

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
Quezon City**

**FIFTEENTH (15TH) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 5136

Introduced by Hon. Ryan Luis V. Singson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide tuition fee discounts and scholarship grants to deserving household helpers, appropriating funds therefore, and for other purposes.

This bill envisions giving more meaning, substance and impetus to government's advocacy to make education accessible to all. Further, it emphasizes the state's commitment to provide all sectors of society ample opportunity to develop their skills, acquires productive employment later on, and contributes to the fullest of their capabilities.

The household help industry is one of the most marginalized sectors of the society. They are not governed by any law that specifically ensures the protection of their rights and welfare. Unlike private government workers, household helpers do not have medical, minimum wage, social security and leave benefits.

Considering the amount of work rendered by the household helpers in improving the quality of life of their employers and the community as well, it is but just to ensure that these helpers be fully integrated into the society by helping them pursue their education at the lowest possible cost, if none at all. Their literacy level must be raised to make them more productive and become better members of the society.

This measure is designed to make quality education accessible to household helpers. It institutionalizes the grant of tuition fee discounts and scholarships, in favor of qualified and deserving household helpers who cannot possibly afford quality education with their meager and below minimum salaries.

The granting of tuition fee discounts and scholarships grants is the only way that our "kasambahay" can experience and enjoy the benefits of education.

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



RYAN LUIS V. SINGSON

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5136

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AN ACT
GRANTING TUITION FEE DISCOUNTS AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO
QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD HELPERS NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 “Household Help Scholarship Act Grant of 2011”.

SEC.2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the state to give priority to education, science, technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development. Likewise, the State recognizes and promotes the rights of household helpers, including and nobility and self-respect in the household helper industry.

To nurture and protect the interest of the household helpers, the State shall ensure that they are provided with adequate assistance and access to education, and that effective mechanisms are instituted to ensure that rights and benefits are adequately protected.

For this purpose, there is a need to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving household helpers in both public, private and technical as well as vocational schools.

SEC.3. OBJECTIVES. – The objectives of this Acts are as follows:

- a) Provides more opportunities to deserving household helpers to further their studies and seek quality education to enhance their development;
- b) Raise the level of literacy in families whose members are mostly in the household help industry;
- c) Institutionalize the grant of tuition fee discount and scholarship grants to deserving household helpers most of whom constitute the marginalized, underprivileged and depressed sectors of society on account of lower literacy rate in their areas; and
- d) Give more meaning and substance to the government's advocacy for the recognition and promotion of the rights of the underprivileged;

SEC.4. Coverage. – This act shall cover all qualified household helpers eighteen years (18) and above.

As used in this Act, the term “household helper” shall mean any person who renders domestic or household services exclusively to a household employer such as, but not limited to a driver, babysitter, gardener, cook, nursemaid or yaya, cleaning lady, laundry woman, and the like.

SEC.5. Scholarship Grant. All state-owned educational institutions shall provide scholarship grants to deserving household helpers which shall include free tuition fee, subsidies and other incentives: Provided, that all household helpers who apply for said scholarship program should pass a screening process to be instituted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), State Universities and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

SEC.6. Tuition Fee Discount. - The discount to be granted to qualified and deserving household helpers under this Act who enroll in private educational institutions shall be fifty percent (50%) of the prescribed tuition fee.

The term tuition fee shall refer to the charges for instruction and general services of all students per unit of courses enrolled in, or as prescribed, regulated and approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC.7. Availment. – The discount privilege under this Act shall be claimed at the time of enrollment by presenting an authentic certification that the enrollee is employed as a household helper.

SEC.8. Complaints, Violation and Fines. – Qualified students under this Act who are refused or denied to avail of this discount privilege may file a complaint with the field or regional office of the CHED or TESDA with jurisdiction over the concerned educational institution. As part of due process, the parties shall be notified prior to the conduct of investigation by CHED or TESDA. If the complaint is established or found to be true, the CHED or TESDA shall direct the institution involved to grant the complaining student the privilege under this Act. When in the findings of the CHED or TESDA the refusal to grant said privilege is deliberate or unreasonable, a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5, 000.00) shall be imposed against the erring institution. The amount shall be collected by and placed under disposal of the CHED or TESDA in furtherance of its mandate to enhance equality education.

SEC.9. Misrepresentation. – Any student who is found to have committed misrepresentation to avail of the privilege shall be made to pay the total amount of tuition fee, without prejudice to the imposition, at the instance of the school, of appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion from said school, at the discretion of the CHED or TESDA.

SEC.10. Appropriations.- The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act in the case of state-owned educational institutions shall be charged to the appropriations for the educational institution concerned. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation act.

SEC.11. Repealing Clause. – Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or regulation in conflict or inconsistent with provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC.12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,