

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2074



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH A MANDATORY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMITMENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, the Philippines faces an urgent need to strengthen its information technology workforce to keep pace with global advancements and ensure national competitiveness. A robust pool of highly skilled IT professionals is crucial for driving innovation, modernizing public services, strengthening cybersecurity, and bridging the digital divide that still affects many underserved communities across the country.

However, access to quality education in advanced IT fields remains out of reach for many deserving and talented students, particularly those from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. At the same time, the lack of sufficient technical expertise within government agencies continues to hamper the full and efficient rollout of much-needed digital infrastructure and e-governance initiatives.

This measure seeks to address these gaps by establishing a National Information Technology Scholarship Program (NITSP) with a built-in public service commitment. Under this program, qualified Filipino students will be provided with full scholarships to pursue degrees in fields such as Information Technology, Computer Science, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and other emerging digital disciplines. By investing in the development of

future IT professionals, the State ensures that public funds allocated for education directly contribute to national development and digital transformation.

A key feature of this proposal is the two-year mandatory public service commitment that scholars must fulfill after graduation. This provision guarantees that the knowledge, skills, and expertise of scholars will be reinvested in government institutions, local government units, state universities and colleges, and other areas of public service where digital talent is most needed. It also supports the development and maintenance of critical digital infrastructure, the strengthening of our cybersecurity defenses, and the improvement of public data management systems.

The bill also provides clear mechanisms for job placement, career support, and professional development to ensure that scholars are effectively matched with appropriate roles and given opportunities to grow while serving the country. Scholars who fail to fulfill their service obligations without valid reason will be required to reimburse the full cost of the scholarship, thereby ensuring accountability and responsible stewardship of public funds.

By encouraging partnerships with local and international organizations, this measure likewise promotes the sharing of global best practices, emerging technologies, and capacity-building opportunities for scholars and the broader government workforce.

In sum, this measure not only supports inclusive access to quality digital education but also ensures that public investment translates into concrete benefits for society. It represents a strategic approach to building a future-ready Philippine workforce, promoting digital transformation, and empowering young Filipinos to contribute directly to nation-building through meaningful public service.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized, flowing script.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2074

Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH A MANDATORY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMITMENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "I.T. Education and Public Service Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote digital transformation and strengthen the country's technological capacity by investing in the development of highly skilled Information Technology (IT) professionals. To ensure that public resources for education directly contribute to national development, the State shall establish an IT scholarship program with a mandatory public service commitment, supporting the advancement of digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and e-governance initiatives across the country.

SECTION 3. Creation of the IT Scholarship Program. – There is hereby established a National Information Technology Scholarship Program (NITSP), administered and supervised by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The program shall:

a) Provide full scholarships, including tuition, fees, book allowances, and living stipends, to qualified students pursuing degrees in Information Technology (IT), Computer Science, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and other digital-related fields approved by the DICT.

b) Prioritize scholars from geographically disadvantaged and underserved areas to promote inclusive development.

SECTION 4. Mandatory Public Service Commitment. – All scholarship recipients under this Act shall be required to render a two (2)-year public service commitment upon graduation. This service shall be:

a) In a government IT role, assigned by the DICT in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and other relevant agencies.

b) Prioritized in areas such as digital infrastructure development, cybersecurity, e-governance systems, public data management, and information systems modernization.

c) Fulfilled either:

1. On-site within government offices or field locations;
2. Remotely for projects that allow telework arrangements; or
3. Through contractual consultancy, subject to DICT guidelines.

SECTION 5. Job Placement and Career Support. - The DICT shall establish a Government IT Talent Pool and Placement Program to:

a) Match scholars with appropriate roles in national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs).

b) Coordinate with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for eligibility and classification of scholars in relevant plantilla positions.

c) Provide ongoing mentorship, training, and career development support during the scholars' public service period.

SECTION 6. Failure to Complete Service Obligation. – Any scholar who fails to fulfill the two (2)-year public service commitment, without valid reason as determined by the DICT, shall:

- a) Reimburse the full amount of scholarship benefits received, including tuition, stipends, and allowances, plus legal interest; and
- b) Be disqualified from future government scholarship programs and government employment, unless otherwise determined by the DICT in consultation with the CSC.

Valid exemptions may be granted for reasons such as severe medical incapacity, death, or other force majeure events, subject to DICT review and approval.

SECTION 7. Partnerships and International Cooperation. – The DICT is authorized to establish partnerships with local and international organizations, including the private sector, multilateral agencies, and development partners to:

- a) Enhance the capacity and resources of the scholarship program;
- b) Provide technical assistance, training, and mentorship opportunities;
- c) Facilitate access to global best practices and emerging technologies.

SECTION 8. Funding. – The initial funding for this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DICT. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with the CHED, CSC, DBM, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List