

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

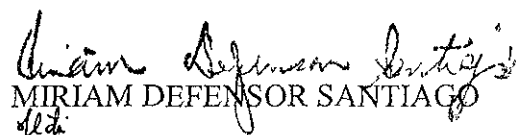
SENATE
S.B. No. 123

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Quality education is expensive and not everybody can afford it. It is a sad reality that although education is accessible to most students since we are provided with state schools and universities, this cheap alternative comes with the cost of a poor education system.

This bill seeks to establish a grant program for certain part-time, independent students, and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and institutions of higher education, in order for quality education to be affordable for everybody.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 3003

RECEIVED TO

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO PART-TIME AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

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, Independent Students Grant Act of 2007.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide a quality education for all and establish a grant program to foster the pursuit of postsecondary education by part-time, independent students who have financial need.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms* - As used in this section, the term –

(1) “Commission” means the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines.

(2) “Financial Need” means need as determined by the institution 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) “Independent student” refers to a student who finances his/her education expenses on his/her own, without any financial assistance from anybody, including family.

(4) “Part-time” means not less than 3 semester hours and not more than 11 semester hours per semester, or the equivalent for a quarter or term.

SECTION 4. *Eligibility to Participate in a Grant Program.* – A person is eligible to participate in the grant program if he or she meets all of the following:

(a) Is a part-time student.

(b) Is an independent student.

(c) Has obtained a high school diploma for at least the 2 preceding years.

(d) Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an undergraduate program of not less than 9 months duration leading to a college degree, in an educational institution that is approved and sanctioned by CHED.

(e) Has resided continuously in the Philippines for the immediately preceding 12 months and is not considered a resident of any other country.

(f) Has good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude;

(g) Has complied with this act and the rules promulgated under this act by the commission.

(h) Is a Filipino citizen or permanent resident of the Philippines.

(i) 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.

(j) Is not in default on a loan guaranteed by the commission or any government entity or agency.

(k) Is shown by the school to be making satisfactory academic progress.

SECTION 5. *Total Amount Granted to Educational Institutions; 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 6. *Maximum Grant to Eligible Student; Priority; Effect of Other Scholarships or Grant Awards.* –

(1) Upon application of an eligible student, an educational institution shall grant to the student an amount of not more than PhP 30,000.00 per academic year for not more than a 12-month period at any given educational institution.

(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 receives a state university scholarship award or who receives other scholarships or grant awards, 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 subsection (1).

SECTION 7. *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 8. The commission shall promulgate rules to implement this Act.

SECTION 9. *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 10. *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 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,