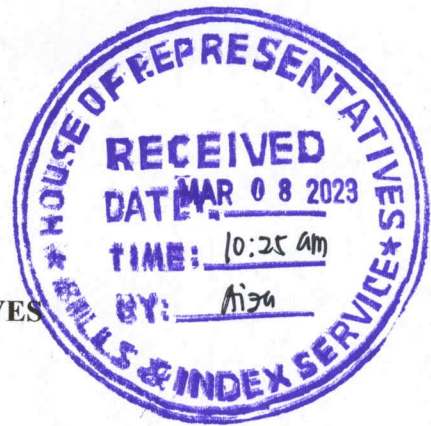


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7524



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

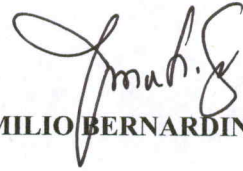
This bill seeks to provide access to accommodation for deserving students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) through the establishment of dormitories on or near campus.

The majority of colleges and universities in the nation are situated in dense cities or metropolitan areas. The concentration of higher education institutions in these places contributes to the demand for student accommodation. Students who live in close proximity to the institution use public transportation to endure heavy traffic every day to come to class. Depending on their financial situation, however, students traveling from distant provinces rent apartments, boarding houses, dormitories, or bed spaces. Privately owned accommodations usually have deregulated facilities, which disadvantages students.

With the gradual shift to face-to-face classes in the higher education units, it is crucial for the state to create and ensure an environment conducive to learning. There is an imperative need to provide students with decent and affordable accommodations while studying at tertiary institutions.

Thus, this measure will ensure that adequate and comfortable dormitories are provided for qualified students. In addition, it will meet the set of norms and standards for the efficient implementation of this Act.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilio B. Yulo", written in a cursive style.

REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7524

Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

**AN ACT PROVIDING FREE DORMITORIES FOR STUDENTS IN STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCS), AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**

*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 “Free Dormitory Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It shall be 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. The State shall establish and maintain a system of education that caters to the needs of the people and society.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* This Act covers Filipino students enrolled in duly recognized State Universities and Colleges in the country pursuing any degree at the time or after the passage of this Act, subject to the qualifications provided herein.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications.* The student must be enrolled in any recognized State University or College in the country and must have an official residence or address at least twenty-five (25) kilometers away from the school.

The State University or College shall determine those students who belong to low-income families for dormitory rentals in the course of their studies in the college or university. They shall provide rules as it may deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Establishment.* The State Universities and Colleges, in close coordination with the Local Government Unit concerned, shall identify an idle land

within or outside the school premises for the establishment of dormitories.

SEC. 6. *Administration.* All recognized State Universities and Colleges shall establish at least (1) dormitory building with a total housing capacity of a minimum of 150 students. The school shall supplement the necessary technical and administrative aspects of the establishment.

The State Universities and Colleges shall also establish and maintain a system which should have, at the minimum, the following services:

- A. Beddings;
- B. Comfort Rooms;
- C. Cabinets/Lockers;
- D. Electricity and Water Supply;
- E. Basic First-Aid Medicine and Equipment; and
- F. Wireless high-speed internet access

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the regular appropriations of the Department of Education.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DepEd shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,