

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. **10793**



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP
ERIC GO YAP AND RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

**AN ACT
PROHIBITING SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
FROM REQUIRING STUDENTS TO COMPLETE STUDENT IMMERSION OR
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING ABROAD OR
OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE WHERE THE INSTITUTION IS LOCATED**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines guarantees the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and mandates the State to ensure equitable access to education, particularly for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

However, recent reports indicate that certain higher education institutions impose mandatory requirements for students to undertake internships or on-the-job (OJT) training programs abroad as a condition for the completion of courses and graduation. While international exposure can provide valuable learning experiences, the mandatory nature of these requirements places an undue burden on students and their families. The financial strain associated with overseas internships indirectly discriminates against those who cannot afford such programs, effectively limiting their access to education, thereby exacerbating existing inequalities in the education system.

This House Bill seeks to address this issue by prohibiting secondary and higher education institutions from requiring students to complete immersion, internship, or OJT programs abroad or outside the province where the institution is located as a condition for graduation. The bill ensures that students are not compelled to undertake such programs unless they or their parents or guardians voluntarily choose to do so with full consent in line with the principles of fairness, equality, and

accessibility in the Philippine education system, ensuring that no student is left behind.

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



ERWIN T. TULFO



AEDVIC G. YAP



ERIC GO YAP



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. **10793**

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP
ERIC G. YAP AND RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

AN ACT
**PROHIBITING SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
FROM REQUIRING STUDENTS TO COMPLETE STUDENT IMMERSION OR
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING ABROAD OR
OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE WHERE THE INSTITUTION IS LOCATED**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the right to education by protecting and promoting the right of all citizens to accessible quality education at all levels. This Act aims to ensure that students are not unduly burdened by compulsory requirements that may impose unnecessary financial strain, which could hinder their right to complete their education. The State recognizes that requiring students to participate in immersion, internship, or on-the-job (OJT) training programs in locations that are financially or logistically challenging may obstruct access to education, especially for those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* - This Act shall cover the following:

- (a) **Work Immersion Programs for Grade 12 Students** - Any work immersion programs required as part of the curriculum for Grade 12 students, whether in public or private schools.
- (b) **Internship Programs or On-the-Job Training (OJT) for College Students** - Any internship or on-the-job training programs required as part of the curriculum for college or tertiary level students in both public and private higher education institutions.

SECTION 3. *Prohibition on Mandatory Immersion or Internship Programs Outside the Province or Abroad.* – No secondary or higher education institution shall require students enrolled therein to complete immersion, internship, or on-the-job (OJT) training programs abroad or outside the province where such institution is located as a requirement for graduation or the completion of a course or curriculum.

SECTION 4. *Voluntary Participation.* – Nothing in this Act shall prohibit students or their parents or guardians from willingly availing of student immersion, internship, or OJT programs abroad or outside the province where such institution is located, provided that such participation is done with full written consent and is not a mandatory requirement for graduation or the completion of the course.

For the purpose, all secondary and higher education institutions shall be required to submit an annual report to the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as may be applicable, detailing all immersion, internship, or on-the-job (OJT) programs conducted by their students abroad or outside the province where the institution is located within the school year.

SECTION 5. *Mandatory Reporting.* – (a) All secondary and higher education institutions shall be required to submit an annual report to the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as may be applicable, detailing all immersion, internship, or on-the-job (OJT) programs undertaken by their students abroad or outside the province where the institution is located.

(b) Such report shall include copies of the written consent provided by the students or their parents or guardians, indicating their voluntary participation in such abroad or out-of-province programs, as well as a summary of any financial assistance, scholarships, or other support provided to students participating in such programs.

(c) Failure to submit the required annual report or the submission of incomplete reports may result in administrative sanctions as determined by DepEd or CHED. Repeated non-compliance may lead to additional penalties, including fines or other disciplinary measures.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any secondary or higher education institution found to be in violation of this Act shall be subject to penalties, including fines and sanctions, as may be determined by CHED or DepEd. Repeated violations may result in the suspension or revocation of the institution's license to operate.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd and CHED, in coordination with relevant stakeholders and organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,