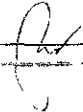


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 21 11:34

SENATE  
S. No. 1688

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 2 (1) mandates that the State shall:

SEC. 2 (1). Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Philippines is the only country that maintains a 10-year mandatory schooling requirement, as compared to the 12-year standards in other countries. Though efforts have been made to improve the quality of our primary and secondary education, we have still a long way to go in meeting the global readiness standard for higher education. Many of our students remedy the situation in the higher education fora. To further complicate the matter, poverty has led the students to prolong their stay in the universities to be able to maintain a job while studying for their degrees.

By encouraging programs that assist remedial education in colleges and universities, we would be able to assist our students to cope with the ever increasing global standards. By encouraging programs that credits work programs, we allow our students to earn their degrees while maintaining jobs which assist their learning.

This bill seeks to establish a program that would encourage institutions of higher education to develop programs to remedy the shortcomings of our basic education and allow creditable work programs for our underprivileged students.<sup>1</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

10 JUL 21 08:34

SENATE  
S. No. 1688

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO COLLEGES TO IMPROVE REMEDIAL EDUCATION, TO  
3 CUSTOMIZE REMEDIATION TO STUDENT CAREER GOALS, AND TO HELP  
4 STUDENTS MOVE RAPIDLY FROM REMEDIATION INTO FOR-CREDIT OCCUPATION  
5 PROGRAM COURSES AND THROUGH PROGRAM COMPLETION  
6

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

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Bridges from Jobs to Careers  
10 Act.”

11 SECTION 2. *Authorization of Program.* – The Secretary of Education, hereinafter  
12 referred to as Secretary, shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher  
13 education for the purposes of improving remedial education, including English language  
14 instruction, to customize remediation to student career goals, and to help students move rapidly  
15 from remediation into for-credit occupational program courses and through program completion.  
16 The grants shall focus in particular on creating bridges to for-credit occupational certificate  
17 programs that are articulated to degree programs.

18 SECTION 3. *Application* – An eligible institution seeking a grant under this section shall  
19 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
20 information as the Secretary may require.

21 SECTION 4. *Priorities.* – The Secretary shall give priority to applications that —

1           A. are from institutions of higher education in which not less than 50 percent of the  
2           institution's entering first-year students are enrolled in developmental courses to bring  
3           reading, writing, or mathematics skills up to college-level; and

4           B. propose to replicate practices that have proven effective with adults and to  
5           applications that propose to collaborate with adult education providers.

6           SECTION 5. *Peer Review.* – The Secretary shall convene a peer review process to review  
7           applications for grants under this section and to make recommendations to the Secretary  
8           regarding the selection of grantees.

9           SECTION 6. *Mandatory Activity.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under this  
10          section shall use the grant funds to create workforce bridge programs that customize  
11          developmental education curricula, including English language instruction, to the content of the  
12          for-credit occupational certificate or degree programs, or clusters of programs, in which  
13          developmental education students seek to enroll. Such bridge programs may include those that  
14          integrate the curricula and the instruction of both remediation and college-level coursework or  
15          dual enroll students in remediation and college-level coursework.

16          SECTION 7. *Permissible Activities.* – An eligible institution that receives a grant under  
17          this section, in addition to creating workforce bridge programs, may use the grant funds to carry  
18          out the following:

19          A. Design and implement innovative ways to improve retention in and completion of  
20          developmental education courses, including but not limited to enrolling students in  
21          cohorts, accelerating course content, integrating remediation and college-level  
22          curricula and instruction, dual enrolling students in remediation and college-level  
23          courses, tutoring, providing counseling and other supportive services, and giving  
24          small, material incentives for attendance and performance.

1 B. In consultation with faculty in the appropriate departments, redesignating class  
2 schedules to meet the needs of working adults, such as by creating evening, weekend,  
3 modular, compressed, distance learning formats or other alternative schedules.

4 C. Improving the quality of teaching in remedial courses through professional  
5 development, reclassification of such teaching positions, or other means the eligible  
6 institution determines appropriate.

7 D. Any other activities the eligible institution and the Secretary determine will promote  
8 retention of and completion by students attending institutions of higher education.

9 E. Fully advise students on the range of options and programs available, which may  
10 include: diploma; certification; 2-year degree; associate's degree; transfer degree to  
11 upper division; and career options.

12 SECTION 8. *Grant Period.* – Grants made under this section shall be for a period of not  
13 less than 36 months and not more than 60 months.

14 SECTION 9. *Technical Assistance.* – The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to  
15 grantees under this section throughout the grant period.

16 SECTION 10. *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of program  
17 impacts under the demonstration program, and shall disseminate to the public the findings from  
18 the evaluation and information on best practices. The Secretary is encouraged to partner with  
19 other providers of funds, such as private foundations, to allow for use of a random assignment  
20 evaluation in at least one of the demonstration sites.

21 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as  
22 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

23 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or  
24 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
25 valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent  
3 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4           SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6           Approved,

/apm082908