

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **5346**

Introduced by Representative Catalina "Baby" G. Leonen-Pizarro

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that it is a policy of the State to promote full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for all. In connection with this is the responsibility of the State not only to provide employment, but also to allow its professionals to grow and expand their horizons. Personal growth and development will ideally lead to progress for the nation.

It is also the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide adequate social services and improve the quality of life for all. Freedom from poverty can only be attained through the joint efforts between the individual and the State; the individual, by earning income through his livelihood, and the State, by providing opportunities for employment, growth, and at the same time giving social services to help the individual stand on his own two feet.

Oftentimes, it has been said that a college diploma is a ticket to employment, a ticket to improving one's life. By graduating from college after years of hard work and burning the midnight oil, one is able to exponentially increase his/her chance to be employed. The same can be said of having professional status stamped before one's own name. It is one thing to be a college graduate, indeed; however, it is definitely better to be a specialist in a particular field, or a Professional.

The State has already provided for avenues in order to attain a college diploma – scholarships are offered, and free tertiary education is supplied in many State Colleges and

Universities. This bill intends to add another avenue for the realization of the Filipino Youth's dream to become a leader in his field and to become the government's partner in nation-building. This bill intends to breathe life into the State's policy to provide opportunities of development for all – by allowing select, qualified individuals to take professional examinations for free, without any fee, in order to help them attain their dreams and maximize their opportunity to help them stand on their own. By providing free examinations for professional licenses for select, qualified individuals, those aspiring for professional status will be encouraged to try out without the distraction of any monetary obstacles to success.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. CATALINA "BABY" G. LEONEN-PIZARRO
Representative
ABS Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5346**

Introduced by Representative Catalina “Baby” G. Leonen-Pizarro

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY AND POLICE ELIGIBILITY EXAMINATIONS
FEES

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 "Free Professional Licensure, Civil Service Eligibility and Police Eligibility Examinations Fees Act of 2015".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for all. In relation to such policy is the responsibility of the state to ensure that there are no inroads that may effectively hinder the professional growth of the citizens, providing all avenues to allow them to develop themselves in their respective chosen fields. Furthermore, it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide adequate social services and improve the quality of life for all. The enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity and reduce social, political, and economic inequalities shall be given the highest priority. In this regard, efforts should be initiated so as we may afford the poor access to mechanisms that may expand opportunities for better employment.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. As provided for in this Act;

- a) "Professional Examinations" shall refer to the licensure examinations conducted by Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) leading to the issuance of a professional license. It shall also include examinations conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) leading to eligibility for employment to the government as a civil service professional or sub-professional including Police eligibility examination administered by the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) and the Bar Examinations conducted by the Supreme Court of the Philippines.
- b) "Qualified Indigent" refers to a person who has no visible means of income or support, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence or basic needs of his family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
- c) "Certification" refers to a document issued personally by the DSWD to the qualified indigent after the latter applies for such. It shall only be issued to the applicant, who shall personally apply for it. No fee shall be charged for such certification.

Sec. 4. Requirements for Availment. For purposes of availing of the benefits of this Act, an examinee shall personally secure a certification from the DSWD being a qualified indigent. Such certification shall be presented to the PRC, the CSC, the NAPOLCOM, the Supreme Court of the Philippines as the case maybe, or any other government regulatory office handling any profession, in lieu of the payment of examination fees. No other fee shall be charged against the qualified indigent for purposes of the professional examination.

Sec. 5. Limitations on Availment. Benefits of this Act may personally be availed of by a qualified indigent only once for every year.

Sec. 6. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign. The DSWD, PRC, CSC, NAPOLCOM and the Supreme Court of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby mandated to conduct an annual IEC campaign in order to inform the people of the procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act.

Sec. 7. Reportorial Requirement. For purposes of determining the effectiveness and social impact of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, CSC, NAPOLCOM and the Supreme Court of the Philippines shall submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress indicating therein the number of parties who benefited from this Act. The report shall state in detail, among others, the geographic location, demographic characteristics and socioeconomic profile of the beneficiaries of this Act.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, CSC, NAPOLCOM and the Supreme Court of the Philippines shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause. Any law, decree, ordinance or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.