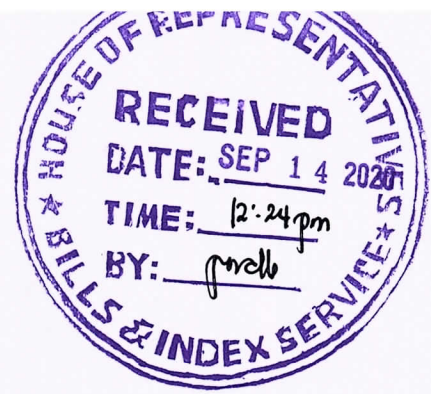


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7663



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The importance of education cannot be stressed enough for a nation to be able
2 to sustain development until its succeeding generations. Soon enough, the youth of the
3 Philippines shall be our next nation-builders and policy-makers. It is then but of utmost
4 importance that they be given every possible opportunity to learn and make the most of
5 their learning.

6
7 We are not oblivious to the fact that most students and their families in our
8 country have difficulties in making ends meet as regards paying for their tuition fees,
9 living costs (if they are studying in a different region other than their hometown), books
10 and other resources, among others. The strengthening of our educational system comes
11 with the acknowledgement that not only is financial assistance needed in terms of free
12 tuition in the tertiary level, but in terms of accessing the necessary resources for their
13 education.

14
15 This is why we need to introduce measures that can help alleviate the burden
16 that these students face, even if that means offering them loans to help them in their
17 education, with minimal interest and with flexible time frames for payment. With this,
18 we can ensure that we are making steps that will soon reap benefits by investing in our
19 country's future.

20
21 It is for these foregoing premises that approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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 “Student Loan Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as a policy of the State to 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.

SECTION 3. Philippine Board of Student Loans. – There is hereby established a Philippine Board of Student Loans which shall formulate and oversee the implementation policies regarding student loans. It shall likewise be referred to in this Act as the Board.

SECTION 4. Functions of the Board. – The Board shall have the following functions:

- a. Formulate a system of student loan access to secondary and tertiary students in the Philippines;
- b. Set guidelines for the application for and monitoring of student loans;
- c. Require the submission of reports from government and non-government agencies concerned with the conduct of programs, projects, and policies relating to student loans;
- d. Gather and collect data on the current status of student loans in the country to formulate policies to better provide accessibility to students;
- e. Submit periodic reports to the Congress on the status of student loans in the country;
- f. Perform such other duties functions and responsibilities as may be necessary to effectively attain its objectives.

SECTION 5. Composition of the Board. – The Board shall be composed of the

1 following:

- 2
- 3 a. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
- 4 b. Secretary of Education
- 5 c. Secretary of Finance
- 6 d. Secretary of Budget and Management
- 7 e. One (1) faculty representative from a state university, preferably with the
- 8 largest student population, from each Philippine region, and for a term of
- 9 two (2) years
- 10 f. Two (2) student representatives from a state university, preferably with the
- 11 largest student population, from each Philippine region, and for a term of
- 12 two (2) years
- 13

14 The Board shall be co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher

15 Education and the Secretary of Education. The Board shall be assisted by a secretariat

16 to be composed of personnel that may be seconded from the Department involved. They

17 may also retain consultants and other employees as the need arises.

18

19 *SECTION 6. Honoraria or Emoluments.* – The Members of the Board or their

20 designated permanent representatives shall receive honoraria or emoluments as may be

21 determined to the Board and accordance with existing budget and generally accepted

22 accounting rules and regulations.

23

24 *SECTION 7. Adoption of Board Rules and Regulations.* – In aid of its oversight

25 functions, the Board shall adopt its own internal rules of procedure, conduct

26 investigations and receive testimonies, reports, and technical advice, invite, or summon

27 any public official, private citizen, or any other person to appear before it, or require any

28 person to produce documents or other material as it may need.

29

30 *SECTION 8. Appropriation.* – Congress shall appropriate the amount of Fifty

31 Million pesos (P50,000,000.00) for the initial implementation of this Act. After the initial

32 implementation, the amount necessary to carry out the Program is hereby authorized

33 to be appropriated under the regular budget of the Commission on Higher Education.

34

35 *SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board shall convene

36 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act and shall promulgate the

37 necessary implementing rules and regulation within six (6) months thereafter.

38 *SECTION 3. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and

39 proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, hereby

40 amended or modified accordingly.

41

42 *SECTION 4. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or

43 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force

44 and effect.

45

46 *SECTION 5. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

47 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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Approved,