

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH (16TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1845



Introduced by: HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIII, Section 5, provides:

Section 5. The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, provides:

Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Agriculture as an area of study has not received the support that it deserves. While some private and public sectors provide scholarships to some students (University of the Philippines CUPS Scholarship, Department of Agriculture Scholarship, IRRI Landbank Gawad Patnubay Scholarship, to name a few), these may not last for the long term and may not reach as much students as they should.

There is thus a need to institutionalize the grant of scholarships to deserving students who want to study agriculture or aquaculture. This will encourage college students to pursue a career that will help promote and strengthen the agricultural sector in our country.



HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-list

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AN ACT TO CREATE AN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Agriculture Scholarship Act of 2013.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Agriculture and Aquaculture are
4 essential for national development and progress. The State shall give
5 priority to research and development, education, and innovation in these
6 areas of study.

7 In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State
8 to promote the development of the country’s agriculture and aquaculture
9 manpower in line with economic development and to provide the
10 capability required in the areas of research, development, innovation, as
11 well as their utilization. It is thus important that the State provide for
12 quality graduates of Agriculture and Aquaculture courses.

13 Therefore, the State shall provide for scholarships to deserving
14 students to enable them to pursue higher education or training in areas of
15 agriculture and aquaculture.

16 **SEC. 3. Eligibility.**—This Act envisions a fast tracking of more
17 agriculture and aquaculture graduates by offering scholarships to
18 deserving students in these courses in their first year of undergraduate
19 study, based on their competitiveness and merit. The following are
20 qualifications for the scholarship:

- (a) The applicant must be a Filipino citizen;
- (b) Be a regular first (1st) year college student at the time of the award which shall be granted after the first semester of the first year in the course;
- (c) Be currently enrolled in any of the state universities or colleges, under any of the identified agriculture or aquaculture courses;
- (d) Have a general weighted average (GWA) of at least 80% in their first semester of their first year;
- (e) Qualify in the Junior-Level Agri Scholarship Examination; and
- (f) Must be of good moral character;
- (g) Must maintain a GWA of at least 82% throughout the duration of his course.

SEC. 4. Award of Scholarship. – Recipients shall be entitled to an annual award for full time study which shall include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, outright grant for prescribed military science and physical education uniform, transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: Provided, however, That in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial assistance given under other government scholarship programs must be considered.

SEC. 5. Duration. – Recipients shall be entitled to an award for their entire stay in college after the grant of the initial scholarship amount while matriculating in an approved program.

SEC. 6. Approved Courses and Priority Programs. – Recipients shall pursue degrees in agriculture and aquaculture as identified and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education.

SEC. 7. Terms and Conditions. – Applicants for the scholarships must execute a service contract in which they shall agree to work for the Philippine government in the next two (2) years after their graduation and in a Philippine-based corporation within five (5) years after their graduation. Failure to comply with the terms of the service contract will result in the full repayment of all awarded amounts within a specified time limit.

SEC. 8. Implementing Agencies. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the main

59 implementing Agencies of the provisions of this Act. The DA shall be
60 responsible for evaluation, award-giving, and monitoring of scholarship
61 grants and awardees.

62 **SEC. 9. Review and Monitoring.** – The DA and the CHED shall
63 report to the President and Congress after the first three (3) years, and
64 annually thereafter, on the implementation of the provisions of this Act
65 and submit recommendations for its improvement.

66 **SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty
67 (60) days from approval of this Act, the DA and the CHED shall
68 promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the
69 provisions of this Act.

70 **SEC. 11. Appropriations Clause.** – An initial amount of Two
71 Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00) annually is hereby appropriated
72 for the scholarship to be sourced from the earnings of the Philippine
73 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Charity
74 Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for the ten (10) years.

75 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof, is
76 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision
77 not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

78 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
79 proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof
80 inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

81 **SEC. 14. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen
82 (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2)
83 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,