



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5139**



Introduced by Evelina G. Escudero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rationalize the distribution of government grants, scholarships and similar programs, amending for the purpose Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "*Higher Education Act of 1994*."

Section 2 of RA 7722 states, among others, that:

The State shall protect, foster 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. The State shall likewise ensure and protect academic freedom and shall promote its exercise and observance for the continuing intellectual growth and the advancement of learning and research.

The Commission on Higher Education governs both public and private institutions of higher education as well as degree-granting programs in all post-secondary educational institutions, public and private. A grant or scholarship is given to students based on academic excellence, talent and other factors such as ethnic backgrounds, field of study and financial need. It is given to help promising students gain access to higher levels of education. There are many private and government agencies that provide scholarships and grants. Students tend to avail of all the possible scholarships and grants they can qualify. Sometimes they can get a combination of scholarships, grants, loans, aids and fellowships. In effect, other equally deserving students are denied the opportunity to avail of the grant or scholarship already given. This is especially true of the quota system wherein only a specific number of students who pass the scholarship qualifying examinations are accepted and granted the scholarship.

Under this proposed amendment, the Commission on Higher Education will limit the availments of the grant or scholarship to only one per scholar or grantee regardless of its source. Through this measure, scholarships and grants will be distributed evenly and fairly to all qualified students. Thus, the opportunities for a better education will be spread out to more beneficiaries, more families and more communities.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Escudero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EVELINA G. ESCUDERO



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AN ACT

**RATIONALIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS,
SCHOLARSHIPS AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1994”**

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

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722, is hereby amended to
read as follows:

“Section. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The
Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) xxx
- xxx xxx xxx
- m) Review the charters of institutions of higher learning and
state universities and colleges including the chairmanship and

1 M-1) RATIONALIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF
2 GOVERNMENT GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND
3 SIMILAR PROGRAMS: *PROVIDED*, THAT A SCHOLAR
4 OR GRANTEE WHO IS ALREADY A BENEFICIARY OF
5 ANY SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
6 FROM EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE
7 SECTOR SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM AVAILING
8 OF ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT FROM THE
9 GOVERNMENT.”

10 n) xxx xxx xxx

11 o) xxx.”

12 SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
13 in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

14 Approved,