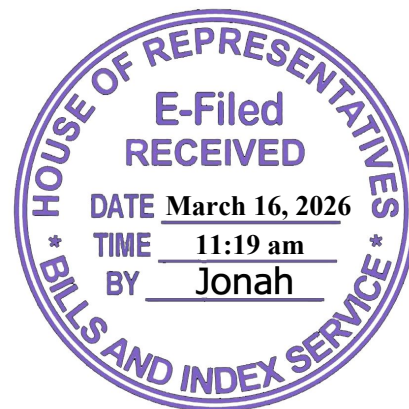


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8506



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education and skills development remain among the most critical investments a nation can make in its people. A well-educated, highly skilled, and adaptable workforce strengthens economic growth, promotes innovation, and enhances a country's global competitiveness. For developing economies such as the Philippines, expanding access to quality education and training is essential to preparing citizens for the evolving demands of the modern labor market.

The State's commitment to education is firmly anchored in the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, which mandates under Article XIV, Section 1 that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. The Constitution likewise directs the State, under Article XIV, Section 2(4), to encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs that respond to community needs.

In pursuit of these constitutional objectives, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 7796, which created the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The law established a comprehensive framework for technical education and skills development (TESD) in order to provide Filipinos with practical competencies that support employment, entrepreneurship, and national productivity. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7796 expressly declares as a policy of the State the promotion and strengthening of the quality of technical education and skills development programs to attain international competitiveness.

Over the past decades, the role of technical and vocational education has become even more crucial. Rapid technological advancements, digital transformation, and evolving industry requirements have fundamentally altered

the nature of work. Emerging sectors such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, renewable energy, and digital services increasingly demand workers equipped with specialized technical skills and lifelong learning capabilities.

At the same time, the Philippines continues to face challenges relating to job-skills mismatch, youth unemployment, and the need to upskill and reskill workers in response to changing labor market conditions. Strengthening the country's technical education and skills development system is therefore essential to ensuring that Filipino workers remain competitive both domestically and in the global labor market.

In this context, it is imperative that standards governing technical education and skills development programs remain responsive to technological advancements and industry needs. Curricula must be regularly reviewed and updated, training programs must be aligned with evolving occupational standards, and institutional mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure that training providers deliver high-quality and relevant skills development programs.

This measure seeks to strengthen the country's technical education and skills development framework by enhancing the capacity of relevant institutions to update standards, improve curricula, and ensure that technical training programs remain aligned with both domestic labor market needs and international industry standards. The proposed reforms are intended to reinforce the mandate of TESDA under Republic Act No. 7796 while complementing other education and workforce development initiatives, including Republic Act No. 10533 and Republic Act No. 10968.

Rather than conflicting with existing legislation, the proposed measure strengthens the current legal and institutional framework by ensuring greater responsiveness, quality assurance, and alignment between training programs and the requirements of industry and emerging technologies.

In an increasingly competitive global economy, the Philippines must continue to invest in developing a workforce that embodies excellence, adaptability, and a strong work ethic. By strengthening the country's technical education and skills development system, this measure contributes to building a more productive, globally competitive, and future-ready Filipino workforce.

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


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TO UPDATE THE EXISTING TRAINING FOR WORK
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (TWSP), SPECIAL TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM (STEP), AND TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING (TVET)

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 “TESDA Skills Training Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

SECTION 3. *Scope.* – This Act shall apply to the following programs of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority:

- a) Training For Work Scholarship Program (TWSP);
- b) Special Training For Employment Program (STEP); and
- c) Technical And Vocational Education And Training (TVET).

SECTION 4. *Roles and Responsibilities.* – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance with regard to the inclusion of updates in the existing programs and curricula of their Training For Work Scholarship Program (TWSP), Special Training For Employment Program (STEP), and Technical And

Vocational Education And Training (TVET) in order to ensure globally competitive programs of training for Filipinos enrolled in the same.

SECTION 5. *Socio-Civic Organizations and the Private Sector.* – This Act shall also empower the private sector in engaging and partnering with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in promulgating these programs. Non-governmental organizations, civic organizations, the academe, people’s organizations, and the like shall be tapped by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in updating such programs.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,