

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8412



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority's Annual Poverty Indicator Survey indicated a decrease of about 352,000 out of school youth aged 16 to 24, from 3.32 million in 2016 to 2.97 million in 2017. On the other hand, PSA data showed an increase in out-of-school youth aged 6 to 11 and 12 to 15.

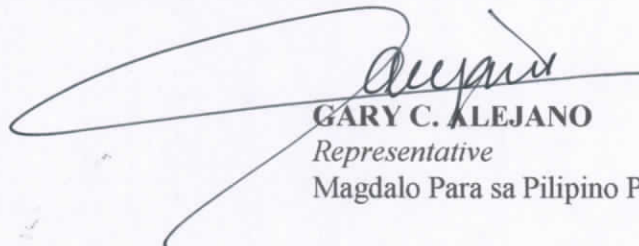
The PSA data likewise stressed that around 50% of OSCYs belong to families whose incomes were in the bottom 30% on a per capita basis. The most common reasons cited for not attending school were marriage or family matters (37%); lack of personal interest (24.7%); and high cost of education or financial concerns (17.9%).

Clearly, formal education has taken a back seat for most Filipino families depriving them opportunities such as appropriate income to sustain their needs. Education and lifelong learning are essential tools in breaking the cycle of exclusion and poverty. Hence, there is a need to provide Filipinos access to formal education.

There are numerous scholarships and other programs and incentives initiated by the government in order to promote the right of all citizens to quality education. However, information or access to these scholarship opportunities is limited. This proposed measure seeks to establish the National Scholarship Commission in order to ensure that all available scholarships by the government or other private institutions are made accessible to the widest possible recipients.

Hopefully, with wider access to available free education, out citizens, will be able to avail the same and liberate themselves from the cycle of poverty, and actively participate in national development.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING A UNIFIED SYSTEM OF EXTENDING AND PROCESSING
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS, SUBSIDIES, BURSARIES
AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT WINDOWS FOR THE FILIPINO YOUTH,
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SEC.1. Short Title.-** This Act shall be known as the “National Scholarship
2 Commission Act of 2018”.

3
4 **SEC.2. Declaration of Policy.-** The State shall protect and promote the right of all
5 citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such
6 education accessible to all.

7
8 The State shall also establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student
9 loan programs, subsidies, bursaries, and other incentives which shall be available to
10 deserving students and individuals in both public and private schools, especially to the
11 underprivileged.

12
13 It is the goal of the State to substantially bring down the number of out of school
14 youth and encourage them to continue seeking formal education, with the goal of expanding
15 their horizons with additional opportunities in the future, thereby fully maximizing their full
16 potential.

17
18 **SEC.3. Duties and Functions of the National Scholarship Commission. –** The
19 following shall be the duties and functions of the National Scholarship Commission (the
20 “Commission”):

- 21
22 a. Generate, safe-keep and update a comprehensive database of out of school
23 children and youth (OSCY) and other qualified individuals nationwide, including
24 pertinent data and/or circumstance of said OSCY;
25
26 b. Identify and pin-point the reasons, issues and/or controversies that are keeping
27 children and youth out of schools and formal education, as well as the needs of
28 OSCY;

- 1
2 c. Reach out the OSCY and other qualified individuals and gather information
3 and/or data that could help them get back to formal education;
4
5 d. Proactively and effectively disseminate information regarding existing regular
6 and/or special scholarships, educational grants and the like to OSCY and qualified
7 individuals; and
8 e. Assist OSCY and qualified individuals who opt to avail of scholarships,
9 educational grants and the like and facilitate with the necessary procedures and/or
10 processes.
11

12 **SEC.4. *Composition of the National Scholarship Commission.***- The Commission
13 shall be composed and governed by the following:
14

- 15 a. The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), or his/her duly
16 authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the Commission;
17
18 b. The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), or his/her
19 duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the Commission;
20
21 c. The Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
22 (TESDA), or his/her duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the
23 Commission;
24
25 d. The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development
26 (DSWD), or his/her duly authorized representative, as member of the
27 Commission;
28
29 e. The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government
30 (DILG), or his/her duly authorized representative, as a member of the
31 Commission.
32
33 f. The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC) as a member of
34 the Commission; and
35
36 g. A representative from the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK), who shall be elected
37 by all SK Provincial Federation Presidents, as a member of the commission.
38

39 **SEC.5. *Staffing and the National Scholarship Commission's Secretariat.***- The
40 Commission's staff, secretariat and personnel shall be appointed by the Commission. The
41 Commission shall convene immediately upon the effectivity of this Act to organize and come
42 up with its internal rules and procedures necessary for its daily operations and the carrying
43 out of its duties and functions as spelled out in this Act.
44

45 **SEC.6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***- The Commission shall likewise
46 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90)
47 days from the effectivity of this Act.
48
49

1 **SEC.7. Appropriation.-** The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
2 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the enactment of
3 this Act. In the meantime, the initial funding, prior to the inclusion in the regular budget, shall
4 provide from the existing budgets of the DepEd, CHED and TESDA.
5

6 **SEC.8. Repealing Clause.-** All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts
7 thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
8 accordingly.
9

10 **SEC.9. Separability Clause.-** If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain
12 in force and effect.
13

14 **SEC. 10. Effectivity.-** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the
15 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general
16 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,