

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6423



Introduced by Representative John Marvin "Yul Servo" Nieto

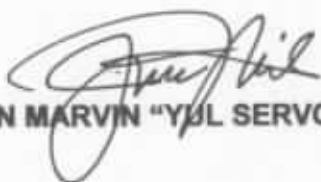
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 13 provides that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in national building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. It is also our duty to teach the rights and duties of citizenship to the youth.

Jose Rizal once said that "*Ang kabataan ay ang pag-asa ng bayan*", but before this saying be manifested in today's generation, we must instill to the youth the importance of doing things for public service – for the benefit of what is right and what is just. We must encourage the youth to work in return for the grant that the government had given to them, it is by this way we can balance the lack of interest of the young generation in the participation in public and civic affairs.

They will be required to have a one-year service in public institutions or government agencies as a way of committing themselves to preserve the thrust of public service for the generations yet unborn and to be a part of the national development. This bill will cover all expenses for the education of the students and in return such student shall serve for the government for a period depending on the duration of the scholarship granted to him/her, as long as no violation or breach in any agreement be made or committed by the student.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" NIETO

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AN ACT MANDATING ALL STUDENTS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIP, GRANTS, OR SUBSIDY FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO RENDER AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF RETURN SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR EVERY YEAR OF FREE TUITION/SCHOLARSHIP GRANT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Mandatory Return Service Law of 2017*".

SECTION 2. *Declaration Of Policy.* The 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. As the policy of the State, appointments in the government service shall only be according to merit and fitness, and to provide within the public service a progressive system of personnel administration to insure the maintenance of an honest, efficient, progressive and courteous civil service in the Philippines.

Consistent with this Constitutional Principle, it is the declared policy of the State, to ensure that its citizens whom it has provided free college and/or post-graduate education, be required to render return service in the Philippines and contribute to the national development.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. "Government" pertains to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or any other instrumentality of the Philippine government authorized by law to grant scholarships, grants, or subsidy for tertiary or professional courses/degrees.
- b. "Return Service" refers to the rendering of one year of service for every school year wherein the student/ beneficiary has received a full scholarship, grant, or subsidy.
- c. "Scholar" includes all students enrolled in a State University or College (SUC) who are granted full scholarship, grant, or subsidy for a particular school year,

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* All students receiving full scholarship grant, subsidy, or any other benefit whether directly or indirectly from the government of the Philippines wherein the full tuition fee for the school year is completely paid shall be required to render return service.

SECTION 5. *Scholarship.* There shall be established a scholarship program for qualified students seeking to obtain a college and/or post-graduate degree, which shall be implemented by CHED with the concurrence of the various SUC's.

SECTION 6. *Qualification of Student Beneficiaries.* To qualify for the scholarship grant, the beneficiaries must meet the following requirements, to wit:

- a. He/she must be a Filipino Citizen;

- b. He/she must have completed his/her secondary education in a duly accredited public school/institution in the Philippines;
- c. He/she must have maintained an exemplary academic and deportment mark during his/her secondary education;
- d. He/she must be a resident of the Philippines;
- e. He/she must maintain an above average grade to be determined by the SUC;
- f. He/she must not commit any gross violation of the rules and regulations prescribed by the government and the SUC.

SECTION 7. Requirements. The following conditions shall be imposed on the scholar, to wit:

- a. Upon completion of the college or post graduate course, the scholar must render a mandatory one year of service in a public institution or government agency for every year of free tuition.
- b. The scholarship grant shall include free tuition and other school fees, allowance for prescribed text books, supplies, and equipment, uniform, housing and transportation, and other related miscellaneous living allowances.
- c. If the scholar fails to finish the course, is kicked out, or drops out from the program, he/she shall be liable to pay for the amount already granted.
- d. There shall be at least 5 students in every city and at least 10 students for every province and highly urbanized city who shall be entitled to the scholarship grant
- e. The student shall submit all the documents and certification of compliance to CHED for proper documentation.

SECTION 8. Non-diminution of rights. The graduate who is rendering the mandatory one year of return service shall be secured of and be given all the rights and benefits granted to any employee in the public service. Fair treatment shall be accorded to them by the public institution or government agencies.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations and Standard Forms. Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the CHED in collaboration with the Department of Education and all the SUCs.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. SUCs, CHED, and the Department of Education shall include in their annual budgets the necessary funds needed to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. All laws, ordinances, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decree, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,