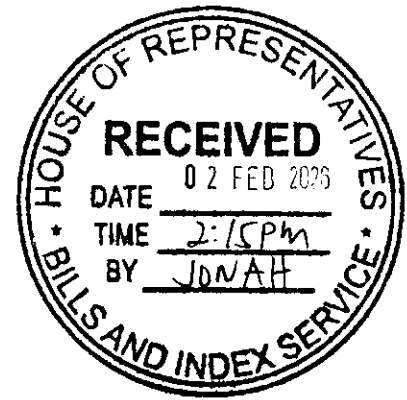




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7544

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ensuring accessibility to quality education does not end by removing tuition fees for all students. In reality, there are a lot of necessary and incidental costs linked to it, such as food, transportation and even clothing expenses. As such, it is upon the government to provide a consistent and holistic support to ensure accessibility to enable students to make the most of their education, and to ensure seamless transition from education to employment.

Under Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, it is mandated that the State shall protect and promote the right to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Moreover, the State recognizes and puts importance on internship programs in tertiary education as a bridge between theoretical classroom and professional practice. As such, this proposed measure seeks to specifically provide for a tangible support to those students who undergo internship or practicum programs as part of their curriculum.

A way to alleviate concerns on costs that the internship or practicum programs entail is by providing financial assistance. Thus, this bill seeks to grant a one-time internship allowance in the amount of ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) that will be given to qualified students upon completion of their internship or practicum program. This allowance will cover the student's subsistence, transportation, clothing needs, documentation, documentation and other incidental costs incurred during the internship or practicum period. Moreover, this grant shall be non-taxable and non-transferable since it is subsidy for learning and not a "living wage" per se.

Through this bill, we will be institutionalizing an additional support to students, and even provide for motivation to complete their internship or practicum program, thereby further strengthening their chances in seeking employment after finishing their respective degrees.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7544

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF INTERNSHIP ALLOWANCE FOR
STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE
PHILIPPINES

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 "**Student Internship Allowance Act.**"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to uphold the constitutional mandate to promote accessible and quality education for all, and to provide adequate support to students in the fulfillment of their academic and professional requirements. Moreover, the State shall maintain a system of subsidies available to deserving students in both public and private schools.

The State also recognized the importance of internship and practicum program in the development of a competent and job-ready workforce.

To this end, the State shall institutionalize financial support for students who complete their internship program or practicum program as a measure to foster inclusive growth, promote equity in quality education, and facilitate successful transition from school to work environment.

Section 3. Coverage. – This Act shall apply to all eligible Filipino students enrolled in any public or private Higher Education Institution (HEI) duly recognized by the Commission

on Higher Education (CHED), or in any Technical-Vocational Institution (TVI) accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), who are required to complete an internship, practicum, or on-the-job training (OJT) as part of their academic or certification requirements.

This allowance shall be extended to students in undergraduate, diploma, certificate, and technical-vocational programs, whether enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis.

Section 4. Student Internship Allowance – A one-time Internship Allowance in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be granted to each eligible student, provided they have met the following condition:

- a) Successful completion of internship or practicum program, as certified by their HEI or TVI; and
- b) Submission of all the required form and documentations to their respective institutions.

The allowance shall serve as financial assistance to support the student's subsistence, transportation, clothing needs, documentation, documentation and other incidental costs incurred during the internship period.

The allowance shall be non-taxable and non-transferable. It shall not also be subject to any deductions by the host establishment or the educational institution.

For the purposes of this Act, *successful completion* shall mean the student intern has:

- a) fulfilled the required number of internship or practicum hours as certified by the host training establishment and the HEI or TVI;
- b) submitted all post-internship reports, evaluations, and related documentation as required by their institution; and
- c) received a passing or satisfactory final assessment from both the institution and the host entity, if applicable.

Section 5. Appropriations – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the CHED and TESDA Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall jointly issue an implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 7. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly..

Section 9. Effectivity. – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,