

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

6 AUG -7 P4:00

SENATE
S.B. No. 2433

RECEIVED BY: JWY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1, provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

It further provides in the same Article, Section 2 (3) that:

The State shall:

(3) Establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the under-privileged;

However, even though the government wants to give each and every *deserving student* a scholarship grant or a financial aid for them to finish tertiary education, it cannot possibly do so for lack of funds. To address the problem of lack of funds and maintaining a scholarship program for deserving students, both the students and the government should meet half-way. In other words, the government will provide additional funds to those who are already working while studying part-time. In that way, the government can help more deserving students as compared to a program where the government shoulders everything. In addition, this method also encourages students not to rely too much on government and find a way to help themselves.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

6 AUG -7 P4:00

SENATE
S.B. No. **2433**

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
GRANTING FINANCIAL AID TO DESERVING PART-TIME STUDENTS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Part-Time Student Grant Act of 2006.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. In this regard, the State shall provide funds to help part-time students to finish their tertiary education while they are working.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term –

- (1) “Commission” means the Commission on Higher Education;
- (2) “Financial need” means need as determined by the Commission based upon a need analysis standard established by the Commission. Such standard shall take into consideration the student's current annual income and exclude his or her home equity;
- (3) “Part-time students” means a student taking not less than three (3) semester hours and not more than eleven (11) semester hours per semester, or the equivalent for a quarter or term. The term covers only part-time students who are working while studying.

SECTION 4. *Grant Program; Establishment and Purpose.* – A grant program is established by the government to foster the pursuit of tertiary education by part-time, independent students who have financial need.

SECTION 5. *Participation in Grant Program; Eligibility.* – A person is eligible to participate in the grant program if he or she meets all of the following:

- (1) Is a part-time student.
- (2) Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a university or college of not less than nine (9) months duration leading to a degree or certificate from a degree granting educational institution that is approved by the Commission.
- (3) Has resided continuously in this country for the immediately preceding twelve (12) months and is not considered a resident of any other country.
- (4) Is not incarcerated in a corrections institution.
- (5) Has complied with this Act and the rules promulgated under this Act by the Commission.
- (6) Is a Philippine citizen.
- (7) Is not enrolled in an institution whose primary purpose is to prepare students for ordination or appointment as a member of the clergy of a church, denomination, or religious association, order, or sect.
- (8) Is not in default on a loan guaranteed by the Commission.
- (9) Is shown by the school that he/she is enrolled in to be making satisfactory academic progress.

SECTION 6. *Total Amount Granted to Educational Institution; Use of Funds.* – The total of the amount granted to an educational institution shall be proportionate to the number of needy

independent students eligible for this program enrolled at the institution for the most recent year for which statistics are available. Funds provided to eligible schools shall be used for awards to students, not for administration of the program.

SECTION 7. Maximum Grant to Eligible Student; Priority; Effect of Other Scholarships or Grant Awards. – (1) The Commission shall determine the maximum amount an eligible student can receive per academic year.

(2) If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the money available, priority shall be given to persons with the greatest financial need as determined by each educational institution.

(3) A student who is already receiving a scholarship or grant award, may be eligible for funds under this Act if the total amount of the student's scholarships and grants is less than the student's financial need. A student's scholarship and grant awards may be increased with funds from the program under this act up to the level of the maximum grant as provided in this Act.

SECTION 8. Gifts, Grants, Bequests, Donations, And Devises; Acceptance Authorized; Annual Report. – The Commission may accept gifts, grants, bequests, donations, and devises, from whatever sources, of real, personal, or mixed property and money for the purposes described in this act. The Commission shall prepare an annual report of all gifts, grants, bequests, donations, and devises for the governor and the legislature.

SECTION 9. Promulgation of Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Board shall make reasonable rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient administration of this Act within six (6) months from the time that this Act takes effect.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. *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.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,