

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6232

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
GRANTING A FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNT ON TUITION FEES FOR
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ENROLLED IN MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS
IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The strength and effectiveness of governance across the country are premised upon the steadfast and unwavering service of its 2.1 million civil servants. Their dedication, however, is often met with significant barriers to continuing professional development. Prevailing tuition rates for a Master's program, ranging from ₱15,000.00 to ₱100,000.00, exclusive of ancillary educational expenses, present a pressing financial challenge for most of them. Amid a few laudable scholarship programs available, these are not universally accessible to the vast majority of government employees, particularly in local government units and rural areas.

This bill aims to grant a fifty percent (50%) discount on tuition fees for all qualified government employees, both career and non-career, who are admitted and enrolled in a Master's program at any State University or College (SUC). This measure will empower our public servants to pursue further education without the burden of financial constraints for a maximum of two years, subject only to their compliance with the SUCs' standard admission and retention requirements.

By investing in the education of our government workforce, we are fostering a culture of continuing professional development in the bureaucracy, with the end in view of a more competent, professional, and effective government that is better equipped to serve the Filipino people.


HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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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 Tuition Fee Discount in SUCs Act."

Sec. 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 the efficient delivery of public services to the people. Further, the State shall likewise upgrade its human resources 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 educational advancement opportunities through adequate funding and other mechanisms to improve their education levels for the eventual benefit of the state bureaucracy in particular, and the country in general.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a) Government employees refer to those employed, whether classified as career or non-career service positions, by the National Government or any of its political subdivisions, instrumentalities, and agencies, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations, state universities and colleges, and local government units;
- b) Graduate Education refers to higher education programs leading to a Master's Degree, as authorized and recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- c) Master's Degree refers to an academic qualification granted at the graduate education level to individuals who have successfully completed a program

- 1 demonstrating a high level of expertise in a specific field of study or area of
2 professional practice;
- 3 d) State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) refer to public higher educational
4 institutions established by the national government and governed by their
5 respective independent boards of trustees or regents; and
- 6 e) Tuition fees refer to school charges or fees for subjects or courses enrolled in
7 by a graduate education student.

8

9 **Sec. 4. Tuition Fee Discount on Graduate Education for Government**
10 **Employees in SUCs.**— All career and non-career service government employees are
11 granted fifty percent (50%) discount on tuition fees for a maximum of two (2) years in
12 a Master's Program at any State University or College (SUC) where they have been
13 successfully admitted: Provided, That non-career or contractual government personnel
14 must be employed for at least five (5) years at any time after the effectivity of this Act
15 to qualify for this program: Provided, further, That the government employees must
16 pass the entrance examination and other admission and retention requirements of the
17 SUCs: Provided, finally, That the amount required to implement the discount on tuition
18 fees in SUCs shall be determined by the respective governing boards of SUCs based on
19 the projected number of enrollees for each academic year.

20

21 **Sec. 5. Exceptions to the Grant of Tuition Fee Discount for Graduate**
22 **Education.** —The following students are ineligible to avail of the tuition fee discount for
23 graduate education leading to a Master's Degree:

- 24 1. Students who have already been granted any government-sponsored graduate
25 education scholarship program in any higher education institution, whether public or
26 private, in the country or abroad;
- 27 2. Students who fail to comply with the admission and retention policies of the SUC;
28 and
- 29 3. Students who fail to complete their Master's Degree within one (1) year after the
30 period prescribed in their graduate education program.

31

32 **Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
33 unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to
34 be in full force and effect.

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36 **Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
37 instructions, proclamations, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with
38 this Act shall be deemed modified, amended, or repealed accordingly.

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40 **Sec. 8. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
41 complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,