

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 10006



Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

DIRECTING LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAMS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO AUGMENT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE DELIVERY OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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.

To this end, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) have exerted efforts to improve the quality of education, providing adequate seminars and making education accessible especially to indigent students through the establishment of Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), which are established and undertaken by the Local Government Units (LGUs) under Republic Act No. 10931, LUCs refer to CHED-accredited public higher education institutions established by LGUs through an enabling ordinance, financially supported by the LGU concerned, and compliant with CHED policies, standards, and guidelines.

In fact, starting School Year 2018 to 2019, students of 78 local universities across the country no longer have to pay tuition fees since the CHED decided to include 78 LUCs covered by Republic ACT No. 10931 otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.

Meanwhile, the Philippines encounters a lot of disasters yearly and social services are in demand. Many registered social workers are required to provide psychosocial support and interventions for victims of disasters and abuse. Although, there are quite a number of social

workers already employed in government offices, there is still undeniably a great need for them. The standard worker–beneficiary ratio for individual casework is 1:25 children for placement; 1:20 children in need of special protection and persons in crisis needing casework; 1:15 children in conflict with the law; 1:60 children for independent living, education purposes, temporary residential care due to circumstances at home; 1:25 disadvantaged women / internally displaced person (IDPs); 1:15 women with dependents; 1:25 senior citizens; and 1:15 persons with disabilities.¹ Clearly, it can easily be noted how overloaded the social workers are just by the standard ratio of worker to beneficiary.

This proposed measure aims to augment the number of social workers in the country by directing LUCs to establish or expand CHED-recognized social work degree programs, and by ensuring that eligible students may avail of free tuition and other school fees under RA No.10931.

Recent events, like school-based violence, natural disasters like earthquakes and strong typhoons with flooding have left so many traumatized. Hence, there is a need for social workers to provide interventions and support to affected families and individuals.

It is time that the State invests in providing free education to students who are willing to be the government’s partners in implementing social services efficiently and with utmost dedication.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

¹ WORKER-BENEFICIARY RATIO. Available at <https://standards.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annex-A.-Worker-Beneficiary-Ratio-RSIDG.pdf>



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House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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**DIRECTING LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND
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COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO AUGMENT THE NUMBER OF
REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE DELIVERY OF PSYCHOSOCIAL
SUPPORT AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

1 *Section 1. Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect
2 and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps
3 to make such education accessible to all. Further, the State shall promote the welfare of its people
4 through the provision of adequate social services.

5
6 Toward these ends, the State shall strengthen the pipeline for the social work profession by
7 requiring local universities and colleges (LUCs), in coordination with the Commission on Higher
8 Education (CHED), to establish, expand, or ensure access to a CHED-recognized social work
9 degree program, while ensuring that eligible students may avail of free tuition and other school
10 fees under Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary
11 Education Act.

1 *Section 2. Free Social Work Course in LUCs.* – All local universities and colleges are
2 hereby directed to establish or expand a CHED-recognized Bachelor of Science in Social Work
3 (BSSW) program, subject to compliance with CHED policies, standards, and guidelines. Where
4 immediate offering is not feasible, the LUC shall, in coordination with CHED, ensure access to a
5 BSSW program through consortium, twinning, resource-sharing, or similar arrangements with a
6 CHED-recognized higher education institution authorized to offer BSSW, under guidelines to be
7 provided in the IRR.

8 *Section 3. Screening of Eligible Students for the Program.* – The LUCs shall adopt the
9 provisions of RA No. 10931 in the screening and granting of free tuition and other school fees, and
10 such other assistance as may be authorized under existing law and implementing rules, to students
11 who would like to pursue social work in their respective LUCs.

12 *Section 4. Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
13 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. For purposes of implementing the free
14 tuition and other school fees subsidy in LUCs under Republic Act No. 10931, the amount required
15 shall be determined in accordance with the budgeting framework provided under said Act.

16 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit local government units from providing
17 supplemental appropriations or other forms of support to their respective LUCs for the
18 establishment, expansion, or improvement of social work programs.

19 *Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
20 effectivity of this Act, the CHED and other stakeholders in higher education shall promulgate the
21 necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

22
23 *Section 6. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
24 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

25
26 *Section 7. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
27 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
28 accordingly.

29
30 *Section 8. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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33 Approved,