

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2829

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Introduced by Representative Marlyn Primicias-Agabas

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, in order to harness more effectively the opportunities abounding the era of globalization, has to recognize the vital role of science and technology as the foundation of future economic development. With globalization giving rise to rapid technological change, increased competition among nations, the expansion of the services sector, and increasing mobility of skilled labor, the country should look for ways and means to sustain its strengths, even fortify its staple resources, so that it may not lose out on opportunities while participating in the world arena.

The National Science and Technology Plan for 2002-2020 or NSTP 2020 states that biotechnology and information and communications technology stand out as having great potential for less developed countries in the era of globalization. Yet in the Philippines, opportunities in these fields are not well-recognized partially due to lack of government support to students who wish to pursue tertiary studies in the said fields. Sadly, there are only two (2) scholarship grants being given by the Department of Science and Technology every year in Natural and Applied Sciences, Engineering and Information and Communications Technology which offer limited financial benefits and subsidies to grantees.

This proposed National Scholarship Program will help correct the oversight of government education grants by providing high school graduates greater access to education opportunities in a more equitable manner. It will institutionalize a more focused approach toward science and technology education by ensuring that every poor and deserving high school student who has the capacity to pursue a career in science and technology shall have the unequivocal support of the government.

This proposed measure underscores this fact and shall mandate the government to embrace this concept more tightly.

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

  
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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS IN SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE  
COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be selected annually from the graduating classes of all public high schools in each province of the country, poor but deserving students who shall be granted scholarships in science and technology courses.

SECTION 2. The Scholarship shall be in the form of Financial Assistance to cover tuition and registration fees, book allowance, board and lodging fees or transportation allowance, and a monthly stipend for living expenses in an amount as the college or university, where the grantee shall enroll, may determine as reasonable and necessary.

SECTION 3. For the purposes of this Act, Science and Technology Courses shall refer to courses in the area of Allied, Natural and Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Information and Communications Technology.

SECTION 4. No student shall be granted the scholarship unless he or she possesses the following qualifications:

(1) He must belong to the top one (1) percent of the high school graduating class, and attain and maintain, such tests, standards, or criteria as will insure that he is specifically gifted in and/or inclined to study the particular college course of his preference;

(2) He must be of good health, excellent moral character, and unquestionable integrity;

(3) He must be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines; and

(4) Must have qualified for admission to the college or university as well as to the course the scholar intended to enroll.

SECTION 5. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, shall provide an annual listing of Science and Technology Courses that may be availed by scholars and update the same in consideration of the country's Science and Technology requirements.

SECTION 6. In order to provide for an equitable allotment of slots for scholarship grantees, the Scholarship under this Act shall be geared towards enlisting more scholars from poor provinces of the Philippines.

SECTION 7. Any scholar who shall fail to finish his intended course within the time he is expected to graduate or has shifted to courses not otherwise provided in the CHED listing of eligible courses without justifiable reasons as may be determined by CHED shall be liable to reimburse the Government of all expenses and financial assistance received under this Act.

SECTION 8. In order to encourage graduates of the scholarship program under this Act to work in his city/municipality, they shall be entitled to the following incentives:

(1) Priority for job placement in the province where the grantee is a resident or in any government agency desiring or requiring the graduate's educational competencies or in the private sector in positions appropriate to his area of education or training;

(2) Access to government research facilities in the conduct of research and development projects and other science and technology services; and

(3) Priority in government post-graduate scholarship grants locally and abroad.

SECTION 9. For the purposes of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the State Scholarship Council shall implement this Act and shall exercise and perform the following specific functions and duties:

(1) To screen and approve candidates for scholarships;

(2) To prescribe such tests and standards, which candidates for scholarship shall attain and maintain as will insure that he will perform excellently in the particular field of study of his choice;

(3) To determine the number of scholars;

(3) To help the qualified scholar in selecting the college or university in which he wants to enroll;

(4) To approve or fix the different expenses which shall be provided to individual scholars and authorize the payment thereof out of the fund appropriated by law;

(5) To enter into contract/Memorandum of Agreement with the colleges and universities where the recipients enrolled; and

(6) In general, to do such acts, adopt such measures, enter into such arrangements, or issue such rules and regulations as may be proper for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Commission on Higher Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be provided for its operation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder or any provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 12. All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,