

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2351**



Introduced by Representative Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a matter of policy, the State recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their intellectual and social well-being, among others. Also, the State declares that it "shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development." (Sections 13 and 17, Article II of the 1987 Constitution)

In the recent times, more young people do not have access to education. As a result, these out-of-school youth are exposed to various social perils, to include but not limited to substance abuse and criminality. By granting them scholarships and financial assistance, we are giving the youth of today more reasons to invest their time, effort and resources in education and ensure that they become productive citizens of the country in the near future.

The Philippine educational system is tri-focal: basic education, technical/vocational education, and tertiary education. Alongside our strengthened basic and technical/vocational education, we also want our higher education sector to be equally equipped and competitive.

Philippine statistics shows that only around eight percent (8%) of high school graduates proceed to college. This is due to the families' incapacity to support and finance the education of the students.

This bill seeks to provide opportunities for the underprivileged students to pursue their tertiary education.

For this reason, we seek the speedy approval of this bill.


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

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AN ACT
GRANTING MANDATORY SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
QUALIFIED INDIGENT STUDENTS COMPRISING AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%)
OF THE STUDENT POPULATION IN THE DIFFERENT COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This Act shall be known as "Tertiary Education for the Poor Act of 2013."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution "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." In addition, Paragraph 3, Section 2 of said Article directs the State to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives, which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

SECTION 3. *Purpose* - Consistent with these Constitutional mandates, this Act aims to:

- a). Institutionalize a mechanism that ensures the mandatory grant of full scholarships and financial assistance to deserving students; and
- b). Encourage students, particularly the poor and underprivileged, to pursue quality tertiary education, secure their future, and make them responsible citizens.

SECTION 4. *Coverage* - This Act shall cover all institutions, both public and private, offering associates and baccalaureate degrees. The total number of beneficiaries shall be at least five percent (5%) of the student population as of the preceding semester or term.

SECTION 5. ***Nature and Extent of the Grants and Assistance*** - Scholarship grants shall be in the form of free (100% discount) matriculation. The number of beneficiaries with free matriculation should at least be twenty percent (20%) of the required total number of beneficiaries per school.

Other financial assistance shall be granted in the form of matriculation fee discounts, starting at a minimum of ten percent (10%) to a maximum of ninety percent (90%), to be determined by the screening committee of each college or university.

SECTION 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the accredited associations of universities and colleges, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations, including fines and penalties for non-compliance, for the prompt and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. ***Monitoring and Evaluation*** - The Commission on Higher Education shall require all schools to submit a detailed annual report relative to the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. ***Repealing Clause*** - All provisions of laws, decrees, orders, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. ***Separability Clause*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and in effect.

SECTION 10. ***Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,