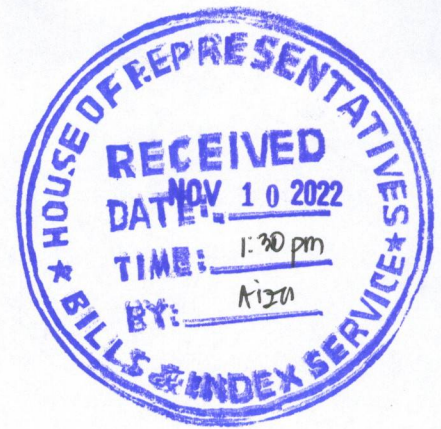


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6027**



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services."

In order to achieve this, the state needs to ensure that farmers are well-equipped with the proper knowledge, training, and education. But Agriculture as an area of study does not receive ample support. Agriculture scholarships, therefore, are not as accessible to students and may not be sustainable for the long term. Therefore, there is a need to institutionalize the grant of scholarships to deserving students who wish to pursue courses in agriculture or aquaculture.

This bill seeks to establish an Agriculture Scholarship Fund that would help support deserving students pursuing studies in agriculture and aquaculture. Likewise, the creation of such fund would help the scholarship beneficiaries to pursue a career in the field of agriculture, strengthening the sector in our country.

The swift passage of this act is earnestly sought.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
3rd District, CAMARINES SUR

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House Bill No. **6027**

Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

AN ACT TO CREATE AN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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 "Agriculture Scholarship Act of 2022."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be a declared policy of the State to prioritize education, innovation, research and development in the areas of agriculture and aquaculture. In this pursuit, the State shall grant scholarships to deserving students to enable them to pursue higher education and training in the said fields.

SECTION 3. Eligibility. The following are qualifications for the scholarship:

- (a) The applicant must be a Filipino citizen;
- (b) Be a regular first (1st) year college student at the time of the award which shall be granted after the first semester of the first year in the course;
- (c) Be currently enrolled in any of the state universities or colleges, under any of the identified agriculture or aquaculture courses;
- (d) Have a general weighted average (GWA) of at least 80% in the first semester of their first year;
- (e) Qualify in the Junior-Level Agri Scholarship Examination; and
- (f) Must be of good moral character;
- (g) Must maintain a GWA of at least 82% throughout the duration of his course.

SECTION 4. Award of Scholarship. Recipients shall be entitled to an annual award for full time study which shall include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: Provided, however, that in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial assistance given under other government scholarship programs must be considered.

SECTION 5. Duration. Recipients shall be entitled to an award for their entire stay in college after the grant of the initial scholarship amount while matriculating in an approved program.

SECTION 6. Approved Courses and Priority Programs. Recipients shall pursue degrees in agriculture and aquaculture as identified and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education.

SECTION 7. Terms and Conditions. Applicants for the scholarships must execute a service contract in which they shall agree to work for the Philippine government in the next four (4) years after their graduation and in a Philippine-based corporation within eight (8) years after their graduation. Failure to comply with the terms of the service contract will result in the full repayment of all awarded amounts within a specified time limit.

SECTION 8. Implementing Agencies. The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the main implementing Agencies of the provisions of this Act. The DA shall be responsible for evaluation, award-giving, and monitoring of scholarship grants and awardees.

SECTION 9. Review and Monitoring. The DA and the CHED shall report to the President and Congress after the first three (3) years, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of the provisions of this Act and submit recommendations for its improvement.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from approval of this Act, the DA and the CHED shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. Appropriations Clause. An initial amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00) annually is hereby appropriated for the scholarship to be sourced from the earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) equally for the duration of the implementation

SECTION 12. 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 13. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

