

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5728



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION
EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP) AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

By virtue of Executive Order No. 330, series of 1996, signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos, Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program, otherwise known as ETEEAP, is adopted as an integral part of the country's educational system under supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

It is a comprehensive educational assessment program at the tertiary level that recognizes, accredits, and gives equivalencies to knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values gained by individuals from relevant work. It is implemented through deputized higher education institutions that shall award the appropriate college degree.

In institutionalizing the program, the State would be able to uphold, commit, and follow its constitutional mandate of protecting and promoting the right of all citizens to quality education and of establishing, maintaining, and supporting a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant

to the needs of the people and society. This will provide the individuals an avenue to complete and finish their college education and allow them to harness and maximize their full potentials in their respective fields.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Expanded
Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the 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.

Further, Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution
provides that the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete,
adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the
people and society and, that the State shall encourage non-formal, informal,
and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and

out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

In line with this, it is the goal of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) to strengthen the system of academic equivalency and validation of the knowledge and expertise derived by individuals from relevant work experiences and high-level, non-formal training in order to harness their full potentials.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act, the terms:

- (a) *“Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program”* shall refer to the alternative education program in the Philippines that allows working professionals but were either unable to finish their college education or were completely unable to step into college for different reasons, to earn a bachelor’s degree without going through traditional schooling methods.
- (b) *“Higher Education Institution”* shall refer to an institution of higher learning which primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and leading to the conferment of a diploma; and
- (c) *“Tertiary Education”* shall refer to higher education degree programs and post-secondary technical-vocational programs.

Section 4. *Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program.* – Under this program, professionals with an aggregate of five (5) or more years of work experience can use the knowledge, experiences, achievements, and skills obtained through their jobs to earn school credits that are then deducted from the total number of units or credits that they are required to earn before they graduate.

The following are the requirements to qualify for the program:

- (a) Filipino citizen, whether in the Philippines or abroad;
- (b) Has at least five (5) years of work experience
- (c) Birth Certificate issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- (d) 23 years old or above;
- (e) Resume / Curriculum Vitae / Personal Data sheet;
- (f) Duly accomplished ETEEAP application form;
- (g) Service Record or Employment Certificate signed by the Employer;
- (h) Job Description signed by the Employer; and
- (i) Transcript of Records.

Section 5. *Commission on Higher Education.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall accredit colleges and universities that seek to offer the ETEEAP as part of their academic program.

Section 6. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – For purposes of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall discharge the following additional powers and functions in relation to the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP):

- (a) Certify, after thorough evaluation, the pertinent work experiences and knowledge of expertise acquired by individuals from high-level, non-formal and informal training towards the awarding of an appropriate academic degree;
- (b) Determine the deficiencies of an applicant/awardee that would need remedial studies or academic supplementation through formal course work in order to satisfy pertinent requirements of a degree applied for;
- (c) Develop, on a continuing basis and with the assistance of technical panels and other competent authorities, standards, creative methodologies, and criteria for a diversified mode of assessing skills,

values, knowledge, and levels of competence which should include, but not limited to, instruments such as written examinations, practical work and/or laboratory demonstrations, and qualification portfolio assessments;

- (d) Deputize and/or accredit agencies, organizations, and higher education institutions which will conduct equivalency assessments, develop assessment instruments, provide academic supplementation, and/or award degrees within their area of competence or specialization;
- (e) Safeguard the continuing integrity and quality measures of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program by linking and cooperating with appropriate development and regulatory agencies and institutions;
- (f) Update the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board on the implementation of the program for policy coordination and monitoring purposes;
- (g) Set standard fees and other administrative charges for accreditation that will contribute to and be part of the Special Account of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program under the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF);
- (h) Convene a consultative or advisory body for the purpose of providing broad-based inter-agency consultation, to be composed of:
 - (1) Chairman of the CHED as the Chair
 - (2) Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) as the Vice-Chair
 - (3) Undersecretary for Programs of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS) as member
 - (4) Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology as member
 - (5) Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as member

- (6) Chairman of the National Youth Commission (NYC) as member
- (7) Representative of private higher educations to be designated by the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Assistance (COCOPEA) as member
- (8) Representative of the state universities and colleges to be designated by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) as member
- (9) Representative of the business sector to be designated by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) as member; and
- (i) Such other powers and functions as may be provided by law.

Section 7. *Technical Secretariat.* – To ensure the effective implementation of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), the CHED shall organize a permanent Technical Secretariat composed of highly competent individuals with recognized expertise in alternative learning systems and educational assessment. The Technical Secretariat shall provide technical support to and shall be provided by and be lodged within the CHED. In addition, the CHED may contract the services of external experts and authorities on equivalency and educational measurement.

Section 8. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. However, the Special Account in the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF) may be used by the CHED as a supplemental source of funding whenever necessary and required for effective implementation of the Program.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education

(CHED) shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Nothing in this Act shall result in the diminution of the benefits and/or assistance given to overseas Filipinos and migrant workers as provided in other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and issuances.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,