic and social life,  
11 and comprises formal (organized programs as part of the  
12 school system) and nonformal (organized classes outside  
13 the school system) approaches.

14           SEC. 5. *Philippine Labor Force Competencies*  
15 *Competitiveness Program.* – There shall be established a  
16 Philippine Labor Force Competencies Competitiveness  
17 Program in accordance with Section 16 of this Act, and  
18 which shall be funded through the Tulong-Trabaho Fund  
19 created in accordance with Section 6 of this Act.

## ARTICLE II

## THE TULONG TRABAHO FUND

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3       SEC. 6. *Tulong-Trabaho Fund.* – There shall be  
4 established a Tulong-Trabaho Fund that shall provide  
5 qualified recipients with access to TVET training programs  
6 through the full payment of the selected programs' training  
7 fees, as well as the possibility of providing additional  
8 financial assistance such as transportation allowance and  
9 laboratory fees, as needed.

10       SEC. 7. *Funding.* – The funds necessary for the  
11 implementation of this Act shall be included in the General  
12 Appropriations Act. The appropriated amount shall be  
13 sufficient for free technical education and training and  
14 shall be used to fund the training of qualified applicants  
15 for qualifications in key employment generating sectors.

16       SEC. 8. *Scope of Financial Assistance.* – The Tulong-  
17 Trabaho Fund shall be used to pay the fees of qualified  
18 recipients in Selected Training Programs (STPs) selected  
19 in accordance with Section 9 of this Act.

1           SEC. 9. *Management of the Tulong-Trabaho Fund.* –

2   The TESDA shall be primarily responsible for managing  
3   the Tulong-Trabaho Fund. For this purpose, the TESDA  
4   Board shall promulgate the policies and guidelines to  
5   implement the Program.

6           The TESDA Board shall also have the power to  
7   receive donations from both government and  
8   nongovernment organizations to be used strictly and  
9   exclusively for the beneficiaries and qualified applicants of  
10  the Tulong-Trabaho Fund.

11          The TESDA Board shall provide the guidelines to  
12  determine the qualified beneficiaries entitled to receive  
13  financial assistance from the Tulong-Trabaho Fund.

14          SEC. 10. *Determination of Selected Training*  
15  *Programs.* – The TESDA Board shall approve the final list  
16  of STPs eligible to receive funding from the Tulong-  
17  Trabaho Fund based on the initial recommendation of the  
18  TESDA Secretariat.

1 STPs may be school-based, center-based, community-  
2 based, enterprise-based or web-based programs. The STPs  
3 shall initially be determined based on the following  
4 considerations:

5 a) The latest issuances of Labor Market Intelligence  
6 Reports;

7 b) Quantitative and qualitative data on employment  
8 opportunities to be provided by the Department of Labor  
9 and Employment;

10 c) Quantitative and qualitative data on jobs and skills  
11 matching, as determined by the TESDA;

12 d) The Human Resource Development Roadmaps; and

13 e) Other quantitative and qualitative studies to be  
14 determined necessary by the TESDA Board in its selection  
15 of STPs.

16 *Provided, That the TESDA Board may, in its*  
17 *discretion, adopt additional bases to achieve the objectives*  
18 *of this Act.*



1           The TESDA Board shall release the initial list of  
2 available STPs within two (2) months from the effectivity  
3 of this Act, and shall update such list in accordance with  
4 the provisions of this Act.

5           SEC. 11. *Determination of Qualified Recipients.* – The  
6 industry boards or bodies seeking funding for STPs shall  
7 submit a list of trainees who have requested assistance  
8 from the Tulong-Trabaho Fund to the TESDA Regional  
9 Directors. The TESDA Regional Directors shall assess the  
10 recipients and submit a list of qualified recipients to the  
11 TESDA Director General for his/her approval.

12           The list of qualified recipients shall be periodically  
13 updated depending on the availability of the Tulong-  
14 Trabaho Fund and the number of STPs.

15           SEC. 12. *Evaluation of Assistance Given to Schools*  
16 *and Training Centers.* – The TESDA Board shall  
17 periodically evaluate schools and training centers that  
18 receive funding from the Tulong-Trabaho Fund. These  
19 recipient-industry boards shall ensure that at least eighty

1 percent (80%) of the beneficiaries of the Tulong-Trabaho  
2 Fund are able to pass the Philippine TVET Competency  
3 Assessment and Certification System. Failure to meet the  
4 passing rate shall subject the school or training center to  
5 performance review and audit by the TESDA Board.

6 The TESDA Board shall have the discretion to  
7 provide other criteria and standards to determine whether  
8 the school or center shall continue to receive financial  
9 assistance through the Tulong-Trabaho Fund.

10 SEC. 13. *Public Online Registry.* – The TESDA shall  
11 create a registry of schools and training centers that offers  
12 STPs, a database of qualified recipients of financial  
13 assistance and a list of graduates of these programs. These  
14 lists shall be accessible through the website of the TESDA.

15 SEC. 14. *Evaluation.* – The TESDA Board shall  
16 release an annual report to be made available to the public  
17 on the management of the Tulong-Trabaho Fund, including  
18 the appropriations from the General Appropriations Act,  
19 donations from private and other organizations,

1 expenditures, performance of the qualified recipients and  
2 other pertinent information as may be necessary in  
3 accordance with the principle of fair and full disclosure. An  
4 impact evaluation may be conducted from time to time.

5 ARTICLE III

6 DEVELOPMENT MODALITIES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

7 SEC. 15. *Primary Duty of the TESDA.* – The TESDA  
8 shall design and implement the support systems necessary  
9 to achieve the objectives of this Act, particularly the  
10 development of additional TVET programs and the  
11 improvement of existing TVET programs.

12 SEC. 16. *Support Systems for the Development of the*  
13 *Program.* – Consistent with the recognition that a TVET  
14 program must be based on developing competencies and  
15 focused on learning outcomes to be relevant to changing  
16 demands, the TESDA shall ensure that qualified recipients  
17 of the Tulong-Trabaho Fund are appropriately trained and  
18 their competencies are regularly updated.

1 For this purpose, appropriate standards, proper  
2 planning, trainers' training and certification, competency  
3 assessment and certification and quality assurance system  
4 shall be put in place to ensure that entrants to the  
5 Program shall be sufficiently equipped. In addition, the  
6 development of modalities and programs for employed  
7 workers and accumulation of new learning modules shall  
8 be undertaken to upgrade competencies of employed  
9 workers.

10 The participation of industries and engagement of  
11 local governments shall also be sought.

#### 12 ARTICLE IV

#### 13 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

14 SEC. 17. *Oversight Committee.* - A joint oversight  
15 committee, composed of the chairpersons of the Committee  
16 on Labor, Employment and Human Resources  
17 Development of the Senate and the House of  
18 Representatives, shall be convened in order to review the  
19 performance of the Tulong-Trabaho Fund.

1           SEC. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The  
2 TESDA shall, in consultation with relevant stakeholders,  
3 issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act  
4 within a period of ninety (90) days after the effectivity of  
5 this Act.

6           SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or  
7 part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the  
8 remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
9 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

10          SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential  
11 decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction,  
12 administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
13 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby  
14 repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

15          SEC. 21. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect  
16 fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2)  
17 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,