

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6805**



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Related Learning Experiences (“RLE”) are core, mandated components of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (“BSN”) program, as provided under CHED Memorandum Order No. 14, Series of 2009. These experiences ensure that nursing students acquire the supervised clinical exposure necessary to meet licensure requirements and professional competencies. RLE is not merely an academic requirement but a critical gateway to safe, ethical, and effective practice in the country’s health system.

Despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 10931 (2017), or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which provides for free tuition and institutional fees in State Universities and Colleges (“SUCs”) and Local Universities and Colleges (“LUCs”), nursing students in public institutions remain subject to additional out-of-pocket costs for RLE. These include affiliation charges, hospital training fees, transportation expenses, and allowances for clinical instructors – expenses that disproportionately burden students from low-income households and create an inequitable barrier to completion.

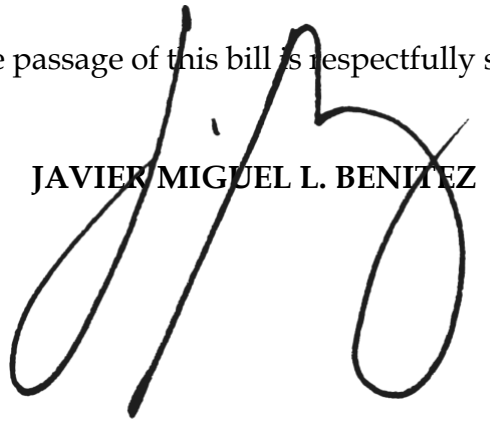
This bill seeks to address these issues by institutionalizing a prohibition on the collection of RLE fees in SUCs and LUCs. All RLE-related costs shall be treated as institutional expenses and funded through the budget of the Commission on Higher Education (“CHED”) or through the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST). In parallel, the measure expands access to the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) under RA No. 10931, allowing nursing students in accredited private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to receive support for RLE-related expenses. Furthermore, the bill mandates CHED to institutionalize and enforce minimum standards for the delivery of RLE –

ensuring quality clinical instruction, adequate partnerships with health facilities, and proper student supervision across institutions.

By removing unjust financial burdens and strengthening regulatory oversight, this measure protects the right to quality education under Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution. It ensures that nursing education remains accessible, equitable, and responsive to the country's healthcare workforce needs.

This bill is filed as a counterpart to the Senate version introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV. It affirms a shared legislative commitment across both chambers of Congress to remove unjust financial barriers in nursing education while upholding national standards for academic and clinical training. It is also parallel to other similar measures filed in both Houses that seek to institutionalize financial support for RLE and improve regulatory standards for clinical education in nursing programs.

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


JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

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Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

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)

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 all 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 establish standards for RLE and ensure that no additional financial burden is imposed on nursing students in the country for conducting such activities.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to:

(a) All State Universities and Colleges (“SUCs”) and Local Universities and Colleges (“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) 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 implement the provisions of this Act effectively.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amounts necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act 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,