



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4504



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that unemployed persons, ages 15 and above, rose to 2.59 million from 1.95 million in June 2025.¹ This translates to 5.3% unemployment rate which was the highest number since August 2022.

One of the factors that may be considered that is causing high unemployment rate is the financial burden attributed to a person over getting government eligibilities such as the Civil Service Examinations. The cost of examination permit from Civil Service ranges from P600.00 to P1,500.00 per take. Not to mention, the cost of study materials, transportation, and other living expenses allotted by examinees for their respective exams. Most affected of this financial strain are the indigent citizens.

The indigents, who may be considered as extremely marginalized, must receive more help from the government. This bill seeks to give them a helping hand by waiving the examination fee for Civil Service Examinations.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental

¹ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/958628/unemployed-filipinos-july-2025/story/>



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED
INDIGENTS

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 "Free Professional Examinations Act for Indigents of 2025".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared the policy of the State to promote full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for all. Furthermore, it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide adequate social services, and improve the quality of life for all. In this regard, the State shall provide the poor access to mechanisms that expand opportunities for better employment.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

(a) Professional Examinations refer to the licensure examinations conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) leading to the issuance of professional licenses to successful examinees. It shall also include examinations conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) leading to eligibility for employment in the government such as, but not limited to, Subprofessional Examinations .

(b) Qualified Indigents refer to persons who have no visible means of income or support, or whose income may not be sufficient for the subsistence or basic needs of the family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Section 4. Requirements for Availment. - For purposes of availing the benefits of this Act, an examinee shall secure Certificate of Indigency from the DSWD or the barangay government having jurisdiction over the examinee. Such certification shall be presented to the PRC and CSC, as the case may be, to be exempt from the payment of examination fees. No other fee shall be charged against the qualified indigents for purposes of taking the professional examinations.

Section 5. Limitations on Availment. - Benefits of this Act may be availed of by a qualified indigent only once a year.

Section 6. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign. - The DSWD, PRC, and CSC, in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), are hereby mandated to conduct an annual IEC campaign in order to inform the people of the procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act.

Section 7. Reportorial Requirement. - For purposes of determining the effectiveness and social impact of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, and CSC shall submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress indicating therein the number of indigent examinees who benefited from this Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,