

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10634



Introduced by Honorable Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to ensure that the validity of the 9(f) Student Visa and the authorized period of stay of foreign students are aligned with the duration of their academic programs, amending for the purpose Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, otherwise known as the "Philippine Immigration Act of 1940".

Under the current system governing student visas, as outlined in paragraph (f), Section 9 of Commonwealth Act No. 613, foreign students in the Philippines are required to repeatedly renew their visas and authorized stay, even when they remain continuously enrolled in accredited educational institutions in the Philippines. This policy places an undue financial and administrative burden on students and risks disrupting their studies unnecessarily.

Foreign students come to the Philippines primarily to pursue their education. However, students enrolled in multi-year programs are often required to repeatedly undergo renewal procedures despite remaining compliant with the conditions of their admission. This measure seeks to address this concern by ensuring that the validity of the 9(f) Student Visa and the authorized period of stay are aligned with the duration of the academic program in which the student is enrolled.

At the same time, the bill guarantees continued government supervision by requiring foreign students to submit periodic reports to the Bureau of Immigration

regarding their enrolment status, academic standing, address, course load, expected date of completion, and other relevant information as may be required. Failure to comply with these reportorial requirements may result in the curtailment, cancellation, or revocation of the student visa.

By streamlining the student visa process while upholding rigorous immigration oversight, this bill not only advances administrative efficiency but also reinforces the Philippines' position as a premier hub for international education. It signals the country's commitment to welcoming global talent, fostering academic excellence, and cultivating stronger cross-cultural exchange, ultimately strengthening its role in the competitive landscape of higher learning worldwide.

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



FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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AN ACT
ALIGNING THE VALIDITY OF THE 9(F) STUDENT VISA AND AUTHORIZED
PERIOD OF STAY OF FOREIGN STUDENTS WITH THE DURATION OF THEIR
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH
ACT NO. 613, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE
IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940"

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

1 **Section 1.** Paragraph (f), Section 9 of Commonwealth Act No. 613, as
2 amended, is further amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 9. Aliens departing from any place outside
4 the Philippines, who are otherwise admissible and
5 who qualify within one of the following categories,
6 may be admitted as nonimmigrants:

7 "(a) xxx

8 "xxx

9 "(f) Higher than high school. - A student, having
10 means sufficient for his education and support in the
11 Philippines, who is at least eighteen years of age and
12 who seeks to enter the Philippines temporarily and
13 solely for the purpose of taking up a course of study
14 higher than high school at a university, seminary,

academy, college or school approved for such alien students by the Commissioner of Immigration: **PROVIDED, THAT THE VALIDITY OF THE STUDENT VISA AND AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF STAY SHALL BE ALIGNED WITH THE DURATION OF THE COURSE OF STUDY FOR WHICH SUCH STUDENT IS ENROLLED: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUCH STUDENT SHALL SUBMIT PERIODIC REPORTS, AT INTERVALS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, ON ENROLMENT STATUS, ACADEMIC STANDING, CURRENT ADDRESS, COURSE LOAD, EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION, AND OTHER INFORMATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED, SUBJECT TO CURTAILMENT, CANCELLATION, OR REVOCATION OF THE VISA UPON FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUCH REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENT;**

"xxx."

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commissioner of Immigration shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of this Act be held as unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended or repealed accordingly.

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2 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,