

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3718**



Introduced by Representative IGNACIO T. ARROYO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government Assistance should not be limited to students so that they will have access to quality education , but must be extended likewise to the youth who are in the agrarian reform land grants , tree farms , forests projects, and agriculture-related projects.

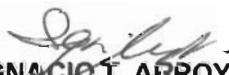
This bill proposes that youth will receive orientation to science and technology in agriculture beginning at the elementary level. At the secondary level, they will actually enhance productivity and already improve the quality of life of the student-worker in the countryside. At the tertiary level, the youth scholar becomes a student-manager-entrepreneur with his college degree as the collateral for farm or enterprise funding.

The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the implementation of this innovative and practical approach in educating the youth of the countryside to become a contributor to economic productivity.

This measure looks to the future, with youth in agricultural productivity in the 1990's. It complements the agrarian reform program and it supplements the recently approved measure on subsidy for students and teachers in private education.

For the economic recovery of the country and in order that youth in the rural areas will be a true partner in development and nation-building.

For this reason, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


IGNACIO T. ARROYO
Representative
5th District , Negros Occidental

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AN ACT
PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTS TO THE YOUTH ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE TO MAXIMIZE
PRODUCTIVITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Title.- This Act shall be known as the "Government Assistance In the Form
of Scholarship Grants to the Youth for Agricultural Productivity Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
provide assistance to youth who are engaged in agriculture by providing for skills in
agricultural management and technology transfer appropriate to the Philippines to the
end that productivity will be maximized.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.-

1. Youth engaged in agriculture shall include the following:
 - 1.1 Agrarian reform grantees and owners of farms below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program.
 - 1.2 Heirs of agrarian reform grantees and owners of farms below five (5) hectares or the successors-in-interest of said grantees or owners who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or who are born after the approval of this Act: provided, That the heirs who shall actually farm the land shall be entitled to tertiary education with tuition to be subsidized by the Government.
 - 1.3 Fisherfolk or forestfolk engaged in fishing or forest livelihood activities who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program.
 - 1.4 Heirs of said fisherman or forestfolk with tree farms less than five (5) hectares who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or who are born after start of the program or who are born after the approval of this Act.

- 1.5 Youth entrepreneurs in agriculture-related enterprises and/or their heirs who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or are born after the approval of this Act: Provided, That the heirs operate the enterprise or assist their parents or guardians in operating the enterprise upon the inception of the tertiary curriculum.
2. Curriculum for Skills in Agricultural Management and/or Agricultural Technology Transfer shall refer to:
 - 2.1 Elementary Level.- Government assistance shall include free elementary education in public schools or under the Government Assistance Program for Students and Teachers in private Education up to completion of the elementary grades: Provided, That pupils from grades four (4) to six (6) shall receive in addition to the regular curriculum technology as applied and appropriate to agriculture and the particular farm, fishing ground, forest or enterprise in which the agricultural workers of their heirs are engaged in.
 - 2.2 Secondary Level.- Government assistance shall include free secondary education in public schools or under the Government Assistance Program for Students and Teachers in private education up to completion of the secondary level: Provided, That where possible the youth shall be enrolled in an agricultural school or college or vocational school; and shall receive in addition to the regular curriculum on-the-farm or fishing grounds or forest, on-the-job or agricultural enterprise training and appropriate transfer technology training which will enhance the productivity of said youth: Provided, further, That distance learning or other learning schemes may be utilized to carry out the intent of this provision.
 - 2.3 Non-Degree Post-Secondary Level. - Government shall include free agricultural courses relevant to the setting he is expected to return to or is actually working on: Provided, That the youth shall be given the opportunity of at least one (1) semester or summer at a government agricultural school free of tuition and other school fees and one (1) project, also funded, which will increase the productivity of the farm, fishing, forestry activity or enterprise.
 - 2.4 Tertiary Level.- Government assistance shall include free tuition in a government school, college or university and access to funding the agricultural enterprise after completion thereof, with his completed degree as collateral for the funding of the productivity project: Provided, That where the youth is qualified, he shall be considered and given the opportunity for study abroad in settings similar to and appropriate to the setting to which he will return to.
 - 2.5 Post-Graduate Level.- Government shall set up scholarships that will utilize farm or agricultural enterprise as a training ground for other youth under this program. To the extent feasible, youth who have completed the bachelor's degree shall be granted scholarships for post-graduate work and funding for a project on the site where he is working, using his educational degree as collateral for the same.

SECTION 4. Implementation of the Program. – The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with representatives from the Department of Education, Culture & Sports, Agrarian Reform, Science & Technology shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this program.

SECTION 5. Funding.- There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the implementation of this Act the sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) to be included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture for the initial year of implementation. Thereafter, such amount as shall be needed for the program shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If for any reason any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,