

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1923



Introduced by **Honorable Robert Ace S. Barbers**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The matter of providing quality of education to its constituency is a state policy and obligation. This matter does not only mean the provision of affordable and accessible education to its citizen but also the promotion of a sound and conducive environment for learning.

The urgency for the creation of a better and more conducive environment for learning is manifested by the present state of dormitories and boarding houses and the environment that students are forced to live with in their pursuit of higher education. This is especially in the case of students belonging to the lower income groups who mostly come from the provinces.

This bill proposes the creation of a living environment that is responsive to the quest of the Filipino student for higher education, promote accessibility and affordability of dormitories and living quarters of boarding houses, regulate the operation of such, formulate standards and provide incentives to operators.

Through this can a safe and conducive environment be afforded to students, especially those belonging to the lower income level groups, trying it out to pursue higher education in places away from home.


REP. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

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STUDENT HOUSING ACT OF 2004

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – 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 capital cost construction.
- 2.2 To establish throughout the country student housing or dormitories in places where educational institutions are located;
- 2.3 To 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 purpose of this Act and all the incomes derived there from shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes, duties, fees and charges and other assessments for five years from the actual use of the student housing or dormitory.

SECTION 4. The National Housing Authority shall, in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Commission on Higher Education, establish a program whereby a minimum of five percent (5%) and a maximum of ten (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 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 Fifty Million Pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated annually for five 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.