



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6933



Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR FREE AND DISCOUNTED
REVIEW CENTER SERVICES, REVIEW-NOW-PAY-LATER
PROGRAMS FOR BAR EXAMINATIONS, AND ENCOURAGING
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH REVIEW CENTERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Filipinos aspire to careers in regulated professions like the legal profession but face financial barriers to accessing the necessary review centers for Bar examinations. The Bar Review Center Assistance and Accessibility Act is a legislative proposal designed to address these challenges by establishing a program offering free, discounted, and review-now-pay-later options for review center services.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, in promoting social justice and equal opportunities, mandates that the State shall give priority to education, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development¹ and that Congress shall give the highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity and to reduce social and economic inequalities². These are the guiding principles for the crafting of this bill.

The need for this bill arises from recognizing that financial constraints often limit individuals, particularly those with exceptional academic and behavioral merits, from pursuing Bar membership and legal profession. The program outlined in the bill prioritizes individuals based on academic and behavioral merits, financial need, and economic status.

¹Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.(1987). ArticleII, Section 17.

²Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.(1987). Article XIII, Section 1.

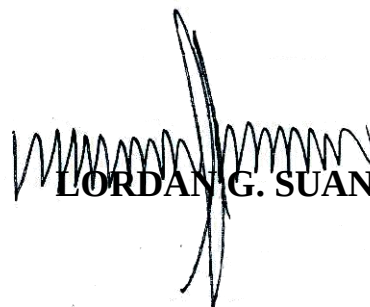
To ensure the effective implementation of the program, the bill establishes partnerships with review centers through public-private collaborations. The Supreme Court (SC) plays a key role in developing, implementing, and overseeing the program. The bill also introduces variations in the program, such as free and affordable online review programs, to enhance flexibility and accessibility.

This Act will:

1. Promote equal access to Bar examinations by removing financial barriers.
2. Help deserving individuals overcome financial hardship and achieve their career goals.
3. Encourage academic excellence and positive behavior through merit-based eligibility criteria.
4. Support economic development by increasing the pool of qualified legal professionals.
5. Fulfill the State's constitutional mandate to promote social justice, human dignity, and equal opportunities.

The bill underscores the government's commitment to leveling the playing field for individuals seeking Bar membership and legal profession, acknowledging the broader societal benefits of an inclusive and accessible review process.

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



LORDAN G. SUAR



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Bar Review*
2 *Center Assistance and Accessibility Act*.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
5 State to promote equal access to Bar examinations by providing assistance to
6 deserving individuals who may face financial barriers. This Act aims to
7 establish a government-funded program that offers free review center services,
8 discounted rates, and review-now-pay-later options, taking into consideration
9 the academic and behavioral merits, financial needs, and economic status of the
10 reviewees and their families
11

12 **SEC. 3. Program Funding and Development.** – The government shall
13 allocate funds to establish and sustain a program that provides free review
14 centerservices, discounted rates, and review-now-pay-later options for
15 individuals preparing for Bar examinations. The Supreme Court (SC) shall be
16 responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of this program.
17

18 **SEC. 4. Eligibility Criteria.** – The eligibility of individuals to avail
19 themselves of the free review, discounted, or review-now-pay-later services

1 shall be determined based on the following criteria:

2 (a) **Academic and Behavioral Merits:** The program shall prioritize deserving
3 students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance and
4 positive behavioral conduct.

5
6 (b) **Financial Need:** The financial situation of the reviewee shall be
7 considered, and priority shall be given to those who demonstrate a genuine
8 need for assistance.

9
10 (c) **Economic Status:** The economic status of the reviewee's family shall be
11 evaluated, with the poverty threshold set by the National Economic
12 Development Authority (NEDA) serving as a reference.

13
14 **SEC. 5. Program Variations.** – The program shall offer various options,
15 Including but not limited to:

16
17 (a) **Free Review:** Eligible individuals may receive entirely free review center
18 services.

19
20 (b) **Discounted Review Rates:** Qualified candidates may avail themselves of
21 review center services at a reduced cost.

22
23 (c) **Review-Now-Pay-Later with Discounts:** Individuals meeting the
24 Eligibility criteria may opt for a review-now-pay-later program with
25 discounted rates.

26
27 (d) **Review-Now-Pay-Later:** The program shall also provide an option for
28 review-now-pay-later arrangements without discounts, taking into account
29 the financial capacity of the reviewee.

30
31 (e) **Free and Affordable Online Review Programs:** Developing free and
32 affordable online review programs can provide greater flexibility and
33 accessibility for students who cannot attend traditional review centers.

34
35 **SEC. 6. Partnerships with Review Centers.** – Public-Private-Partnerships
36 shall be established to encourage review centers to offer discounted programs or
37 scholarships for financially challenged students. The SC, in coordination with
38 relevant stakeholders, shall facilitate and oversee these partnerships to enhance
39 the accessibility of review programs.

40
41 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for implementing this
42 Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
2 from the effectivity of this Act, the SC shall promulgate the necessary rules and
3 guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act.

4
5 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
6 orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are
7 inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and
10 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of
11 this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

12
13 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
14 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of
15 general circulation.

16
17 Approved,