

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 1886

Introduced by Representative Consuelo A. Dy

Explanatory Note

Providing quality education to its citizenry is a state obligation. This obligation does not only include the provision of affordable and quality education but also the advancement of sound and favorable environment for learning.

The need for the creation of such environment is highlighted by the present state of dormitories and boarding houses that students have to live with. This reality is even made worse for those students who belong to the lower income families, majority of them from the provinces.

This bill seeks to encourage the private sector to invest in the establishment of student dormitories or housing projects by providing them incentives. It also mandates the National Housing Authority and the Commission on Higher Education to take the lead in ensuring accessibility and affordability of living quarters to students.

Through this can we facilitate the creation of a safer and better learning environment that our students deserve, most especially for those pursuing higher education in places far away from home.


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STUDENT HOUSING ACT OF 2004

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

- Section 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the state to develop a comprehensive and integrated student housing and dormitory program in order to promote the welfare of the students.
- Section 2. The National Housing Authority, in addition to the powers granted under existing laws, is hereby authorized to:
- 2.1 finance under liberalized credit terms student housing or dormitories under any of the following schemes:
 - a. affordable interest rates and long-term payment schemes;
 - b. graduated amortization scheme that will ensure smaller amortization during the initial period of payment; and
 - c. subsidy of a portion of the interest payments, or a portion of the capita cost of construction.
 - 2.2 establish throughout the country student housing or dormitories in places where educational institutions are located;
 - 2.3 regulate the reasonable margin of profit of any person, corporation or partnership investing in student housing or dormitory under this Act.
- Section 3. Any provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, all lands, building and improvements, actually, directly, and exclusively used under the purposes of this Act and all the incomes derived therefrom shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes, duties, fees and charges and other assessments for five (5) years from the actual use of the student housing or dormitory.
- Section 4. The National Housing Authority shall, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, establish a program whereby a minimum of five percent (5%) and a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the occupancy spaces of the student housing or dormitories constructed pursuant to this Act, shall be furnished for free in favor of poor and deserving students. This provision shall be made an

integral part of the credit arrangement granted by the National Housing Authority under this Act.

Section 5. The National Housing Authority shall, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

Section 6. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the sum of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php 100,000,000) shall be appropriated annually for five (5) years from the effectivity hereof.

Section 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved