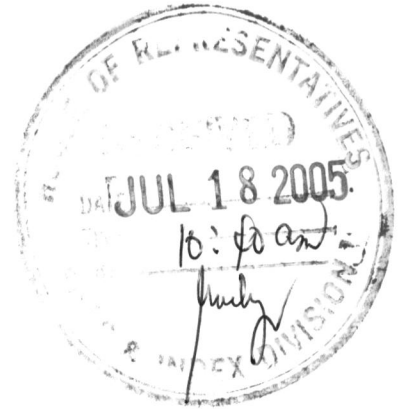


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 4526



Introduced by Honorable Arthur D. Defensor

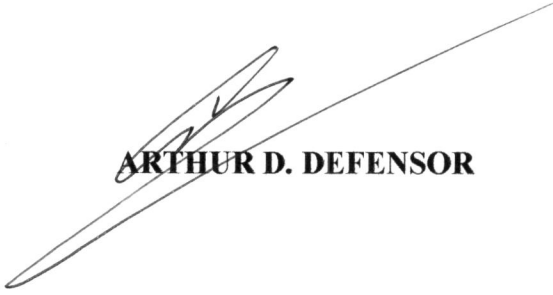
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Horace Mann once said "Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the greatest equalizer of the conditions of men, -- the balance-wheel of the social machinery." Indeed, education spells the difference in any significant improvement in life whether finding a more rewarding job or enjoying a fulfilling social life.

In 1992, Republic Act No. 7323 institutionalized the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES). The act envisions helping poor but deserving students to pursue their education by giving them the chance to work during school breaks through certain arrangements. For instance, a certain percentage of their salary shall be paid by the employer in cash and by the Government in the form of a voucher to be applied for the payment for tuition fees and books in any educational institution.

An earlier law, Republic Act No. 6728 (1989) otherwise known as the "Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act" extends, among others, tuition fee supplements, textbook assistance, and scholarship grants. Certainly, the government is really bent on addressing the educational needs of all citizens. Yet many a family still agonizes in meeting the most basic of needs. Given the present economic realities, education related expenses eat a substantial chunk of the family's budget.

Hence, this bill seeks to grant to students benefits and privileges akin to that given to senior citizens such as discounts on transportation fares, medicines, food and school supplies.


ARTHUR D. DEFENSOR

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

Thirteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 4526

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AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO STUDENTS IN BOTH
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS 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 “Student Privilege Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the term “student” shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines, regardless of age, and duly enrolled in the elementary, secondary, or tertiary level in any public or private academic institution recognized by the Department of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education.

SEC. 3. Benefits and Privileges. – Upon presentation of an identification card duly issued and validated by a recognized Philippine school, the student shall be entitled to the following:

- a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on transportation fares in all public utility vehicles, ships, or airplanes; Provided, That the fare discount shall be availed of during the school season;
- b) the grant of ten percent (10%) discount on medicine and medical services in government and private hospitals and clinics;
- c) a minimum of ten percent (10%) discount on admission fees in museums, art galleries, libraries and stage theaters;
- d) the grant of ten percent (10%) discount on basic school supplies, to be availed of at enrollment time; and
- e) a minimum of ten percent (10%) discount on food in any school canteen or any food establishment located within a vicinity of fifty (50) meters of a public or private school.

The establishments granting the discounts as herein enumerated may claim the costs therefor as tax credits.

SEC. 4. Identification Cards. - For the purpose of this Act, the schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions shall issue an identification card to their students duly signed and validated by their heads. The identification card shall properly identify the student and contain the list of privileges granted by this Act. The identification card is non-transferable and violations hereof shall be a ground for the forfeiture of privileges.

SEC. 5. Non-Diminution of Benefits. - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or abolish existing privileges granted by other laws to the students.

SEC. 6. Posting of Notices. - All establishments and institutions concerned, shall post or cause to be posted, in conspicuous places within their premises, notices indicating the benefits provided for under this Act.

SEC. 7. Penalties. - Violation of any of the provisions of this Act shall be punished according to the following:

- a. First and second violation shall be punishable by imprisonment of not exceeding one month or a fine of not more than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court;
- b. Third violation shall be punishable by the same penalty and in addition, revocation of license or permit to operate the business or establishment.

In case of partnership, corporation, association, or group, the penalty shall be imposed on the President, Treasurer, Secretary, or any other person responsible for the violation.

If the offender is an alien, he shall after the service of the sentence, be deported immediately without further proceedings by the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules. - The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Department of Transportation and Communication, and other concerned public and private agencies shall issue the implementing rules and regulation to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,