



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4763



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Globally, millions of children have become orphans or have lost a caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ It is found that orphanhood among children increases the likelihood of poverty and reduces children's access to education.²

Currently, there is no definite number of children who were orphaned or lost a caregiver during the pandemic in the Philippines. However, given the observed impacts of orphanhood and loss of a caregiver to children worldwide, there is a need for the government to address its possible effects on Filipino children.

This proposed bill seeks to provide an avenue for Filipino children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to reach their full potential and development by providing them with scholarship opportunity. A fund shall be administered for this purpose in order to assure that they have access to quality basic education until tertiary education.

Thus, the passage of this bill is highly sought.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/topics/orphanhood/index.html>

² Ibid.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILDREN
AFFECTED BY COVID-19 ORPHANHOOD AND CAREGIVER LOSS.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as "Educational Scholarship for Children Affected by COVID-19 Orphanhood and Caregiver Loss."

SECTION 2. Full Scholarship for Children Affected by COVID-19 Orphanhood. – Children who are affected by COVID-19 orphanhood and caregiver loss shall be entitled to a full scholarship from basic education until their completion of tertiary education subject to rules and regulations as mandated by this Act. The benefits shall include all expenses for education, whether in public or private schools, such as but not limited to tuition fees, miscellaneous and other fees and other, board and lodging, transportation expense, clothing and food, and other similar expenses.

SECTION 3. Special Fund for Educational Benefits. - In order to carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby established a Special Fund, to be known as the "Educational Benefits for Children Affected by COVID-19 Orphanhood and Caregiver Loss," in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00). Such fund shall be perpetually maintained and used exclusively for the benefit of children who experienced orphanhood and caregiver loss due to COVID-19; *Provided* that not more than 5% of this Fund shall be used for the administration of the Special Fund.

SECTION 4. Administration of the Fund. – The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Governing (UniFAST) Board in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Education (DepEd) shall have the primary responsibility of managing and supervising the Fund. It shall also formulate policies, and implement rules and regulations, guidelines, and other related functions to oversee, manage and supervise the operations of the Fund. It shall also be responsible in formulating the mechanics,

scope and limitations, and requirements for the scholarship program. The UniFAST Secretariat shall serve as the Secretariat providing administrative support to the Board and shall perform functions as authorized by the UniFAST Board.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board In consultation with the DepEd shall promulgate the Implementing rules and regulations for this act, in coordination with the DSWD.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof. Is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or Inconsistent with the provisions of this Act Is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause. -This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication In the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.