

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5993**



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2001," BY
INSTITUTIONALIZING A CIVIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL
PROGRAM COMPONENTS, AND MANDATING INTER-AGENCY
COOPERATION TO STREAMLINE THE EARLY REGISTRATION OF
STUDENTS FOR ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT IDENTIFICATION AND SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Act shall be known as the "Libreng ID sa NSTP" Act.

The primary measure of a robust educational system is its ability to transition its students into productive and gainfully employed citizens. While the Philippines produces a significant number of tertiary-level graduates annually, the journey from graduation day to the first day of work is often unnecessarily complicated by bureaucratic hurdles.

Data suggests that the Philippines produces between 500,000 to over 700,000 college graduates each year. This massive influx of qualified young professionals is crucial to the nation's economic growth. However, a common and unnecessary impediment faced by this group is the requirement to obtain essential government identification and social protection numbers after leaving the academic environment.

Job applications in the Philippines mandate applicants to possess a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), Social Security System (SSS) Number, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Number, and Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG) MID Number. The current application processes for these documents are fragmented, time-consuming, and often require documents (like a valid primary ID or an employer endorsement) that fresh graduates do not readily possess. This "catch-22" situation forces hundreds of thousands of new graduates to spend valuable weeks or months navigating long lines and complex requirements, delaying their formal entry into the workforce and thus postponing their contribution to the tax base and social security funds. Furthermore, the entry of these first-time job-seekers into the labor pool has historically been cited by the Philippine Statistics Authority

(PSA) as a contributing factor to the temporary rise in national unemployment figures following graduation periods.

This bill seeks to resolve this systemic problem by leveraging the existing structure of the National Service Training Program (NSTP), a mandatory subject for all tertiary students.

By amending Republic Act No. 9163 (NSTP Act of 2001), this measure will institutionalize the acquisition of all five core identification numbers (TIN, SSS, PhilHealth, PAG-IBIG, and PhilSys ID) as a mandatory requirement for the completion of the NSTP, regardless of the component (ROTC, CWTS, or LTS).

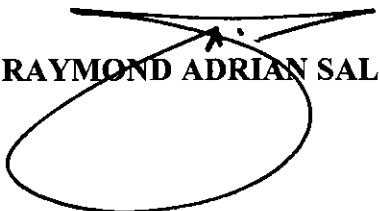
Applications made under this Act shall be free of charge.

Crucially, the bill mandates inter-agency cooperation among the BIR, SSS, PhilHealth, PAG-IBIG Fund, and PSA. This provision is designed to simplify the process by:

1. Mandating Leniency: Allowing the use of the Student ID and NSTP Enrollment Certificate as sufficient primary identification.
2. Establishing Pre-Employment Status: Issuing SSS, PhilHealth, and PAG-IBIG numbers immediately without requiring an initial contribution, allowing contributions to commence upon formal employment.
3. Institutionalizing Outreach: Mandating the conduct of on-campus registration drives facilitated by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

In effect, this bill transforms the NSTP into a genuine "Job Readiness Program," ensuring that when a student graduates, they are not only armed with their diploma but also with the complete and necessary civic documentation to immediately start working, thereby reducing bureaucracy, maximizing their job-seeking efficiency, and accelerating their contribution to the nation's social protection system.

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


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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "Libreng ID sa NSTP Act"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and national development. To promote the swift and seamless entry of tertiary-level students into the national workforce and social security system, the State shall leverage the National Service Training Program (NSTP) to equip all graduates with the necessary civic documentation required for employment.

SEC 3. *Amendment to Republic Act No. 9163.* – A new section, to be denominated by Section 5-A, is hereby inserted after Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9163, as amended, to read as follows:

"SECTION 5-A. CIVIC DOCUMENTATION AS A REQUISITE FOR COMPLETION. – AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE CHOSEN PROGRAM COMPONENT (ROTC, CWTS, OR LTS) SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SECURE A GOVERNMENT IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE NSTP CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION. THE STUDENT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SECURE THE FOLLOWING:

- a) PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) NUMBER FROM THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION;**
- b) PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (PHILSYS) ID OR**

**EPHILID NUMBER FROM THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS
AUTHORITY (PSA), OR PROOF OF APPLICATION THEREOF.”**

**“THE STUDENT SHALL ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN THE
FOLLOWING:**

- a) TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) FROM THE BUREAU
OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR);**
- b) SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) NUMBER FROM THE SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM; AND**
- c) HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (HDMF) OR PAG-IBIG MID
NUMBER FROM THE PAG-IBIG FUND.**

**“THE RESPECTIVE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION (HEI) OR
TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION (TVI) SHALL BE JOINTLY
RESPONSIBLE WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES FOR THE
COMPLIANCE AND FACILITATION OF THIS REQUIREMENT.”**

**“APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH IDENTIFICATION, WHEN MADE IN
COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION, SHALL BE FREE OF CHARGE.”**

SEC. 4. Inter-Agency Cooperation and Streamlining of Process. – To ensure the effective, non-burdensome, and efficient implementation of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of National Defense (DND), Social Security System (SSS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), PAG-IBIG Fund (HDMF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) are hereby mandated to jointly implement the following:

- (a) Acceptance of Student Identification. The BIR, SSS, PhilHealth, and PAG-IBIG Fund shall accept the Student Identification Card and the Certificate of NSTP Enrollment as sufficient and valid primary documents for the initial application and registration of the student for the numbers mandated in Section 5-A of this Act.
- (b) Facilitated Registration and Campus Drives. The SSS, PhilHealth, PAG-IBIG Fund, BIR, and PSA shall coordinate with the NSTP Offices of HEIs and TVIs to conduct annual on-campus or clustered mass registration drives to expedite the application and issuance of the required numbers/IDs to students.
- (c) Pre-Employment Status for Social Security. The SSS, PhilHealth, and PAG-IBIG Fund are mandated to establish a "Student Pre-Employment Membership Status." Students shall be issued their permanent member numbers immediately upon registration under this Act, without the immediate requirement of premium contribution payment. Contributions shall commence only upon the student's entry into formal employment or as a self-paying voluntary member.
- (d) Data Exchange and Digital Integration. The concerned agencies are mandated to develop a unified digital platform for data exchange with HEIs and TVIs to

simplify the student application process and prevent redundant submission of documents.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED, TESDA, and DND, in consultation with the SSS, PhilHealth, PAG-IBIG Fund, BIR, and PSA, shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause*. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause*. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,