

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 761



Introduced by **Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order and alleviate poverty. Likewise, the State aims to provide adequate social services, promote full employment, raise standard of living and improve quality of life for all. In these endeavors, direct involvement of the youth and the educated class is imperative as they bring new perspectives and in-demand skills to various industries. As workers, they beef up the labor force by increasing the level of productivity.

Every year fresh graduates from high school, college and vocational schools foray into the job market. Competition is always tough. They also have to contend with processes and formalities particularly paper works, which, if not circuitous or unnecessary are expensive. As such, many are at a loss on how to pay for the clearances and documents required by prospective employers. Employment is hampered with requirements such as the NBI clearance, SSS ID, certification from the local government, and other fees. Such conditions appear oppressive and counter-productive, considering that these graduates especially those coming from the vulnerable sectors are unemployed.

This bill shall provide a reasonable waiver of the fees collected by government for various clearances, licenses, and another documents from fresh graduates wanting to work and join the socio-economic mainstream. This measure is a relief for the unemployed as it encourages the State's commitment to promote the interest of the youth. The waiver of these fees serves as a leverage assistance by the government and an investment to its emerging labor force.

Hence, approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

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

House of Representatives

House Bill No. 761

Introduced by Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay

**AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FIRST TIME JOB SEEKERS BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH
REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT**

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 "First Employment Assistance Act of 2013."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth and provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life. It shall endeavor to provide to them opportunities for development by creating policies that improve access to employment.

Section 3. Waiver of fees and charges. All government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government units (LGUs), shall not collect fees or charges from a Filipino citizen; Provided, that such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other document usually required in the course of employment, provided, that the person is applying for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other document within one (1) year after graduating from high school, college or any vocational or technical course, and : Provided, further that, this act shall not cover the fees collected in connection with licensure examination and the granting of a professional license by the Professional regulation Commission nor with the issuance of a Philippine passport.

Section 4. Proof of Graduation. To avail of the waiver authorized in this Act, a citizen must submit to the government agency or instrumentality concerned a copy of his or her diploma, certification, document or communication from the academic, basic education, vocational or technical institution from which he or she has graduated, written or issued to the effect that such person has indeed successfully completed the course required. The diploma, certification, document, or communication should clearly state the date of graduation or completion and the course completed or degree earned, and should be signed by the institution's head or his/her duly authorized representative.

The diploma, certification, document, or communication submitted, may be in original or certified true copy which shall serve as prima facie evidence of the fact and date of graduation and shall be sufficient for the government agency to grant the waiver; provided, that any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of graduation as described in this Section, shall be liable under Article 172 (Falsification and Use of Falsified Documents) of the Revised Penal Code.

Section 5. Administrative Offense. No government agency or instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations for the carrying out of this Act's provisions nor render nugatory the benefit of the waiver prescribed. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

Section 6. Monitoring Committee. A monitoring committee is hereby created to be headed by the Civil Service Commission Chairman as its Chair, Secretary of the Department of Labor, Vice-Chair, Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Education, CHED Chair as members, and other heads of the departments as it may deem necessary, stipulated in the subsequent Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. The Monitoring Committee's mandate is to monitor and ensure the compliance to this Act by the various government agencies and instrumentalities within its scope. It may recommend to the proper authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person, entity or instrumentality who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereof.

Section 9. Effectivity. This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

2