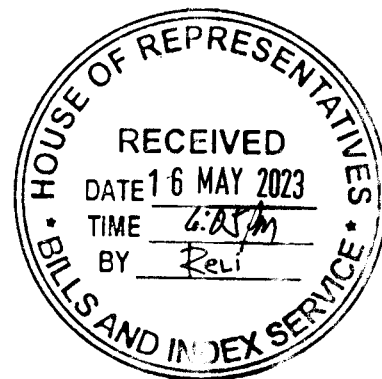


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8159



Introduced by Representatives Doris E. Maniquiz

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE TUITION FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
ENROLLED IN GRADUATE EDUCATION MASTER'S PROGRAM
AT STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the primordial policy of the State to protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. As such, Article XIV, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution declared that the State shall establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels, thus, our country's children have free basic education. Recently, Republic Act 10931 or the *Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017* was passed providing for free tertiary education to bona fide students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) regardless of the program or course they are enrolled. On the other hand, Republic Act 10157, or *The Kindergarten Education Law*, approved in 2012, made Kindergarten the compulsory and mandatory entry stage to basic education.

These recent legislations are a manifestation of the State's Constitutional mandate to deliver quality education at all levels. Thus, in pursuance of this policy

trajectory, this proposed legislation will provide free tuition for Master's students who are government employees, and who will be enrolling in SUCs.

This limitation of the segment of the population to be covered by this proposal is in consideration of the needed financial resources to successfully implement this program. Moreover, this bill is in consonance with Republic Act 11032 or the *Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018* which called for the promotion of integrity, accountability, proper management of public affairs and public property as well as to establish effective practices, aimed at efficient turnaround of the delivery of government services and the prevention of graft and corruption in government. This bill will provide the necessary yet very important complementary support program of human resources development through the grant of higher education specializations, through a Master's degree, to our bureaucrats and technocrats.

Given these overarching considerations to make our civil servants better educated professionals, the passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.



REP. DORIS E. MANQUIZ

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Government
2 Employees Free MA Tuition in SUCs Act".

3
4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote the enhanced professionalization of the civil service to further improve on the
6 efficient delivery of public services to the people. Further, the State shall likewise
7 upgrade on its human resources to cope with the rapidly evolving societal and
8 administrative requirements of a fast-moving polity. Towards this end, government
9 workers, being an important component of the State's human resources, shall be given
10 education advancement opportunities through adequate funding and such other
11 mechanisms to improve their education levels, for the eventual benefit of the state
12 bureaucracy in particular, and the country, in general.

13

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- 2 (a) Government employees refer to those who are employed, whether classified
3 as career, or non-career service positions, by the National Government or any
4 of its political subdivision, instrumentalities, and agencies including
5 government-owned and/or controlled corporations, and local government units;
6 (b) Graduate Education refer to higher education programs leading to a master's
7 degrees, as may be authorized and recognized by the Commission on Higher
8 Education (CHED);
9 (c) A Master's degree refers to an academic qualification granted at the graduate
10 education level to individuals who have successfully undergone study
11 demonstrating a high level of expertise in a specific field of study or area of
12 professional practice;
13 (d) State universities and colleges (SUCs) refers to public higher educational
14 institutions established by the national government and are governed by their
15 respective independent boards of trustees or regents;
16 (e) Tuition fees refer to fees or school charges for subjects or course enrolled in
17 by a graduate education student;

18
19 SEC. 4. *Free Graduate Education for Government Employees in SUCs.* - All
20 career and non-career service government employees are granted free tuition fee for a
21 maximum of two-year master's program in any SUCs that they have successfully applied
22 for; *Provided*, That non-career contractual government personnel must be employed for
23 at least five (5) years at any time after the effectivity of this Act, to qualify for this
24 program; *Provided, Further*, That the government employees pass the entrance
25 examination and other admission and retention requirements of the SUCs; *Provided*,
26 *Finally*, That the amount required to implement the free tuition fees in SUCs shall be
27 determined by the respective governing boards of SUCs based on the projected number
28 of enrollees for each academic years, which shall be the primary factor in computing the
29 annual proposed budget of SUCs. This shall in turn serve as the baseline during the
30 preparation of the annual National Expenditure Program (NEP) by the Department of
31 Budget and Management (DBM).

1
2 **SEC. 5. *Exceptions to the Grant of Free Graduate Education.*** - The following
3 students are ineligible to avail of the free graduate education leading to a Master's degree:

4 (1) Students who were already granted with any government-sponsored graduate
5 education scholarship program in any higher education institution, whether public or
6 private, in the country or abroad;

7 (2) Students who fail to comply with the admission and retention policies of the
8 SUC; and

9 (3) Students who fail to complete their master's degree within a year after the
10 period prescribed in their graduate education program.
11

12 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within ninety (90) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission
14 (CSC), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions
15 of this Act. *Provided,* That the non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided
16 under this section shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon
17 effectivity.
18

19 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue
21 to be in full force and effect.
22

23 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
24 instructions, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this
25 Act shall be deemed notified, amended, or repealed accordingly.
26

27 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,