

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
_____ Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5357



Introduced by the Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

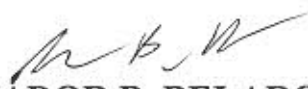
One of the grave problems plaguing the Philippine educational system, in particular, and the country, in general is the “education gap”, the phenomenon whereby around 600,000 graduates of our higher education institutions end up being unemployed every year.

Among the reasons for the occurrence of such phenomenon is that our college graduates do not match the requirements of industries here and abroad and/or they are not provided with sufficient assistance and preparations so that they could land jobs.

To address the education gap, it is necessary for us to adopt a school-to-employment program or approach in higher education so that all efforts from the time a student enters into a higher educational institution are all part of an entire set of actions geared towards landing a college student a job here or abroad upon his or her graduation. Alternatively, all such efforts may also be directed towards a college graduate embarking upon entrepreneurship upon his or her graduation.

Of late there is a resurgence of an “outcomes-based approach” in pedagogy. Such an approach is only a portion of the school-to-employment approach being proposed here as the latter is not only concerned about curricular design but also with the provision of other services to the prospective graduate as well as other assistance from other stakeholders so that the prospective graduate will already be job-ready upon graduation, thereby eliminating substantial amounts and time for training and re-tooling costs.

The undersigned representation ran during the last elections on the platform that “*Ang tunay na pag-asa ay nasa edukasyon*”. He hopes that the adoption of the instant bill will make it possible for many of our college graduates to realize their dreams through education.



SALVADOR B. BELARO JR.

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
IMPLEMENTING A SCHOOL-TO-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN
HIGHER EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “School-To-Employment Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policies.

(a) It is the policy of the State to promote industrialization and full employment through, among others, industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural human resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign market, and that in pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop.

(b) It is likewise the policy of the State to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

(c) It is likewise a State policy to account for regional and sectoral needs and conditions and to encourage local planning in the development of educational policies and programs.

SEC. 3. School-To-Employment Program in Higher Education- The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby mandated to implement a "School-To-Employment" Program in the performance of its tasks provided by law. Such a mandate should include the following:

- (a) Offering of courses in all higher education institutions in the country which are responsive to market needs in the Philippines, with due regard to the needs of the various regions of the country and in other countries of the world where there is a demand for Filipino manpower;
- (b) Offering of courses in all higher education institutions in the country which are in accordance with the country's developmental goals and protective of our national interest;
- (c) Offering of courses in all higher education institutions in the country which will promote entrepreneurship in the various regions of the country;
- (d) Determining the number of the aforementioned courses as well as their proportion to each other, with due regard to the pertinent national development plan;
- (e) Instituting a system of providing scholarship grants, educational loans and other forms of educational assistance that reflects the proportion referred to in Sec. 3(e) above;
- (f) Curricular design of the aforementioned courses, which should have as their primary feature the employability of the graduate of such courses, immediately upon graduation as such courses already include subjects useful and pertinent to the employment of such graduates in jobs targeted even before graduation such as but not limited to practical trainings, language requirement, orientation on the peculiarities of the targeted industry for employment, computer and digital fluency skills, office relations and management, basic marketing and press relations skills, grooming, and other skills which will provide added value to the business of the targeted employer or to the business targeted by the prospective graduate in case he or she chooses to embark into entrepreneurship.
- (g) Implementation and monitoring of the aforementioned course offerings by all higher education institutions in the country;
- (h) Conduct of regular consultations with the various industries in the various regions of the country relating to all the aforementioned concerns;

- (i) Provide a system of incentives to participating and/or cooperating industries in the foregoing;
- (j) Strengthen guidance counselling in higher education institutions which should be directed, among others, towards the provision of proper guidance to students in higher education institutions with respect to the jobs they intend to get after graduation;
- (k) Institutionalize the conduct of job fairs every year in every higher education institution to assist prospective graduates in their job search as well as to assist prospective employers of said prospective graduates;
- (l) With respect to industries abroad where there is demand for Filipino manpower, conduct of regular consultations with the said industries, through the assistance of the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs and the various embassies and/or consulates in the Philippines of the countries where the said industries are based;
- (m) In the case of the language requirement in foreign industries, facilitate the establishment of twinning arrangements between Philippine higher education institutions and foreign higher education institutions for the teaching of the required foreign language to Filipino students intending to work in foreign countries, including the establishment of pertinent faculty exchange and student exchange programs;

SEC. 4. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is herein mandated to provide the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with all the necessary data, as well as all the necessary assistance, that would enable the latter to perform its aforementioned tasks, including data on the manpower requirement of various industries in the various regions of the country as well as the manpower requirement of various industries in foreign countries where there is a demand for Filipino manpower.

SEC. 5. The National Development Authority (NEDA) is herein mandated to provide the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with all the necessary data, as well as all the necessary assistance, that would enable the latter to perform its aforementioned tasks, including data on courses that should be offered to protect the national interest and to further national developmental goals and their ideal distribution and proportion to other course offerings in the various regions of the country.

SEC. 6. The Department of Foreign Affairs is herein mandated to provide the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with all the necessary assistance that

would enable the latter to perform its aforementioned tasks, with respect to foreign entities, including foreign higher education institutions with respect to twinning arrangements referred to in Sec. 3(m) above.

SEC. 7. Expenses that will be incurred by the participating or cooperating employers in the regular consultations that will be conducted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) referred to in Sec. 3(h) shall be considered as deductible expenses within the contemplation of the National Internal Revenue Code.

SEC.8. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in collaboration with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) shall be tasked to formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 9. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 10. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.