

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

'18 MAR 19 P 4:17

SENATE  
S. No. 1752

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*[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING A UNIFIED SYSTEM OF EXTENDING AND PROCESSING**  
**SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS, SUBSIDIES,**  
**BURSARIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT WINDOWS FOR THE**  
**FILIPINO YOUTH, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Explanatory Note<sup>1</sup>**

In June 2017, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) released a report in relation to "out-of-school children and youth" (OSCY) based on the results of the 2016 "Annual Poverty Indicators Survey" or APIS. Almost 10% of the estimated 39 million Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years old were OSCY. Said study/survey/report found out that:

- Of the 3.8 million OSCY, 87.3% were 16 to 24 years old, 7.7% were 12 to 15 years old and 5% were 6 to 11 years old. The proportion of OSCY was higher among females than males.
- The most common reasons among OSCY for not attending school were marriage or family matters (42.3%), high cost of education or financial concerns (20.2%), and lack of personal interest (19.7%). Among females, marriage or family matters was the main reason for not attending school with 59% while it is the lack of personal interest among males with 36.5%. Nationwide, about 53% of OSCY belong to families whose income fall at the bottom 30% based on their per capita income.

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<sup>1</sup> A counterpart bill has already been filed by 1-Ang Edukasyon Partylist Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. in the House of Representatives.

It bears stressing that half of the 3.8 million OSCY are members of families whose income fall at the bottom 30% based on their per capita income. Ever since, formal education had taken the backseat for our countrymen with insufficient and/or low income. Formal education had not been considered as a priority and/or necessity for our less fortunate *kababayans*. Though formal education leads to a lot of opportunities, generation of income and future means of livelihood, the investment needed for it is too gargantuan. Thus, the cycle of poverty becomes very difficult to break.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to establish an inter-agency government body that shall have the following key duties and/or functions:

- a. Generate, safe-keep and update a comprehensive database of out of school children and youth (OSCY) and other qualified individuals nationwide, including pertinent data and/or circumstances of said OSCY;
- b. Identify and pin-point the reasons, issues and/or controversies that are keeping children and youth out of schools and formal education, as well as the needs of OSCY;
- c. Reach out to the OSCY and other qualified individuals and gather information and/or data that could help them get back to formal education;
- d. Proactively and effectively disseminate information regarding existing regular and/or special scholarships, educational grants and the like to OSCY and qualified individuals;
- e. Proactively and effectively generate and/or solicit scholarships, educational grants and the like for OSCY and qualified individuals; and
- f. Assist OSCY and qualified individuals who opt to avail of scholarships, educational grants and the like and facilitate with the necessary procedures and/or processes.

It is the goal of this proposed legislative measure to bring available existing and future free education to OSCY and other qualified individuals for the latter to meaningfully avail of the same in an attempt to slowly significantly bring down the number of OSCY and take them out of the cycle of poverty.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**GRACE POE**





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FILIPINO YOUTH, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP  
COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. – *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National  
2 Scholarship Commission Act of 2018”.

3 Sec. 2. – *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the  
4 right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps  
5 to make such education accessible to all.

6 The State shall also establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants,  
7 student loan programs, subsidies, bursaries, and other incentives which shall be  
8 available to deserving students and individuals in both public and private schools,  
9 especially to the underprivileged.

10 It is the goal of the State to substantially bring down the number of out of  
11 school youth and encourage them to continue seeking formal education, with the  
12 goal of expanding their horizons with additional opportunities in the future, thereby  
13 fully maximizing their full potential.

14 Sec. 3. – *Duties and Functions of the National Scholarship Commission.* – The  
15 following shall be the duties and functions of the National Scholarship Commission  
16 (the “Commission”):

1 a. Generate, safe-keep and update a comprehensive  
2 database of out of school children and youth (OSCY) and other  
3 qualified individuals nationwide, including pertinent data and/or  
4 circumstances of said OSCY;

5 b. Identify and pin-point the reasons, issues and/or  
6 controversies that are keeping children and youth out of schools and  
7 formal education, as well as the needs of OSCY;

8 c. Reach out to the OSCY and other qualified individuals  
9 and gather information and/or data that could help them get back to  
10 formal education;

11 d. Proactively and effectively disseminate information  
12 regarding existing regular and/or special scholarships, educational  
13 grants and the like to OSCY and qualified individuals;

14 e. Proactively and effectively generate and/or solicit  
15 scholarships, educational grants and the like for OSCY and qualified  
16 individuals; and

17 f. Assist OSCY and qualified individuals who opt to avail of  
18 scholarships, educational grants and the like and facilitate with the  
19 necessary procedures and/or processes.

20 Sec. 4. – *Composition of the National Scholarship Commission.* – The  
21 Commission shall be composed and governed by the following:

22 a. The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd),  
23 or his/her duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the  
24 Commission;

25 b. The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education  
26 (CHED), or his/her duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson  
27 of the Commission;

28 c. The Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills  
29 Development Authority (TESDA), or his/her duly authorized  
30 representative, as a co-chairperson of the Commission;



1           d.     The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and  
2     Development (DSWD), or his/her duly authorized representative, as  
3     member of the Commission;

4           e.     The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and  
5     Local Government (DILG), or his/her duly authorized representative, as  
6     a member of the Commission.

7           f.     The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC)  
8     as a member of the Commission; and

9           g.     A representative from the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK),  
10    who shall be elected by all SK Provincial Federation Presidents, as a  
11    member of the commission.

12        Sec. 5. – *Staffing and the National Scholarship Commission’s Secretariat.* –  
13    The Commission’s staff, secretariat and personnel shall be appointed by the  
14    Commission. The Commission shall convene immediately upon the effectivity of this  
15    Act to organize and come up with its internal rules and procedures necessary for its  
16    daily operations and the carrying out of its duties and functions as spelled out in this  
17    Act.

18        Sec. 6. – *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission shall  
19    likewise promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act  
20    within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

21        Sec. 7. – *Appropriation.* – The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of  
22    this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the  
23    enactment of this Act. In the meantime, the initial funding, prior to the inclusion in  
24    the regular budget, shall be provided from the existing budgets of the DepEd, CHED  
25    and TESDA.

26        Sec. 8. – *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations  
27    or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
28    modified or amended accordingly.

29        Sec. 9. – *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is  
30    declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected  
31    thereby shall remain in force and effect.

1           Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
2 following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a  
3 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,