



**SENATE**

'19 OCT 14 P3:54

S. No. 1117

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF  
FARMERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is mainly an agricultural country. However, it has been an undying irony that farmers in this country remain marginalized. Those who should have been the strongest and probably the richest sector are those who have now less in life.

Despite them comprising more than sixty percent (60%) of the country's workforce, their welfare remains not being carefully promoted. The sad fact is that they remain neglected. While other sectors in the workforce continuously enjoy various kinds of benefits, farmers experience incessant indigence.

This proposed measure attempts to give farmers a kind of assistance that has not yet been afforded to them. This bill seeks to give full scholarship to dependents of farmers. This might help them cope with present circumstances that contribute to their poverty. This is anchored on our view that education is a tool to address poverty and this is a tool for economic improvement.

This bill is definitely a far-cry from the long-desired economic development for our farmers, but this may be a first step towards the achievement of such. In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**



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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF  
FARMERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. *Full scholarship for Children and Dependents of Farmers.* – Children  
2 and dependents of farmers listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in  
3 Agriculture (RSBSA), the Farmers' Database consisting of records of all farmers  
4 covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation shall be entitled to full  
5 scholarship from basic education until their completion of tertiary education subject to  
6 rules and regulations as mandated by this Act.

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8 The benefits shall include all expenses for education, whether in public or  
9 private school, such as but not limited to tuition fees, miscellaneous and other fees,  
10 board and lodging, transportation expenses, allowances for books, clothing and food  
11 and other similar expenses.

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13 Sec. 2. *Special Fund for Educational Benefits.* – In order to carry out the  
14 provisions of this Act, there is hereby established a Special Fund, to be known as the  
15 "Educational Benefits for Farmers Fund," in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos  
16 (P50,000,000.00). Such fund shall be perpetually maintained and used exclusively for  
17 the benefit of children and dependents of farmers; *Provided*, that not more than 5% of  
18 this Fund shall be used by the Board, herein created, for the administration of the  
19 Special Fund.



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Sec. 3. *Farmers' Educational Benefit Board.* – There shall be created an inter-agency Farmers' Educational Benefit Board or the Board, composed of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Local Government, the President of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, and three (3) representatives from the farmers selected from a verified procedure of selection as agreed upon by the farmers.

The Board shall have the primary responsibility of managing and supervising the Fund. It shall also formulate policies, implementing rules and regulations, guidelines and other related functions to oversee, manage and supervise the operations of the Fund. It shall also be responsible in formulating the mechanics, scope and limitations, and requirements for the scholarship program.

There shall be established a secretariat of the Board which shall provide administrative support to the Board and shall perform functions as authorized by the Board. The secretariat shall implement the policies approved by the Board, including but not limited to the screening, admission, qualification, disqualification and other-scholarship-related availment processes.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency, with PCIC, DILG, various non-government organizations and other stakeholders shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

1            *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*