



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5313

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.” In line with this, the State also upholds the right of every citizen to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) play a significant role in preparing Filipinos for employment by equipping them with industry-relevant competencies. These programs serve as practical gateways for economic advancement, particularly for the youth and those seeking alternative career pathways.

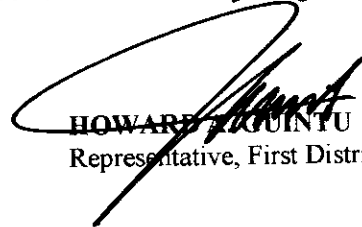
However, despite having the technical skills necessary for employment, many graduates face challenges in managing their finances effectively. According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) 2021 Financial Inclusion Survey, only 2% of Filipino adults are considered financially literate, indicating a widespread lack of understanding in budgeting, saving, credit management, and long-term financial planning. Without financial literacy, workers are more vulnerable to debt, poor spending habits, and unstable financial conditions.

This bill seeks to address this gap by integrating a Personal Financial Literacy Course (PFLC) into the Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) curriculum in all public and private TVIs and TESDA training centers. The course shall cover key concepts such as personal finance fundamentals, saving and budgeting, debt and credit management, investment and retirement planning, and the responsible use of digital financial services.

Thus, this bill will serve the following purposes - ensuring that technical-vocational graduates are not only job-ready but also financially capable, promoting responsible financial behavior and reduce the likelihood of indebtedness among workers, and fostering a generation of skilled and financially empowered individuals who can contribute to economic stability and national growth.

In this effect, the integration of financial literacy within technical-vocational education will not only enhance employability but also cultivate lifelong financial discipline and resilience among Filipino workers. By combining practical skills with sound financial knowledge, this measure envisions a stronger, more secure, and economically empowered Filipino workforce.

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



HOWARD AQUINO
Representative, First District of Capiz



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AN ACT
MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF A PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY
COURSE IN THE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
CURRICULUM OF TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TRAINING CENTERS

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 "*Personal Financial Literacy Course in the Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Curriculum Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Recognizing financial literacy as an essential life skill, as well as the complementary role of financial education in promoting the economic well-being of Filipinos, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to establish a strong foundation of financial literacy of students, trainees, and employees in order to create a more skilled, knowledgeable, and well-informed future generation of Filipinos.

To this end, the State also seeks to broaden and strengthen TVET programs, including financial education and literacy, to enable technical-vocational (tech-voc) students to develop the appropriate skills to make well-informed financial decisions, and desirable work habits upon employment in the industries.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- a. To ensure that technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training centers shall provide the necessary financial education to tech-voc students while at the same time helping them learn and develop other practical tech-voc skills and competencies;
- b. To equip the students with basic knowledge and additional skills on wealth management and contingency planning, especially in properly handling their personal finances, prepare them to make well-informed financial decisions upon

- entering the workforce, and help them master financial literacy as an important life skill in their day-to-day transactions and other activities;
- c. To broaden the opportunities and venues for the teaching of a personal financial literacy course to strengthen financial education among Filipinos so they can avoid financial frauds, develop financial discipline, use debt responsibly and save for education or retirement so they can avoid financial frauds, use debt responsibly, and save for education or retirement.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Inclusion of Personal Financial Literacy Course in the TVET Curriculum.* – All public and private TVIs and TESDA training centers are mandated to offer a Personal Financial Literacy Course (PFLC) to tech-voc students as part of the TVET curriculum. It shall focus solely on personal finance based on the policies, guidelines, and standards set jointly by the TESDA, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Finance (DOF), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Insurance Commission (IC).

A passing grade in the PFLC shall be required for graduation or completion of the course.

SEC. 5. *Contents of Personal Financial Literacy Course.* – The PFLC shall provide instructions on personal financial literacy and shall include the following contents:

- (a) Concept of personal finance;
- (b) Time value of money;
- (c) Consumer behavior in the context and culture of the Philippines;
- (d) Debt management and rehabilitation;
- (e) Savings, emergency, and resilience fund development;
- (f) Investment concepts and planning;
- (g) Retirement planning;
- (h) Insurance planning;
- (i) Credit scoring and credit reports;
- (j) Concept of financial education;
- (k) Pertinent topics on effective utilization of digital payment platforms, such as modules on observing cyber-hygiene to help safeguard cybersecurity, data integrity, and consumer protection in adopting digital financial services; and
- (l) Other financial literacy issues and concerns.

SEC. 6. *Roles of Government Agencies, Offices, and Instrumentalities.* – The TESDA shall collaborate with the BSP, DOF, SEC, and the IC in developing academic standards, curricula, and materials for the PFLC. These agencies shall issue jointly the proper guidelines

for this purpose. The content of the PFLC shall be aligned with the standards set by the aforementioned agencies.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA shall, in consultation with the BSP, DOF, and other relevant stakeholders, issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – In the event any of the provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 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,