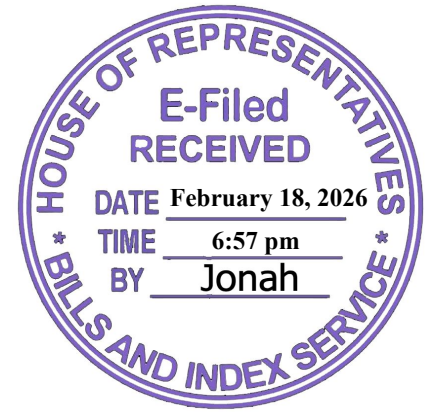


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7894



Introduced by 2nd District of Iloilo Representative
HON. KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
(GIP), PROVIDING FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, FUNDING, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the State's duty to promote the welfare and development of the youth, ensuring that they are given opportunities to contribute meaningfully to nation-building. In line with this, the Government Internship Program (GIP) was established to provide young Filipinos with hands-on experience in public service, cultivate their skills, and attract highly qualified individuals to careers in government.

Recent data from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) demonstrate that the GIP has already made a significant impact on Filipino youth and their families. In 2019, a total of 45,121 young Filipinos benefitted from the program. Regional reports from 2024 indicate continued expansion: Region 9 placed 1,485 interns, while Region 12 placed 1,556 interns, with a portion of these interns subsequently absorbed into government positions. These figures underscore that GIP not only equips youth with valuable professional experience but also provides financial support to their families, particularly those from underprivileged sectors.

The program addresses the persistent issue of youth underemployment, which, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, remains at 13.7% for the 15–24 age group, with 15.9% classified as NEET (not in employment, education, or training). By providing structured, compensated internships in national and local government offices, GIP bridges the gap between education and employment, fostering career pathways in the civil service while enhancing the practical skills, work readiness, and employability of young Filipinos.

A critical feature of the GIP is its structured introduction of interns to government and administrative systems. Interns are exposed to the inner workings of government offices, including organizational structures, administrative processes, public service protocols, and policy implementation. Through supervised hands-on tasks, mentoring, and performance evaluation, interns gain firsthand experience in administrative operations, interdepartmental coordination, document processing, and citizen service delivery. This exposure ensures that interns not only develop technical competencies but also cultivate an understanding of public

sector responsibilities, governance, and ethical standards, preparing them for future careers in public service.

Institutionalizing the GIP as a permanent national program ensures that these benefits are accessible to all eligible youth across the country. It establishes a standardized framework for selection, placement, and evaluation, strengthens pathways to civil service careers, and further supports the economic well-being of young Filipinos and their families.

Immediate passage of this bill is therefore earnestly sought to secure the continuity and expansion of the Government Internship Program, ensuring that the youth remain active participants in nation-building while gaining the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary for meaningful careers in public service.


KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, M.D.
Representative
2nd District of Iloilo

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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 Internship Program Act*.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and to promote their well-being, skills development, and access to public service opportunities.

SEC. 3. **Creation of the Government Internship Program (GIP).** A national Government Internship Program (GIP) is hereby institutionalized, to be implemented by all National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), collectively referred to as “Host Institutions” (HIs).

SEC. 4. **Objectives.** — The internship program shall aim to:

- a) Provide young workers, particularly from underprivileged or marginalized sectors, with orientation in public service and opportunities for hands-on experience.
- b) Allow Host Institutions to identify, train, and recruit highly capable future government employees.
- c) Ensure interns receive fair compensation and benefits commensurate with their contributions.

SEC. 5. **Qualifications of a GIP Intern.** — Applicants must:

- a) Be a Filipino citizen;
- b) Be 18 to 30 years of age at the time of application;
- c) Be a high school graduate, vocational-technical graduate, or undergraduate/college student;
- d) Not have prior government work experience, except for school-required on-the-job training.

SEC. 6. ***Internship Period.*** — The internship shall last 3 to 6 months, and an individual may participate only once.

SEC. 7. ***Compensation and Benefits.*** — GIP interns shall receive:

- a) *Stipend.* At least 75% of the minimum wage in the region of the Host Institution, based on actual attendance.
- b) *Insurance.* Coverage through the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or equivalent accident insurance for the duration of the internship.
- c) *Certificate of Completion.* Documenting the skills acquired, duties performed, and performance evaluation.

SEC. 8. ***Nature of Relationship.*** Participation in the GIP does not create an employer-employee relationship. The internship is solely for training, education, and skills development.

SEC. 9. ***Preferential Hiring.*** GIP graduates who meet qualifications for permanent, temporary, or contractual positions shall be given preference over other applicants, subject to Civil Service laws and regulations.

SEC. 10. ***Role of the Implementing Agencies.*** For the purposes of this Act:

- a) *Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).* Lead agency responsible for program supervision, nationwide monitoring, guidelines setting, and fund allocation to Host Institutions.
- b) *Civil Service Commission (CSC) and National Youth Commission (NYC).* Co-implementing agencies responsible for standardized learning plans, performance evaluation systems, and maintenance of a centralized database to enforce the one-time participation rule.

SEC. 11. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** — Within 90 days from effectivity, the DOLE, in consultation with the CSC and NYC, shall promulgate the necessary IRR for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. ***Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary to implement this Act, including stipends, insurance, and related expenses, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. ***Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. ***Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,