

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8242



Introduced by Representatives Doris E. Maniquiz

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE ASSESSMENT FEE FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
(SHS) UNDER THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING-VOCATIONAL-
LIVELIHOOD TRACK, AND OTHER SHS TRACKS REQUIRING
CERTIFICATIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 10533 or the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013* increased the number of years in the basic education from 10 years to 12 years to make the Philippines at par with the global education standards. The additional two years in the Basic Education is the Senior High School (SHS) Curriculum, where the students can choose among four tracks - (1) Academic; (2) Technical-Vocational and Livelihood (TVL); (3) Sports; and (4) Arts & Design - to better prepare them for either entrepreneurship, college education, or employment. Further, the TVL Track has five strands: Agri-Fishery Arts; Home Economics; Industrial Arts; Information and Communications Technology (ICT); and TVL Maritime.

The specific offerings under each of the TVL strands uses TESDA's Training Regulations (TR) that qualifies TVL strand students for assessments in corresponding Certificates of Competency (COC) and National Certifications (NC). These NCs are enhances securing career opportunities in agriculture, electronics, and trade. Such certifications are also needed when applying for employment abroad.

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To implement the TVL program, the Department of Education¹ issued a regulation on a Joint Delivery Voucher Program for Senior High School Technical Vocational and Livelihood Specializations (JDVP-TVL), which is designed to optimize TVL learning by allowing SHS students enrolled in public schools to avail of vouchers and take their TVL specializations in eligible partner institutions from either private or non-DepEd public SHSs, as well as TVIs, offering their desired specializations. The JDVP-TVL voucher covers the training costs for 320 hours per learner in any one or combination of one to four specializations, to include tuition and other expenses (e.g., learning materials, consumables for the workshop, operational and miscellaneous) for the TVL training needed to complete the applicable specializations for Grade 12.

Under the current JDVP-TVL voucher program, the assessment fee to attain COCs and NCs is not included. As pointed out by a Philippine Institute of Development Studies² study, “there is a clamor to subsidizing the fees for taking the NC exams for TVL graduates, particularly for students from poorer households. The NCs are expected to boost SHS graduates’ probability of being hired. If they are not able to take certification assessments for one reason or the other, then it deprives them of the chance of getting certified.” Moreover, the study added that the government should “explore the possibility of supporting students who are required to take the exam by their employers but cannot afford the exam fees in taking NC exams. Maybe an amount can be set aside from existing fund and a mechanism be put in place.”

This bill seeks to squarely address the issue of including the assessment fee as part of the government subsidy program for the SHS curriculum, to include all tracks that require COCs and NCs, to better achieve the SHS objective of employability of students after finishing the program. With this paramount consideration on hand, the passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.



REP. DORIS E. MANQUIZ

¹ DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2021, *Guidelines on the Implementation of the Joint Delivery Voucher Program for Senior High School Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Specializations For School Year 2021-2022*

² Brillantes, K., Orbeta Jr., A., Francisco-Abrigo, K., Capones, E. and Jovellanos, J. (2019). Status of Senior High School Implementation: A Process Evaluation. Discussion Paper Series No. 2019-13

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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 "Free Certification
2 **Assessment Fee for Senior High School TVL and other tracks".**

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State to promote full
5 employment, equality of employment opportunities, a rising standard of living, and an
6 improved quality of life for all, complementary to the policy of the State to promote and
7 make quality education accessible to all Filipino citizens, especially the youth. Towards
8 this end, the State shall encourage the certification of Senior High School (SHS)
9 students under the technical-vocational and livelihood (TVL) track, and other tracks
10 requiring national certifications, through the granting of free assessment fee for such
11 certifications, for their immediate employability.

12

1 **SEC. 3. *Free National Certification Assessment Fee for SHS students under the***
2 ***TVL, and other Tracks.*** - All Senior High School (SHS) students under the TVL, and other
3 tracks that require national certifications, are granted free assessment fee for
4 certifications of competency or national certifications conducted by the Technical
5 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). *Provided,* That the amount
6 required to implement the free national certification assessment fees program shall be
7 determined by the Department of Education (DepEd) based on the projected number of
8 enrollees for the TVL, and other tracks that require national certifications, for each
9 academic year, which shall be a factor in computing the annual proposed budget of
10 DepEd. This shall in turn serve as the baseline during the preparation of the annual
11 National Expenditure Program (NEP) by the Department of Budget and Management
12 (DBM).

13
14 **SEC. 4. *Appropriations.*** — The Secretary of Education shall include in the
15 Department's program the operationalization of the free assessment fees for TESDA
16 national certifications, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current
17 appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued
18 implementation of this program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
19 Act.

20
21 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within ninety (90) days from
22 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the TESDA, shall promulgate
23 the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. *Provided,*
24 That the non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this section shall
25 not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon effectivity.

26
27 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue
29 to be in full force and effect.

30

1 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
2 instructions, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this
3 Act shall be deemed notified, amended, or repealed accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,