



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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2639**



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**Introduced by Representative WALFREDO "ARMAN" R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT DISCOUNTS ON MOBILE**  
**LOAD AND INTERNET SERVICES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

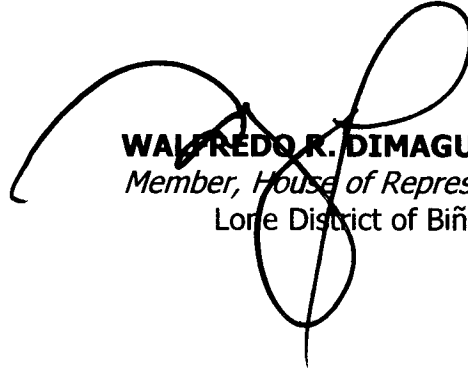
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As we evolve and live in modern times, technology has also reached education through modern innovations in the digital world by adopting hybrid formats. Access to stable internet and telecommunications services have become a fundamental component of learning. However, a significant number of students, particularly from low to middle-income families, face challenges due to the high cost of mobile data and internet services.

This bill aims to institutionalize and expand the Twenty percent (20%) discount students have the privilege to use on fares—this time on mobile prepaid load, postpaid plans, and internet services to support online learning and digital education. It also provides qualifications and safeguards to prevent abuse and ensure fairness. Furthermore, this bill obliges telecommunication companies to cooperate in implementing the privilege and imposes penalties for unjustified non-compliance.

Through the help of Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV, his Senate Bill on the "*Act Institutionalizing the Grant of Student Load Discount Privilege on Mobile and Internet Services and For Other Purposes*" served as an inspiration for this Bill and hopes to streamline the two in unifying the same intent and purpose.

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



**WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**  
*Member, House of Representatives*  
Lone District of Biñan



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

1           **SEC. 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Student Mobile Load*  
2 *Discount Act.*"

3

4           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the  
5 State to:

6           a. Promote equitable access to quality education for all learners  
7           through affordable technological resources;

8

9           b. Recognize and support the increasing use of mobile and internet  
10           services in education in the digital age;

11

- 12 c. Protect the welfare of students by easing financial burdens  
13 associated with online learning; and  
14
- 15 d. Encourage collaboration between the government and the private  
16 sector, particularly telecommunication companies, in advancing  
17 education and digital inclusion.  
18

19 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms  
20 shall mean:

- 21
- 22 a. *Student* – Any Filipino citizen currently enrolled in a recognized  
23 academic institution in the Philippines, including primary, secondary,  
24 tertiary, and technical-vocational institutions, whether public or  
25 private.  
26
- 27 b. *Mobile Load* – Prepaid mobile credits used for calls, text, and data  
28 services.  
29
- 30 c. *Postpaid Plan* – A subscription-based telecommunication service plan  
31 billed monthly.  
32
- 33 d. *Internet Services* – Any internet connection service provided by  
34 Internet Service Providers (*i.e.*, mobile data, broadband, fiber,  
35 Digital Subscriber Line).  
36
- 37 e. *Telecommunication Companies* – Entities authorized by the National  
38 Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to provide mobile and  
39 internet services in the Philippines.  
40
- 41 f. *Online Learning* – A method of education where students access  
42 learning materials, attend classes, or communicate with teachers  
43 using internet-based platforms.

44       **SEC. 4. *Student Discount Privilege.*** – All duly registered students shall be entitled  
45 to a Twenty percent (20%) discount on the following:

- 46
- 47           a. Mobile prepaid load;
- 48
- 49           b. Mobile postpaid subscriptions (monthly bill amount up to ₱1,500  
50           only); and
- 51
- 52           c. Home or personal internet subscription plans intended for online  
53           learning in an amount not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred  
54           Pesos (PhP2,500.00) per month.
- 55

56       **SEC. 5. *Student Availment.*** – To avail of the discount, a student must possess  
57 the following:

- 58
- 59           a. Filipino citizenship and currently enrolled in an academic institution  
60           recognized by the Department of Education ("*DepEd*"), Commission  
61           on Higher Education ("*CHED*"), or Technical Education and Skills  
62           Development Authority ("*TESDA*");
- 63
- 64           b. Have a valid school ID, current enrollment form, or a digital  
65           enrollment confirmation from the school;
- 66
- 67           c. Register with their preferred telecom provider through an official  
68           online or physical application form, subject to annual validation; and
- 69
- 70           d. Avail of only one discount per individual account, whether prepaid,  
71           postpaid, or home internet.
- 72

73       **SEC. 6. *Prohibition Against Double Discounts.*** – A student shall not be  
74 entitled to multiple discounts under this Act. The discount shall apply to only one  
75 account or service per student at any given time. Telecommunication companies must  
76 implement systems to validate and prevent duplicate discounts using the student's  
77 name, school, and mobile number or account ID.

78

79       **SEC. 7. Partnerships with Telecommunication Companies.** – All  
80 telecommunication companies operating in the Philippines are mandated to:

- 81  
82           a. Implement this discount program within sixty (60) days of the law's  
83           effectivity;
- 84           b. Coordinate with DepEd, CHED, or TESDA, and the Department of  
85           Information and Communications Technology (the "DICT") to verify  
86           student eligibility and prevent abuse;
- 87
- 88           c. Develop application systems, both online and physical, for students  
89           to enroll in the discount program;
- 90
- 91           d. Include the discounted amount clearly in their monthly billing  
92           statements or transaction receipts.
- 93

94       **SEC. 8. Tax Deduction for TELCOs.** – Telecommunication companies may claim  
95 tax deductions equivalent to the cost of the discount granted, subject to the rules to  
96 be promulgated by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

97

98       **SEC. 9. Oversight and Monitoring.** – The DICT, in coordination with DepEd,  
99 CHED, TESDA, and the NTC, shall be the lead implementing agency and shall establish  
100 a centralized Student Discount Monitoring System to verify student eligibility, audit  
101 telecom compliance, handle complaints and disputes; and generate annual reports for  
102 Congress and the Office of the President.

103

104       **SEC. 10. Penalties.** – The following penalties shall be imposed for violation of  
105 this Act:

106

- 107           a. Any telecommunication company that willfully refuses to implement  
108           the mandated discount shall be liable to:
- 109

110 • A fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP500,000.00) to Two  
111 Million Pesos (PhP2,000,000.00) per verified violation;

112  
113 • Possible suspension of their permit to operate, upon repeated  
114 non-compliance.

115  
116 b. Any individual or student found falsifying documents to obtain the  
117 discount shall be subject to:

118  
119 • Suspension of discount privilege; and  
120  
121 • Possible criminal liability under existing laws for falsification of  
122 public documents.

123

124 **SEC.11. *Funding.*** – Initial funding for the administrative implementation of this  
125 Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DICT. Subsequent allocations shall  
126 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

127

128 **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within 60 days from the  
129 effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with DepEd, CHED, TESDA, NTC, and  
130 major telecom companies, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations.

131

132 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
133 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and  
134 effect.

135

136 **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations  
137 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

138

139 **SEC. 15. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
140 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
141 circulation.

**APPROVED.**