

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 794



Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to address this situation not by means of a dole-out, but by a reasonable waiver of the fees collected by government for various clearances, licenses, and another documents from fresh graduates wanting to work and to be productive members of society. It is a simple measure that intends not only to provide relief but also to show the State's commitment to promote the interest of the youth. The waiver of these fees must be taken not as a loss of revenue for the government, but as an investment in its emerging labor force, which would be in its best interest to protect.

This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. The urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

794

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES 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 "Fresh Graduates Preemployment Assistance Act of 2013."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth. 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. Subject to exceptions in Section 5 of this Act, 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, and; Provided further, 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, as evidenced according to Section 5 herein.

Section 4. Proof of Graduation. To avail of the waiver authorized 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, 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 duly authorized representative. Such copy of the diploma, certification, document, or communication submitted, even if not original or certified true copy, 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. Exceptions. The fees and charges to be waived shall not include those collected in connection with the granting of a professional licensure examination, by the Professional regulation Commission nor with granting of a Philippine passport.

Section 6. Administrative Offense. No government agency or instrumentality shall be issue unduly restrictive regulations for the carrying out of its provisions to render nugatory the benefit of the waiver prescribed. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

Section 7. The Inter-agency Monitoring Committee. An inter-agency monitoring committee (IAMC) is hereby created to be headed by the Executive Secretary as its Chair, and the heads of the departments as its members. The IAMC's function is to monitor 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 who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. Repealing clause. All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Separability clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Section 10. Effectivity. This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

2