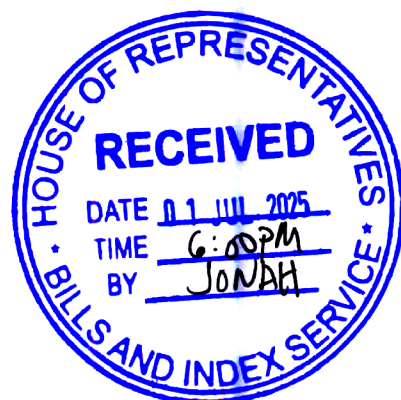




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **1009**

Introduced by **MAGBUBUKID PARTY-LIST Representative FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Itinatakda ng 1987 Konstitusyon na dapat bigyang prayoridad ng Estado ang edukasyon, agham at teknolohiya, at suportahan ang pag-unlad ng kanayunan at repormang *agrarian*. Ayon sa *Article II, Section 17*, "ang Estado ay dapat magbigay ng prayoridad sa edukasyon, agham at teknolohiya, sining, kultura, at isports upang mapalaganap ang pagkamakabayan at nasyonalismo, mapabilis ang panlipunang kaunlaran, at maisulong ang ganap na paglaya at pag-unlad ng tao." Samantala, binibigyang-diin ng *Article XIII, Section 5* ang tungkulin ng Estado na palakasin ang mga kanayunan at itaguyod ang repormang *agrarian*.

Sa kabila ng mga probisyong ito, patuloy na humaharap ang sektor ng agrikultura sa kakulangan ng pamumuhunan sa *human capital*. Kulang ang bansa sa mga dalubhasa at propesyonal sa larangan ng agrikultura at *aquaculture*—isang krisis na pinalalala ng unti-unting pagbaba ng interes ng kabataan sa mga kursong may kaugnayan sa agrikultura. Ayon sa datos mula sa Department of Agriculture (DA) at Commission on Higher Education (CHED), patuloy ang pagbaba ng bilang ng mga estudyanteng kumukuha ng mga kursong pang-agrikultura. Maraming kabataang mula sa kanayunan ang walang kakayahang pinansyal upang makapag-aral sa kolehiyo, at kahit may kagustuhan ay wala silang sapat na suporta upang magpatuloy sa ganitong larangan.

Ang kakulangan sa angkop na programa para sa pagpapaunlad ng mga eksperto sa agrikultura ay nagiging hadlang sa inobasyon, nagpapahina sa seguridad sa pagkain, at humahadlang sa modernisasyon ng ating mga sistemang agrikultural. Kung walang sapat na sanay na *agriculturists, researchers, at aquaculture specialists*, patuloy na haharapin ng bansa ang mababang produksyon, lipas na mga pamamaraan, at pagiging bulnerable sa mga krisis sa suplay ng pagkain at pagbabago ng klima.

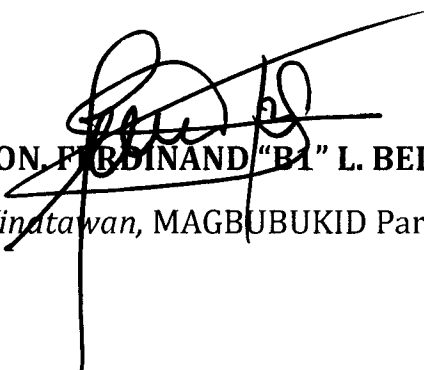
Tinutugunan ng panukalang batas na ito ang ugat ng problema sa pamamagitan ng pagtatatag ng isang pambansang *Agriculture Scholarship Fund*. Layunin nitong magbigay ng buong suportang pinansyal sa mga karapat-dapat na estudyanteng nais magtapos ng mas mataas na edukasyon sa larangan ng agrikultura at *aquaculture* sa mga *state universities and colleges* (SUCs). Sinasaklaw ng iskolarship ang matrikula at iba pang bayarin, mga aklat at gamit sa eskwela, pamasahé, at buwanang allowance. Bilang bahagi ng programa, inaasahang gagampanan ng mga benepisyaryo ang isang takdang panahon ng serbisyo sa pampublikong sektor at mga

lokal na industriyang pang-agrikultura, upang matiyak na ang pondong inilalaan ng gobyerno ay magbubunga ng pangmatagalang benepisyo para sa bayan.

Sa pamamagitan ng polisiyang ito, kinikilala ng Estado hindi lamang ang tungkulin nitong suportahan ang edukasyon at pag-unlad ng kanayunan, kundi ang kahalagahan ng pagbibigay ng kahalagahan sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga lider, mananaliksik, at *innovator* sa larangan ng agrikultura sa bansa.

Dahil sa kagyat na pangangailangang buhayin muli ang sektor ng agrikultura at tiyakin ang seguridad sa pagkain ng sambayanan, taimtim na hinihiling ang agarang pagpasa ng panukalang batas na ito.

Para sa sambayanang Pilipino,



HON. FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN
Kinatawan, MAGBUBUKID Party-List



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HOUSE BILL NO. **1009**

Introduced by **MAGBUBUKID PARTY-LIST Representative FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN**

**AN ACT CREATING AN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE AND
AQUACULTURE RELATED PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATING FUND THEREFOR**

*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 "*Agriculture Scholarship Act of 2025.*"

2 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be a declared policy of the State to prioritize
3 education, innovation, research and development in the areas of agriculture and
4 aquaculture. In this pursuit, the State shall grant scholarships to deserving students to
5 enable them to pursue higher education and training in the said fields.

6 **SECTION 3. Eligibility.** - The following are qualifications for the scholarship:

- 7 (a) The applicant must be a Filipino citizen;
8 (b) Be a regular first (1st) year college student at the time of the award which
9 shall be granted after the first semester of the first year in the program;
10 (c) Be currently enrolled in any of the state universities or colleges, under any of
11 the identified agriculture or aquaculture courses;
12 (d) Have a general weighted average (GWA) of at least 80% in the first semester
13 of their first year;
14 (e) Qualify in the Junior-Level Agri Scholarship Examination; and
15 (f) Must be of good moral character;
16 (g) Must maintain a GWA of at least 80% or any of its equivalent throughout the
17 duration of his course.

18 **SECTION 4. Award of Scholarship.** - Recipients shall be entitled to an annual award for full
19 time study which shall include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed
20 textbooks and essential school supplies, transportation expenses and monthly living
21 allowance: Provided, however, that in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of
22 funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial assistance given under other
23 government scholarship programs must be considered.

24 **SECTION 5. Duration.** - Recipients shall be entitled to an award for their entire stay in
25 college after the grant of the initial scholarship amount while matriculating in an approved
26 program.

27 **SECTION 6. Approved Courses and Priority Programs.** - Recipients shall pursue degrees
28 in agriculture and aquaculture as identified and approved by the Secretary of the
29 Department of Agriculture and the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education.

SECTION 7. Return Service; Terms and Conditions. - Applicants for the scholarships must execute a service contract in which they shall agree to work for the Philippine government in the next three (3) years after their graduation and in a Philippine-based corporation within five (5) years after their graduation. Failure to comply with the terms of the service contract will result in the full repayment of all awarded amounts within a specified time limit.

SECTION 8. Implementing Agencies. - The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the main implementing Agencies of the provisions of this Act. The DA shall be responsible for evaluation, award-giving, and monitoring of scholarship grants and awardees.

SECTION 9. Review and Monitoring. - The DA and the CHED shall report to the President and Congress after the first three (3) years, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of the provisions of this Act and submit recommendations for its improvement.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from approval of this Act, the DA and the CHED shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. Appropriations Clause. - An initial amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php. 200,000,000.00) annually is hereby appropriated for the scholarship to be sourced from the earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) equally for the duration of the implementation

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,