

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **2108**

Introduced by Representative Catalina G. Leonen-Pizarro

Explanatory Note

Among the resources that should be tapped and much exploited, it is our human resource with a population around ninety-five million that could combat poverty and lead us to a significant economic growth. However, such a resource remains to be unpolished being likened to a diamond on a rough and not prepared to do battle versus our great nemesis which is poverty.

College Education then is the proper tool in building a competent, competitive and dynamic human resource. Decades ago, public elementary and high school educations have been afforded to our citizenry which continue to be available today which are not enough to move our country forward. On the contrary, tertiary education has been an elusive dream for the great majority of our countrymen due to financial woes and constraints. We have to act swiftly and it's time to offer our people access to a free college education program.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the grant of financial assistance to the underprivileged but deserving college students to defray expenses such as tuition fees, books, school supplies, transportation and other related costs. The immediate passage of this bill would be a realization of our longed and cherished dream of having a college graduate/professional in every Filipino Family, especially the poorest among the poor.


CATALINA G. LEONEN-PIZARRO

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AN ACT

TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A COLLEGE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO UNDERPRIVILEGED BUT DESERVING TERTIARY STUDENTS , APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “College Financial Assistance Program Act of 2010.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy – 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 accessible to all, and establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

Sec. 3. The College Financial Assistance Program, referred hereunto as “CFAP,” shall be institutionalized in the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), provide monetary grants to underprivileged but deserving tertiary students with preference from families belonging to the poorest of the poor nationwide.

Sec. 4. The CHED shall administer the CFAP with strict adherence to the primary objective of having a college graduate in every Filipino Family amongst the poorest of the poor.

Sec. 5. Two hundred thousand (200,000) monetary grants shall be made available in the first year of implementation amounting to twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00) for each grant for the whole school year or ten thousand pesos (P 10,000.00) per semester. The number of monetary grants shall be increased by ten per cent (10 %) in every year thereafter.

Sec. 6. The total number of monetary grants of twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00) each shall be distributed in all regions proportionately in reference to the number of college enrollees nationwide.

Sec. 7. The CFAP shall embrace all college degree courses except courses in Law, Medicine and Dental Medicine.

Sec. 8. The monetary grants shall be released directly by CHED to the individual grantees for payment of tuition fees, books, school supplies, transportation, uniforms and other related expenses.

Sec. 9. Appropriations - For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount of Four Billion Pesos (P 4,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated out of the funds of the National Government as a consequence of restructuring of foreign and domestic debts and such other funds not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the funds necessary to implement the provisions of this Act plus the ten per cent yearly increase shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act .

Sec 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The CHED in consultation and coordination with the State Colleges and Universities and other private and public colleges and universities nationwide shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act: provided, that all other financial grants existing afforded to tertiary students shall be incorporated under CFAP.

Sec. 11. Yearly Status Report – Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of every calendar year, the CHED shall render an annual report regarding the implementation of CFAP to Congress and to the Office of the President.

Sec. 12. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the

remainder of the Act shall not be affected by such declaration and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec 13. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof inconsistent herewith, are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 14. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED