

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 5625



Introduced by **HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

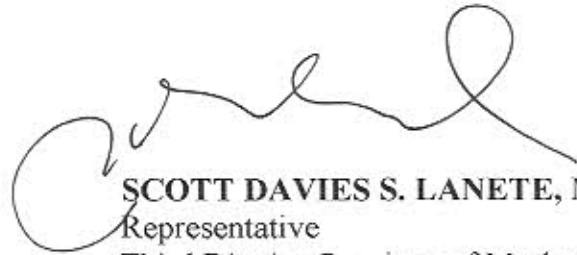
Article XII, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State."

Throughout the past five years, the country has experienced exponential growth in the Information Technology ("IT") and Business Process Management ("BPM") industry. Reports would reveal that in the past three years alone, an estimate of fifty billion dollars (\$50,000,000,000.00) has been generated by the industry. This growth has been due to the relatively low cost of business in the Philippines and the Filipino's linguistic skills, particularly in English. Thus, more and more foreign investors are flocking the country establishing IT and BPM centers which are more popularly known as "call centers".

The IT and BPM industry has received a major boost as young Filipinos became attracted to the relatively high salaries offered by call centers. This has had the effect of lowering the country's unemployment rate. Moreover, for a person belonging to a poor family, employment in call centers have been seen as a way towards alleviation from poverty as it offers highly competitive salaries compared to other available jobs. However, as the proliferation of call centers continues, there is an accompanying need for sustainability as neighboring countries are catching up making the competition tight.

In order to sustain growth in the IT and BPM industry, there is a need to equip more Filipinos with adequate skills geared towards employment in the industry. The State should entice younger Filipinos, especially the underprivileged, in choosing IT and BPM as their field of concentration. By prioritizing the marginalized, the State will not only sustain growth in the industry but also lend a helping hand to the underprivileged citizens.

Hence, this Bill seeks to provide free tertiary education in information and communication technology to all graduates of public schools. By doing so, the principles enshrined in the Constitution will be upheld. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 5625

Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

**AN ACT PROVIDING FREE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY COURSES IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
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 “*Free Information and Communication Technology Courses Act of 2015*”.

SECTION 2. *Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and sustain a reservoir of national talents consisting of high-level manpower in the field of information technology and business processing management.

SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) “Free information and communication technology courses” shall mean any college degree course especially catered to information and business processing industry offere in State colleges and universities;
- (b) “State Colleges and Universities” refers to institutions of higher learning, including specialized schools, maintained and funded by the government;
- (c) “Qualified beneficiaries” shall mean all graduates of public high schools belonging to marginalized families;
- (d) “Tuition fee: shall refer to the fee representing the direct costs of instruction and training facilities;
- (e) “Other School Fees” refers to fees covering other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including, but not limited to medical and dental, athletic, library and laboratory fees;

SECTION 4. *Free information and communication technology courses* – It is hereby mandated the establishment of free information and communication technology courses in all

State colleges and universities. Qualified beneficiaries intending to enroll or already enrolled in such courses shall be free from payment of tuition and other school related fees and shall be entitled to other benefits as may be granted in accordance with such rules and regulations to be promulgated hereinafter. Provided, that nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the diminution or removal of any benefit which the government presently grants to the beneficiaries.

SECTION 5. *Limitations* – The right of any beneficiary to avail of the benefits granted in this Act shall cease if he or she fails any three (3) subjects included in the course curriculum.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*. - Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provisions hereof shall be thereby affected.

SECTION 8. *Appropriation*. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act for the first five (5) years shall be sourced out from the gross annual revenues of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and thereafter in a special fund to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall, within six (6) months after its approval prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

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

Approved,