

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



24 JUL -8 A8:23

SENATE

S.B. No. 2720

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR STUDENTS, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

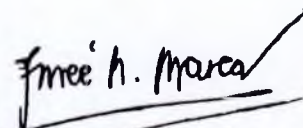
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*the State shall protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.*" Despite this constitutional mandate, Filipinos' equitable access to quality education remains evasive all throughout the years of their formal education.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), nearly 11 million Filipino children and youth are not attending formal school. The PSA said that 10.7 million or 25%, out of 42.8 million household population aged five to twenty-four (24) years old, are out-of-school children and youth. One of the primary reasons for their non-attendance was financial constraints or high education cost.

To help alleviate the financial burden of Filipino students and their families due to the rising cost of education, this measure seeks to grant privileges, benefits, and discounts to students.

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

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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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 the “*Magna Carta for*  
2 *Students’ Act.*”  
3

4       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote  
5 the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps  
6 to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall establish,  
7 maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education  
8 relevant to the needs of the people and society.  
9

10       Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – Any Filipino student enrolled in basic education, bachelor’s  
11 degree programs at the college level and post-secondary non-degree technical-  
12 vocational courses shall be covered under this Act.  
13

14       Sec. 4. *Privileges, Benefits, and Discounts.* – Filipino students shall be entitled  
15 to the following:  
16

- 17       a. A ten percent (10%) discount on textbooks and other school supplies as well  
18 as electronic devices, such as but not limited to computers, laptops, tablets  
19 and other electronic devices, which may hereinafter be prescribed, used  
20 primarily by the student for online or distance learning;  
21  
22       b. A twenty percent (20%) discount on domestic regular fares, upon personal  
23 presentation of their duly issued school identification cards (IDs) or current  
24 validated enrollment form, supported by the prescribed government-issued

1 identification document, as provided in Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11314  
2 otherwise known as the "Student Fare Discount Act";  
3

4 c. Counseling and psychosocial services which include individual and peer  
5 group, including family counseling, as may be necessary. The counselling  
6 and psychosocial services shall focus on the resolution of personal  
7 relationship and role conflicts;  
8

9 d. Livelihood development services which include Technical Education and Skills  
10 Development Authority (TESDA) trainings, livelihood skills, value orientation,  
11 and the provision of seed capital or job placements, as may be necessary;  
12

13 e. Critical incidence stress debriefing which includes preventive stress  
14 management strategy designed to assist students in coping with crisis  
15 situations and cases of abuse;  
16

17 f. Special assistance for students in need of protection which include temporary  
18 shelter, counseling, legal assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-  
19 building, crisis management, and spiritual enrichment; and  
20

21 g. Medical assistance implemented by the DOH through their retained hospitals  
22 and medical centers, and the LGUs through their respective provincial,  
23 district, city, and municipal hospitals and rural health units (RHUs).  
24

25 Sec. 5. *Cash Aid for Indigent Students.* – In addition to the privileges, benefits,  
26 and discounts provided in Sec. 4 of this Act, indigent students shall also be granted a  
27 quarterly cash aid to cover education-related expenses, as follows:

28 a. Php 1,000.00 for elementary students;

29 b. Php 2,000.00 for high school students; and

30 c. Php 3,000.00 for college students or those taking vocational courses.  
31

32 "Education-related expenses" shall refer to expenses related to the education  
33 of a student such as books, school supplies, uniforms, reproduction of materials,  
34 electronic devices necessary for education and other fees such as for practical teaching  
35 devices student publication, yearbook, insurance, and student trust fund, among  
36 others.  
37

38 For purposes of this Act, those whose parents have a gross annual income of  
39 not more than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,000.00) shall be considered  
40 as indigent students. *Provided that*, only two (2) students per family may avail of such  
41 cash aid. *Provided further that*, the previously mentioned gross annual threshold shall  
42 be subject to review by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)  
43 every three (3) years.



1           Sec. 6. *Lead Agency on the Grant of Quarterly Cash Aid.* – The Department of  
2 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall take the lead in the implementation of  
3 the quarterly cash aid, as provided in Section 5 of this Act, in close coordination with  
4 NEDA and other relevant government agencies.  
5

6           Sec. 7. *Grounds for Qualifications and Disqualifications for the Quarterly Cash*  
7 *Aid for Indigent Students.* – The DSWD, Department of Education (DepEd), Technical  
8 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Commission on Higher  
9 Education (CHED) shall identify the qualifications and disqualifications of indigent  
10 students from the quarterly cash aid, as provided in Sec. 5 of this Act, in conformity  
11 with its implementing rules and regulations.  
12

13           Sec. 8. *Tax Incentives.* – Discounts granted by the establishments to the  
14 students shall be treated as allowable deductions from their gross income in the  
15 computation of the income tax in accordance with the provisions of the National  
16 Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended by R.A. No. 10963, otherwise known as  
17 the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN)."  
18

19           Sec. 9. *Flexible Classes Schedule.* – The universities, colleges, and schools shall  
20 provide for a flexible schedule for students. Provided that, the same shall not affect the  
21 student's productivity.  
22

23           Sec. 10. *Non-Discrimination of Students.* – No university, college, and/or school  
24 shall discriminate against any student or student applicant with respect to the academic  
25 terms and conditions on account of his or her status.  
26

27           Sec. 11. *Medical Assistance.* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall develop a  
28 comprehensive health care program for students in accordance with R.A. No. 11223  
29 otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act". The program shall be implemented  
30 by the DOH through their retained hospitals and medical centers, and the LGUs through  
31 their respective provincial, district, city, and municipal hospitals and rural health units  
32 (RHUs).  
33

34           Sec. 12. *Database of all Students.* – The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, shall  
35 establish and maintain a centralized database of all students which shall be annually  
36 updated by each accordingly.  
37

38           Sec. 13. *Record and Maintenance of Indigent Students Database.* – The DSWD,  
39 in consultation with the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, shall establish and maintain a  
40 centralized database of all indigent students who have been accredited, in accordance  
41 with this Act. To this end, the LGUs shall submit the list of students receiving benefits  
42 under this Act to the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA as the case may be, on a quarterly  
43 basis.  
44

1 In cases of multiple entries or other badges of fraud, the DepEd, CHED or TESDA  
2 shall notify the concerned LGU for its appropriate action.  
3

4 Sec. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from  
5 the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, DepEd, TESDA and CHED, in coordination with  
6 the Department of Finance (DOF) and NEDA, shall issue the rules and regulations  
7 necessary for the implementation of this Act.  
8

9 Sec. 15. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
10 this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments and/or agencies  
11 in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).  
12

13 Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
14 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
15 repealed or modified accordingly.  
16

17 Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
19 remain in force and effect.  
20

21 Sec. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
22 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
23 general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*