



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10719



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The transition from educational institutions to the workforce is a critical milestone for fresh graduates and young adults. However, immediate access to employment opportunities is rarely guaranteed upon graduation. Beyond a competitive job market, fresh graduates face immediate financial hurdles, such as the incidental and necessary expenses incurred while searching for work, including transportation, communication, printing, and attire. These are costs that many graduates simply cannot afford.

Under Article XIII, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution, the State is mandated to promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities. Article II, Section 13 recognizes the vital role of youth in nation-building. This mandates the State to enact policies that will protect their interest and welfare while fostering their potential.

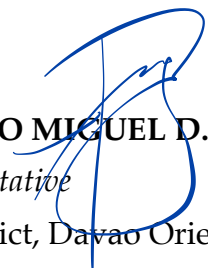
While Republic Act No. 11261 or the “First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act” exempts first-time jobseekers from paying fees and charges for government-issued pre-employment documents, there are still financial burdens for job seeking fresh graduates during employment search.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in June 2026, the unemployment rate in the country increased at 4.9%, with an estimated 2.59 millions unemployed Filipinos.¹ Among the 592,000 youth aged 15-24 seeking jobs for the first time, only 310,000 landed gainful employment, leaving 282,000 young job seekers without job.

To address the same, this bill seeks to establish a one-time grant of five thousand pesos (PHP 5,000) to qualified Fresh Filipino graduates. The grant aims to provide assistance for the necessary and incidental expenses of the job seeking fresh graduates, complementing the existing benefits under RA 11261.

By easing the financial strain on our job seeking fresh graduates, this legislative measure provide a fair starting point for young filipinos as they transition into productive members of the workforce.

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



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

¹ "Unemployment Rate Philippines June 2026," Rappler, accessed August 9, 2026, <https://www.rappler.com/business/unemployment-rate-philippines-june-2026/>.



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**AN ACT PROVIDING FRESH FILIPINO GRADUATES
OF PHILIPPINE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES,
COLLEGES AND OTHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, OF A ONE-TIME CASH
GRANT OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 5,000)**

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 “**Fresh Graduates One-Time Cash Grant Act of 2026**”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building. It is further mandated that the State promote and protect the interest of the youth, by leveling the access to employment opportunities.

To this end, the State shall create policies that will directly address the financial burden that fresh filipino graduates encounter while seeking gainful employment.

Section. 3. Coverage of Cash Grant to Fresh Graduates. – All Fresh Filipino Graduates of Philippine Tertiary Institutions, Universities, Colleges, and Training Institutions shall receive the amount of five thousand pesos (PHP 5,000.00) as productivity cash grant to cover the initial expenses of his or her employment application, and other pre-employment or job settling expenses.

Section. 4. Proof of Graduation – To avail of the one-time cash grant under this Act, the Fresh Filipino Graduate must submit proof of her successful completion of his/her course, which includes a copy of diploma, certification, or other school documents from which he or she has graduated, issued to that effect, to the concerned government agency or local government unit.

The diploma, certification or school documents shall clearly state the date of graduation or completion, the degree earned, or course or training completed, and must be duly signed by the head or authorized representatives of institutions, universities or colleges.

Section. 5. Creation of Inter-Agency Monitoring Committee – An Inter-Agency Monitoring Committee (IAMC) is hereby created to be headed by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The IAMC shall be tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations to supplement the implementation of this Act, and to monitor compliance by the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities.

Section. 6. Appropriations – The amount needed to implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act, coursed through the Commission on Higher Education.

Section. 7. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,