



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4974



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING STANDARDS FOR RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES (RLE) IN NURSING EDUCATION, PROHIBITING THE COLLECTION OF RLE FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (LUCs), AND PROVIDING FUNDING SUPPORT THROUGH THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Related Learning Experiences (RLE) are vital for nursing students, providing hands-on clinical training required by CHED Memorandum Order No. 14, Series of 2009 for the BSN program. Despite government support via RA 10931, students at State and Local Universities may face extra RLE-related expenses such as training, transportation, insurance, and fees, which can be burdensome for those from low-income families.

The proposed bill seeks to prohibit RLE fees for students at SUCs and LUCs, mandating these institutions to report RLE costs to CHED for funding through standard budgets or UniFAST. It also aims to extend TES eligibility to nursing students at accredited private schools to cover RLE fees.

By setting consistent standards for RLE delivery and funding, the bill promotes accessible nursing education and supports health workforce development.

Consideration of this bill is therefore sought.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Representative, 2nd District of Pampanga

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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 "Libreng RLE Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of ail citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all, pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Consistent with this mandate, and recognizing the crucial role of Related Learning Experiences (RLE) in nursing education, the State shall institutionalize standards for RLE and ensure that no additional financial burden shall be imposed on nursing students in the country for the conduct of such activities.

Sec. 3. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to:

- a. All SUCs and LUCs offering nursing education programs duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- b. All private higher education institutions (HEIs) with CHED-accredited nursing programs; and
- c. c. All nursing students enrolled in recognized nursing education programs in the Philippines.

Sec. 4. Standards for Related Learning Experiences (RLE). - CHED shall institutionalize and enforce standards for the conduct of RLEs, These standards shall

guarantee the provision of quality clinical instruction and learning environments, adequate clinical partnerships, and competent supervision of nursing students.

Sec. 5. Prohibition on Collection of RLE Fees in SUCs and LUCs. - No SUC or LUC shall collect fees or charges from nursing students for the conduct of RLEs that are part of their approved academic program. All RLE-related expenses shall be considered part of the tuition or institutional costs charged to the government through the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST).

Sec. 6. Budgeting and Funding of RLE in SUCs and LUCs. - All SUCs and LUCs offering nursing programs shall submit projected RLE expenses to CHED annually. CHED shall evaluate and consolidate these for inclusion in its annual budget proposal to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Approved funding shall be disbursed to SUCs and LUCs through UniFAST or other designated CHED mechanisms.

Sec. 7. Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) for Nursing Students in Private HEIs. - Nursing students enrolled in accredited private HEIs may apply for assistance for RLE-related expenses under the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) program pursuant to Republic Act No. 10931. TES guidelines shall be updated to include RLE fees as allowable costs.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED, in coordination with DBM and UniFAST, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. - The amounts necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (CAA) under the CHED budget and UniFAST Fund.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the provisions shall not be affected.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 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,