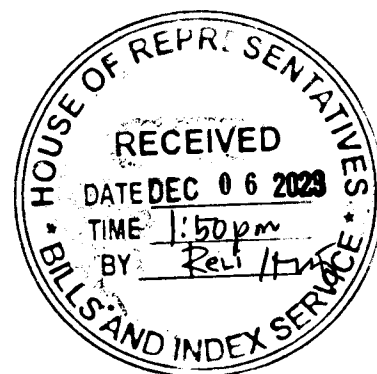




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9675

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development is an imperative state policy enshrined in our 1987 Constitution. For many Filipinos, a solid education is often their only way out of poverty and despair. Education is often celebrated as a universal right, a means to empower individuals and uplift nations.

The right of all citizens to quality education at all levels calls for the performance of our duty to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. In the Philippines, the evident reality persists that access to quality education remains more of a privilege than a right. Inequality of access plagues our educational system, erecting insurmountable barriers before numerous deserving and aspiring Filipino youths.

This bill seeks to address the problem with inequality of access to education by establishing scholarship hubs to be known as *Handog na Oportunidad Para sa Edukasyon* (HOPE) Centers in every city and municipality. These HOPE Centers will ensure the prompt, timely, and efficient delivery of scholarship programs and opportunities by establishing a repository of scholarship offered by different public and private institutions or persons and by creating an integrated system of scholarship application.

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



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9675

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ESTABLISH,
MAINTAIN AND OPERATE HANDOG NA OPORTUNIDAD PARA SA
EDUKASYON (HOPE) CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “*Handog na*
2 *Oportunidad Para sa Edukasyon (HOPE) Center Act*”.

3

4 **Sec 2. Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels,
6 and to take appropriate steps to make scholarship programs and opportunities
7 available and reachable to all deserving students, especially to the
8 underprivileged.

9

10 **Sec 3. Establishment of Handog na Oportunidad Para sa Edukasyon Center or HOPE**
11 **Center** – To carry out the declared policy in the preceding section, there shall be
12 established in all cities and municipalities a *Handog na Oportunidad Para sa*
13 *Edukasyon Center*, hereinafter referred to as HOPE Center, which shall be operated
14 and maintained by the local government units (LGUs); *Provided, That in Highly*
15 *Urbanized Cities (HUCs), a HOPE Center may be established in every*
16 *congressional district.*

1 The HOPE Centers shall be linked to the regional offices of the Commission
2 on Higher Education (CHED) for coordination and technical supervision, and to
3 the CHED central office to constitute the national scholarship program network.

4 The HOPE Center shall be under the office of the city or municipal mayor.
5 The HOPE Center shall be initially organized by and composed of a HOPE
6 manager and may be assisted by a HOPE officer (HO) as may be determined by
7 the LGU.

8
9 **Sec 4. Objectives of the HOPE Center** – The HOPE Center shall ensure the prompt,
10 timely, and efficient delivery of scholarship programs and opportunities, and
11 provision of information of the same. Specifically, the HOPE Center shall:

- 12 a) Provide a venue where people could simultaneously explore various
13 scholarship programs and opportunities;
- 14 b) Serve as referral and information center for the various scholarship grants,
15 student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives awarded by
16 different public and private institutions or persons;
- 17 c) Provide the public with adequate information on available scholarship
18 programs and opportunities; and
- 19 d) Network with other HOPE Centers for additional scholarships or
20 scholarship exchange purposes.

21
22 **Sec 5. Functions of the HOPE Center** – The HOPE Center shall have the following
23 functions:

- 24 a) Create a repository of all available scholarship grants, student loan
25 programs, subsidies, and other incentives awarded by different public and
26 private institutions or persons;
- 27 b) Set up an integrated system of scholarship applications and maintain a
28 registry of applicants, making sure all underprivileged are registered
29 therein;
- 30 c) Assist the scholarship applicants in the preparation and submission of
31 necessary documents as may be required by the public and/or private
32 institutions or persons awarding scholarship grants, student loan
33 programs, subsidies, and other incentives;
- 34 d) Conduct communication and information caravan for scholarship
35 applications, and programs and opportunities; and

- 1 e) Deliver other functions incidental to the foregoing and as may be necessary
2 for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.
3

4 **Sec 6. *Role of CHED*** – It shall be the responsibility of CHED to:

- 5 a) Provide technical supervision, coordination and capacity-building to the
6 HOPE Centers;
7 b) Establish and maintain an electronic registry of scholarship programs and
8 opportunities, and name of scholarship applicants as part of the overall
9 scholarship program network;
10 c) Set standards for the establishment and operation of the HOPE Centers, and
11 qualification standards for the HOPE Center personnel;
12 d) Extend other services of the HOPE Center to the LGU including the conduct
13 of scholarship caravans, seminars, and other activities; and
14 e) Monitor, assess, and evaluate the performance of the HOPE Centers.
15

16 **Sec 7. *Role of LGUs*** – The LGUs, in coordination with CHED, shall establish the
17 HOPE Centers. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned LGU to:

- 18 a) Operate and maintain the HOPE Center;
19 b) Ensure compliance with the operational standards set by CHED;
20 c) Extend such assistance and services as may be necessary in the promotion
21 of scholarship programs and opportunities within the area of jurisdiction;
22 and
23 d) Submit to CHED a periodic performance and accomplishment reports.
24

25 **Sec 8. *Ministerial Duty to Receive Scholarship Applications*** – No person shall be
26 prohibited to apply for more than one scholarship program or opportunity, unless
27 it is proscribed by one of the scholarship providers. The HOPE Center shall have
28 the ministerial duty to receive all of the scholarship applications which have
29 substantially complied with the requirements, subject to the limitations prescribed
30 by the applicable scholarship provider.
31

32 **Sec 9. *Information Campaign for Scholarship Programs*** – The CHED, in partnership
33 with the LGUs, shall intensify its communication and information campaign for
34 scholarship programs and provide the public with the latest available scholarship

1 grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives awarded by
2 different public and private institutions or persons.

3 The CHED, in collaboration with the Department of Information and
4 Communications Technology, shall make full use of the latest technology to
5 disseminate information to reach every Filipino. The awareness caravan must
6 increase the number of scholarship applicants and successful beneficiaries of
7 various scholarship programs and opportunities.

8

9 **Sec 10. *Appropriation*** – The funding for the operation and maintenance of the
10 HOPE Center shall be provided by the LGU from its internal revenue allotment
11 and other internally generated income of the LGU concerned.

12 Funds for the provision of technical assistance, training and supervision of
13 the HOPE Center shall be included in the budget of CHED in the annual General
14 Appropriations Act.

15 The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act,
16 shall be charged against the current Fiscal Year Appropriations of the concerned
17 offices. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act
18 shall be included by the Department of Budget and Management in the annual
19 General Appropriations Act.

20 **Sec 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within ninety (90) days after the
21 approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education shall promulgate the
22 necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
23 this Act.

24

25 **Sect 12. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
27 shall remain valid and subsisting.

28

29 **Sec 13. *Repealing Clause*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
30 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
31 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or
32 amended accordingly.

33

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

3

4 **Approved,**