

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 5626



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "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".

The State has offered various scholarship programs the scope of which covers elementary and to some extent, tertiary education. Concededly, these efforts have contributed to a decline in the illiteracy rate of the country. Moreover, these programs have successfully contributed to the production of graduates adequately equipped with training in their chosen fields of expertise.

However, it cannot be doubted also that not all students admitted into a college scholarship grant finish their education smoothly. A significant number of scholars experience hardships despite the free education. This is caused by the lack of supplemental benefits such as books and reading materials. A student may freely attend classes due to entitlement to a scholarship grant. However, he/she still needs to read and study reading materials, the cost of which, not every scholar can afford. Thus, quality education remains a goal given the lack of books readily available to scholars. Without books to read from, a student is left with an incomplete and imperfect training.

In order to strengthen the provision of quality education among college students, there is a need to provide supplemental benefits in the form of free books and reading materials. Hence, this Bill seeks to provide free books and reading materials to all qualified college students enrolled in State colleges and universities. By doing so, the goal of quality education for all will be achieved. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Scott Davies S. Lanete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

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

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**AN ACT PROVIDING BOOK SUBSIDY TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN
THE TERTIARY EDUCATION AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 Books in College Act of 2015*”.

SECTION 2. *Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality education at the tertiary level.

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

- (a) “Book subsidy” shall mean the amount necessary for the purchase of the required reading materials in a given semester;
- (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 students in tertiary level enrolled in a State college and university belonging to marginalized families;

SECTION 4. *Book subsidy* – It is hereby mandated the provision of book subsidy to every qualified beneficiary until he or she completes his/her chosen course subject to the rules and limitations of his/her scholarship grant. 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,