

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 644

Introduced by Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the countrywide implementation of the Jobstart Philippines Program and providing funds therefor. JobStart is a partnership program of the DOLE, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which aims to increase the employability of the youth by providing them access to technical and life skills training demanded by employers and by mentoring and tooling them to improve their job searches and outcomes.

The project will also finance vouchers that will enable some 1,600 youth-beneficiaries to gain work experience in companies through on-the-job training.

Youth unemployment, while it had decreased by 1.1 percent, or by 13,000—from 16.8 percent in April 2013 to 15.7 percent in April 2014—still accounts for almost half, or 49.8 percent, of the country's total unemployed placed at 2.924 million.¹

There are 1.456 million unemployed youth as of April 2014, according to the Philippine Statistical Authority's Labor Force Survey, accounting for 16 percent of the total youth labor force of 9.254 million. The youth belong to the 15-24 age bracket.

DOLE had initially chosen four areas for the JobStart pilot program and these are Quezon City, with 900 allotted beneficiaries; Taguig City, 240; City of San Fernando, Pampanga, 360; and General Trias, Cavite, 100. A number of employers have also pledged internships for the youth beneficiaries in their companies. In Quezon City, 11 companies offered 514 internship slots. Taguig City had 13 companies with 307 internship offers. In the city of San Fernando in Pampanga, 40 companies had offered 629 internship slots, and in General Trias in Cavite, 10 companies have slots for 215 interns.²

The JobStart Program is a pivotal step in improving the youth employment situation in the country through the effective delivery of current labor market

¹ Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz

² O. G., "DOLE set to launch JobStart Philippines..." June 17, 2014.

information, employment services, skills-jobs matching mechanisms, and other job search reforms.

Immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.N. Abayon III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III
Representative
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COUNTRYWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
JOBSTART PHILIPPINES PROGRAM 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 "National Jobstart Philippines Program Act."

SECTION 2. Training and Internship. The program shall provide skills and technical training including full employment facilitation services such as (1) Career Guidance and Coaching, to be provided by PESO staff and other trained career guidance coaches and advocates; (2) Life Skills training for eight days; (3) Technical skills training for up to three months; and (4) Company-based internships for up to six months.

SECTION 3. Beneficiaries. The program requires participants from 18 to 24 years old, high school graduate, not employed, studying nor undergoing training at the time of registration and with less than one year or no work experience. The interns will receive stipends of between P200 to P300 during their training and 75 percent of minimum wage during their six-month internship. On the other hand, employers will receive P9,000 in training fee per intern they will accommodate.

SECTION 4. Training costs. The JobStart Unit shall provide the establishment the training costs, trainees' stipends, allowances, administrative costs, or other fees, if any, as specified under an approved signed Memorandum of Agreement between DOLE and the establishment and/or local government unit concerned.

SECTION 5. Government agencies. The JobStart is a partnership program of the Department of Labor and Employment and other government agencies, including Local Government Units (LGUs), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and representatives from the youth, employer, and labor sector.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,