

**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 5088



Introduced by Representative ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING

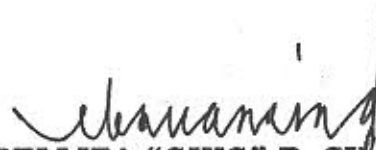
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Here is a young person, fresh out of college, with dreams and aspirations to have a decent opportunity and livelihood, then finding out that in order for him to reach these dreams and aspirations, he has to shell out money to pay for the many pre-employment documents, clearances and applications required of him by a prospective employer. Such requirements usually include Police and/or NBI Clearance, identification number and card from the Social Security System, certification or community tax certificate from the local government, tax identification number (TIN) and other fees to be paid.

The situation is difficult for the fresh graduate and at times oppressive considering that these new graduates seek employment precisely to obtain a regular income. The family resources are often depleted by the time of graduation because of the high costs of college education.

This bill seeks to address this situation by providing a reasonable waiver of the fees collected by government for various clearances, applications, licenses, and other documents from fresh graduates wanting to work and become 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 labor force, which is in its best interest to protect and promote.

The urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING

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AN ACT
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION
WITH DOCUMENTARY 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 the "Fresh Graduates Pre-employment Assistance Act."

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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 fresh graduate 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 further*, That the person is applying for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other document within one (1) year after graduation from high school, college, or any vocational or technical course; *Provided furthermore*, That 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 or with granting of a Philippine passport by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 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, 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.

SEC. 5. Administrative Offense. No government agency or instrumentality shall 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.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Commission on Higher Education in consultation with the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,