

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4896



Introduced by Representative Rodolfo C. Bacani

Explanatory Note

It is stated under Article II, Section 13 of the Philippine Constitution in the Declaration of Principles and Policies that the state recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It is also stated under Article XIV, Section 1 on Education that the state shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education available to all.

The promotion of quality education coincides with the promotion of the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well being of the citizenry. Quality education does not only mean, giving scholarship grants, student loan programs or subsidies; it also includes providing for a pleasant and favorable atmosphere for learning, and one of which is an affordable, accessible and comfortable shelter.

I have been a staunch advocate of education and the welfare of the underprivileged youth. As such, I am well aware of our students' hardships and difficulties in acquiring scholarship grants and, much more, of finding a decent and comfortable place to live in. Now, this bill seeks to bring together and harmonize the capabilities of the National Housing Authority, the Commission on Higher Education and the private sector towards the pursuit of rendering quality education to our people, especially those who belong to low-income families, by directly dealing with the issues on affordability, security and safety as well as conduciveness of shelter. Equally, this bill will attend to the common concerns of the private sector on profitability, the unavailability of loans and absence of tax incentives.

The "Student Lodging Act of 2005" shall address the adversity of the marginalized students and at the same time promote business opportunities not only in my district but also in the rest of the country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


RODOLFO C. BACANI

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House Bill No. **4896**

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AN ACT
CREATING A STUDENT LODGING PROGRAM THAT WILL RENDER
AFFORDABLE, SAFE AND DECENT DORMITORIES OR BOARDING HOUSES
TO UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS.

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Student Lodging Act of 2005”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the state to establish an all-inclusive and operative student lodging program that will aid in the promotion of quality education.

Section 3. Implementing Agency. - The National Housing Authority, in addition to the powers granted under existing laws, is hereby authorized and directed to:

- a.) Grant loans to persons, corporations and/or partnership investing in student lodging or dormitory under affordable interest rates and reasonable payment schemes;
- b.) Upon coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, craft and promulgate the rules and regulations and/or implementing guidelines necessary to employ this act;
- c.) Establish student dormitories or boarding houses in places short of student housing facilities and where educational institutions are located.

Section 4. Tax Incentives. - To promote, encourage and accelerate the development of a student lodging program, all lands, building and improvements, actually, directly and exclusively used under the purpose of this Act and all incomes derived there from, shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes, fees and charges and other assessments for two (2) years from the actual use of the student dormitory or boarding house.

Section 5. Underprivileged Students. - The National Housing Authority in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education shall establish a program whereby 10% of the occupancy spaces of the student dormitories or boarding houses constructed pursuant to this Act are to be allotted in favor of underprivileged students who shall likewise be given a subsidy of not less than 30% of the total monthly rent. This provision shall be made an integral part of the credit arrangement granted by the National Housing Authority under this Act.

Section 6. Appropriations. - For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the sum of fifty million pesos (Php50,000,000.00) shall be initially appropriated upon the effectivity hereof.

Section 7. Separability Clause. - If, for certain reasons, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or portion thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect immediately following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,