

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2299**



Introduced by **HON. JUAN "JOHNNY" R. REVILLA**

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to provide educational assistance to children of Overseas Filipino Workers such as Tuition Fee Discounts and Scholarship Grants.

The bill would embody the meaning and substance of the government's program of making education accessible to all sectors of the society. Moreover, the state would fulfill its commitment of providing opportunity, to the dependents of our OFWs, to enhance and further their education and skills to prepare them for productive employment and contribute in the development of our economy.

Considering the contribution our OFWs continue to give to our economy, it is just fitting to extend assistance to their their dependents as a sign of our gratitude for the sacrifices they went through while away from their families.

This bill is configured to make quality education accessible and affordable to families of OFWs as it grants scholarship and tuition fee discounts in favor of qualified and deserving dependents of OFWs.

In view of the foregoing, the swift passage of this bill is sought.

A large, stylized signature in black ink, likely belonging to Hon. Juan "Johnny" R. Revilla.

HON. JUAN "JOHNNY" R. REVILLA
OFW Family Party List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2299**

Introduced by **HON. JUAN "JOHNNY" R. REVILLA**

AN ACT

**GRANTING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AND TUITION FEE DISCOUNTS TO QUALIFIED
DEPENDENTS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, 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 "OFW Dependent's Educational Assistance Act of 2013."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt measures that ensure the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers' dependents by prioritizing their educational needs through affordable and accessible educational assistance.

It is also the policy of the State to ensure that the OFW dependents' access to educational assistance have effective institutionalized mechanism in order to ensure that their rights, benefits and responsibilities are adequately covered.

For this purpose, there is a need to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grant and tuition fee discount programs which should be made available to deserving OFW dependents in state universities and colleges, Local Government Units owned and administered universities and colleges as well as in Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) educational institutions and training centers.

SEC. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall cover all qualified dependents' of Overseas Filipino Workers with an existing and valid contract from a POEA accredited employment agency, who are entering tertiary or vocational/technical educational institution.

SEC. 4. Scholarship Grant. - All State Universities and Colleges, LGU owned and administered universities and colleges as well as TESDA school and training centers, shall provide scholarship grants to qualified deserving children of OFW which shall include free tuition fee, subsidies and other incentives; Provided, that all dependents of OFW who apply for the said scholarship program should pass a screening process to be administered by the SUCs, LGU owned and administered universities and the TESDA and after presenting a POEA certified copy of the employment contract of his/her OFW parent.

SEC. 5. Tuition Fee Discount. - The dependents of OFW who do not qualify for the scholarship

grant, can avail of a tuition fee of up to fifty-percent (50%) of the prescribed tuition fee.

SEC. 6. Availment. - The tuition fee discount privilege under this Act shall be claimed at the time of enrollment by presenting the POEA certified copy of the employment contract of his/her OFW parent.

SEC. 7. Sanctions. - Qualified students under this Act who are refused or denied availment of this scholarship or tuition fee discount privilege may file a complaint with the Regional Office of CHED, TESDA or Local Government Unit with jurisdiction over the concerned educational institution. As part of the due process, the parties shall be notified prior to the conduct of investigation by CHED, TESDA or concerned LGU. If the complaint is established or found to be true, the CHED, TESDA or LGU shall direct the educational institution to grant the complaining student the privilege under this Act. When in the findings of the CHED, TESDA or LGU the refusal to grant the said privilege is deliberate or unreasonable, a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be imposed against the erring institution. The fine imposed shall be collected by and placed under the disposal of CHED, TESDA or LGU concerned in furtherance of the government's mandate to enhance quality education.

SEC. 8. 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 the said school, at the discretion of CHED, TESDA or LGU concerned.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules. - The Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or Local Government Unit shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Funding. - The amount needed to implement the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated in the case of state universities and colleges and TESDA educational institution and training center shall be charged out of the appropriations of the educational institution concerned or the LGU concerned and thereafter, such sum as maybe necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations act or at the annual budget of the LGU concerned.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - Any other provisions of law or rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,