

¹ Poverty Statistics. <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/poverty>

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 522

Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

AN ACT
GRANTING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO THE CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS
OF FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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 as the “Educational Scholarship for
2 Children and Dependents of Farmers and Fisherfolks Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is the policy of the State to ensure access to quality
5 education, recognizing the fundamental right to education of every child.
6

7 **SEC. 3. *Scholarship for Children and Dependents of Farmers and Fisherfolks.*** - The
8 Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd)
9 and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall establish a scholarship program
10 for the children and dependents of farmers and fisherfolk listed in the Registry System for
11 Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). The children and dependents of farmers and
12 fisherfolk shall be entitled to a full scholarship from basic education until the completion of
13 tertiary education subject to rules and regulations, as mandated by this Act. *Provided, That*
14 the aforementioned meet the admission requirements of the public elementary and
15 secondary schools, and SUCs, where they intend to enroll in.
16

17 The benefits shall include all expenses for education in public elementary and secondary
18 schools, and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), such as but not limited to tuition fees,
19 miscellaneous and other fees, board and lodging, transportation expenses, allowances for
20 books, clothing, food, and other similar expenses.
21

22 **SEC. 4. *Special Funds for Educational Benefits.*** – In order to carry out the provisions of
23 this Act, there is hereby established a Special Fund, to be known as the “Education Benefits
24 for Farmers and Fisherfolks Fund,” in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos
25 (Php50,000,000.00). Such Fund shall be perpetually maintained and used exclusively for
26 the benefit of children and dependents of farmers; *Provided, That* not more than 5% of this
27 Fund shall be used for the administration of this Special Fund.

28 **SEC. 5. *Administration of the Fund.*** – The Unified Student Financial Assistance for
29 Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Governing Board, in consultation with the Department of
30 Agriculture, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher
31 Education (CHED), and three (3) representatives from the farmers and fisherfolks selected
32 from a verified procedure of selection as agreed upon by the farmers and fisherfolks, shall
33 have the primary responsibility of managing and supervising the Fund. It shall also be
34 responsible in formulating the mechanics, scope and limitations, and requirements of the
35 scholarship program.

36
37 The UniFAST Secretariat shall serve as the Secretariat providing administrative support
38 to the Board and shall perform functions as authorized by the UniFAST Board.
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40 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval
41 of this Act, the Board shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective
42 implementation of this Act.
43

44 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
45 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
46 effect.
47

48 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
49 parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
50 modified accordingly.
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52 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
53 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
54

55 *Approved,*