

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1246

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MARK A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidize and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private school, especially to the underprivileged.

While there are existing scholarship programs for the specially gifted students, a study grant for members of the National Cultural Communities, and the CHED Scholarship Program, these programs provide only limited slots.

To date, there is no ambitious government program that takes care of the mass of secondary level graduates who want to pursue higher education, but fail to do so due to poverty or financial difficulties.

For this reason, this bill on student financial assistance program is introduced to provide educational assistance to secondary graduates who, because of poverty or financial difficulties, could not pursue higher education. This educational assistance program is designated for students of financially disadvantaged families and is intended more as an economic aid rather than a merit award.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is requested.



MARK A. VILLAR

Representative

Lone District, Las Piñas City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1246

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR STUDENTS OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES AND
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a student financial assistance program in the collegiate level for poor but deserving students to be administered by an appropriate body to be determined by the Commission on Higher Education.

SEC. 2. The term "economically disadvantaged but deserving students" who are qualified under this program shall mean those students of underprivileged families falling below the poverty line, as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), who are able and willing to continue and finish a degree course.

SEC. 3. The beneficiaries under this program shall be entitled to a reasonable monthly stipend depending on costs of living in a particular educational institution, free tuition, book allowance and other miscellaneous fees to be determined by the administering agency.

Sec. 4. The sum of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated initially from the General Appropriations Act of the year

following the enactment of this law. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the Program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd), is hereby authorized to formulate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,