



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 772

Introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that it is the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human development. For millions of Filipinos, education represents as a pathway out of poverty and into a life of dignity and opportunity.

Education is universally recognized as a fundamental human right—a powerful tool for individual empowerment and national development. Yet in the Philippines, the ideal of equal access to quality education remains far from reality. Despite constitutional guarantees, access to education is still largely a privilege rather than a right. Structural inequalities and lack of support systems continue to prevent many deserving and aspiring Filipino youth from reaching their full potential.

This bill seeks to address these inequities by establishing *Handog na Oportunidad Para sa Edukasyon* (HOPE) Centers in every city and municipality across the country. These centers will serve as scholarship hubs—centralized and accessible locations where students can obtain information on available scholarships offered by public and private entities. The HOPE Centers will also manage an integrated system for scholarship application, ensuring the efficient, timely, and transparent delivery of educational opportunities.

By institutionalizing HOPE Centers, we aim to bring quality education closer to every Filipino.

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

1 Urbanized Cities (HUCs), a HOPE Center may be established in every
2 congressional district.

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

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8 The HOPE Center shall be under the office of the city or municipal mayor.
9 The HOPE Center shall be initially organized by and composed of a HOPE
10 manager and may be assisted by a HOPE officer (HO) as may be determined by
11 the LGU.

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13 **Sec. 4. Objectives of the HOPE Center** – The HOPE Center shall ensure the
14 prompt, timely, and efficient delivery of scholarship programs and opportunities,
15 and provision of information of the same. Specifically, the HOPE Center shall:

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

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26 **Sec. 5. Functions of the HOPE Center** – The HOPE Center shall have the
27 following functions:

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

- 1 institutions or persons awarding scholarship grants, student loan
2 programs, subsidies, and other incentives;
- 3 d) Conduct communication and information caravan for scholarship
4 applications, and programs and opportunities; and
- 5 e) Deliver other functions incidental to the foregoing and as may be necessary
6 for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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1 **Sec. 9. *Information Campaign for Scholarship Programs*** - The CHED, in
2 partnership with the LGUs, shall intensify its communication and information
3 campaign for scholarship programs and provide the public with the latest
4 available scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other
5 incentives awarded by different public and private institutions or persons.

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

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

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

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21 The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act,
22 shall be charged against the current Fiscal Year Appropriations of the concerned
23 offices. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act
24 shall be included by the Department of Budget and Management in the annual
25 General Appropriations Act.

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27 **Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - Within ninety (90) days after
28 the approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education shall promulgate
29 the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation
30 of this Act.

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32 **Sec. 11. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
33 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
34 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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1 **Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
3 contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed,
4 modified, or amended accordingly.

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6 **Sec 13. *Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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9 **Approved,**