



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5847



INTRODUCED REP. DORIS E. MANQUIZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the primordial policy of the State to protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. As such, Article XIV, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution declared that the State shall establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels, thus, our country's children have free basic education. Recently, Republic Act 10931 or the Universal Access to Tertiary Education Act of 2017 was passed providing for free tertiary education to bonafide students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) regardless of the program or course they are enrolled. On the other hand, Republic Act 10157, or The *Kindergarten Education Law*, approved in 2012, made Kindergarten the compulsory and mandatory entry stage to basic education.

These recent legislations are a manifestation of the State's Constitutional mandate to deliver quality education at all levels. Thus, in pursuance of this policy trajectory, this proposed legislation will provide free tuition for Master's students who are government employees, and who will be enrolling in SUCs.

This limitation of the segment of the population to be covered by this proposal is in consideration of the needed financial resources to successfully implement this program. Moreover, this bill is in consonance with Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act Of 2018 which called for the

promotion of integrity, accountability, proper management of public affairs and public property as well as to establish effective practices, aimed at efficient turnaround of the delivery of government services and the prevention of graft and corruption in government. This bill will provide the necessary yet very important complementary support program of human resources development through the grant of higher education specializations, through a Master's degree, to our bureaucrats and technocrats.

Given these overarching considerations to make our civil servants better educated professionals, the passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.


HON. DORIS E. MANQUIZ
2nd District of Zambales



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**AN ACT GRANTING FREE TUITION FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ENROLLED
IN GRADUATE EDUCATION MASTER'S PROGRAMS AT STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES**

*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 "Government Employees Free
MA Tuition in State Universities and Colleges Act of 2025."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
promote the enhanced professionalization of the civil service to further improve on the
efficient delivery of public services to the people. Further, the State shall likewise upgrade
on its human resource to cope with the rapidly evolving societal and administrative
requirements of a fast-moving polity. Towards this end, government workers, being an
important component of the state's human resources, shall be given education
advancement opportunities through adequate funding and such other mechanisms to
improve their education levels, for the eventual benefit of the state bureaucracy in
particular, and the country, in general.

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

(a) **Government Employees** refer to individuals employed in career and non-career
service positions in any branch, agency, or instrumentality of the National Government,
including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government
units (LGUs);

(b) **Graduate Education** refers to higher education programs leading to a master's
degree, duly recognized and authorized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

(c) **Master's Degree** refers to a postgraduate academic qualification awarded upon
completion of an advanced study program demonstrating expertise in a specific discipline
or field of practice;

(d) **State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)** refer to public higher education institutions
established by law and governed by their respective Boards of Regents or Trustees; and

(e) **Tuition Fees** refer to institutional charges for academic instruction and enrollment in graduate courses.

SECTION 4. Free Graduate Education for Government Employees. - All qualified career and non-career government employees shall be granted free tuition for a maximum of two (2) years in any master's degree program offered by SUCs, subject to the following conditions:

1. Non-career contractual government personnel must have rendered at least five (5) years of government service prior to application;
2. Applicants must pass the entrance examination and comply with all admission and retention requirements of the concerned SUC; and
3. The grant shall cover tuition fees only and shall not include miscellaneous, laboratory, or other institutional charges unless otherwise provided by law.

The governing boards of SUCs, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and CHED, shall determine the budgetary requirements for implementation based on the projected number of eligible enrollees per academic year. Said computation shall be used in preparing the National Expenditure Program (NEP).

SECTION 5. Exceptions. - The following individuals shall not be entitled to free graduate education under this Act:

1. Those who have previously availed of any government-sponsored graduate education scholarship in any higher education institution, local or foreign;
2. Those who fail to comply with admission or retention policies of the SUC; and
3. Those who fail to complete their master's degree within one (1) year after the prescribed program duration.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

The non-promulgation of such rules shall not, however, prevent the immediate enforcement of the provisions herein.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.