

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 97



Introduced by **REP. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides under Article II Section 17 that "The State shall give priority to education..." While it also provides under Article II Section 22 that "The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development." Giving life to these provisions, this Representation legislates for an educational program meant to grant substantive equality for Indigenous Peoples (IP).

Ensuring that the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is given a fixed budget solely for its scholarship program while mandating State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to grant scholarships uplifts the oft-neglected right to education of Indigenous Peoples.

On one hand, a fixed NCIP budget allocation makes the budgetary needs of the IP education program independent of other budgetary concerns of the Commission. While on the other hand, the mandatory scholarship grants of SUCs multiply the scholarship as IPs are now guaranteed that they will have available slots.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT
Representative – Lone District of Ifugao

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Section 1. There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), a nationwide scholarship program for indigenous peoples to be known as the "Indigenous Peoples Scholarship Program."

Section 2. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean the following:

- (a) "Commission" refers to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- (b) "Indigenous Peoples (IPs) or Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)" shall, as provided under Section 3 (h) of Chapter II of RA No. 8371 or the "Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997", refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription by others, who have continuously lived as an organized community on communally-bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains;

Section 3. Duty of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) - The Commission is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations for an effective nationwide scholarship program for Indigenous Peoples.

Section 4. Mandatory Scholarships in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) - State Universities and Colleges are mandated to grant scholarships to indigenous peoples

equivalent to 3% of its total student population.

Section 5. Rules and Regulations – State Universities and Colleges shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to govern the effective implementation of their scholarship program in consultation with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Section 6. Appropriations – The amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00) shall be divided among the State Universities and Colleges depending on the number of IP scholars in the University or College. In addition, the NCIP shall also receive One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P150,000,000.00) for the Commission's Scholarship Program. Funding for the Indigenous Peoples Scholarship Program shall be charged against the savings in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) in the year of its implementation. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act. This appropriation may be increased in subsequent years if necessary.

Section 7. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,