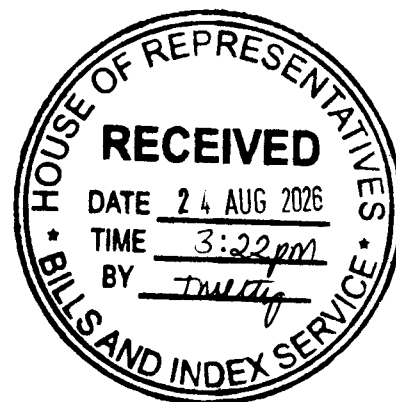


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10892



Introduced by **REP. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR GIFTED AND
TALENTED STUDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The State recognizes the indispensable role of the youth in nation-building, particularly those who possess exceptional cognitive abilities and extraordinary talents in various physical, creative, or social domains. While the Philippine educational system strives for inclusivity, highly gifted and talented learners often lack the specialized resources, financial backing, and tailored academic frameworks necessary to maximize their full potential.

The proposed "Henyong Kabataang Pinoy Act" seeks to bridge this gap by institutionalizing a comprehensive, state-funded support system for exceptionally gifted and talented Filipino students across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. By investing heavily in these exceptional minds and talents, the government ensures a pipeline of innovators, thought leaders, and world-class performers who will actively drive national development.

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


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TALENTED STUDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
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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 "*Henryong Kabataang Pinoy Act*".

SEC. 2. State Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan program, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged. The State affirms the role of students who are gifted or talented in different intellectual, physical, creative or social domains in nation building and recognizes their potential to significantly contribute to national development through innovative strategies and creative solutions. The State endeavors to increase the access of gifted or talented learners to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities aligned with their individual learning needs, strengths, interests and goals.

SEC. 3. Scope and Limitations. - This Act shall be limited in scope, applications and effectivity to Filipino students in primary, secondary and tertiary educations.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Gifted Learner** refers to those students whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more areas of human cognition. Gifted students have exceptional abilities in one or more academic subjects such as mathematics, science, history and geography.

- b. **Government Fellows Component** refers to the program that enables gifted or talented learners who are beneficiaries of scholarships, grants and other such benefits to prescribed years to work in the public sector to be able to bring back to the community.
- c. **Skill-Matched Placement** refers to the strategic assignment of returning scholars under the Government Fellows Component to public sector agencies, laboratories, or institutions directly relevant to their specific domain of expertise.
- d. **Mentorship Component** refers to a system wherein a mentor or a partner with specific skills and knowledge are connected with gifted or talented learners who need or want the same skills and advantages to move up in work, skill level or school performance.
- e. **Service Obligation Contract** refers to an undertaking by the gifted or talented learners, who enjoyed any of the benefits under this Act, to serve in the public sector for a specific number of years after completion of tertiary education.
- f. **Talented Learner** refers to those students whose skills are distinctly above average in or more areas of human performance. Talented learners have exceptional abilities in one or more practical subjects such as dance, music, arts, sports, among others.
- g. **Asynchronous Development** refers to the disparity between a gifted learner's advanced intellectual capacity and their physical or emotional maturity, requiring specialized socio-emotional support.
- h. **Culturally Sensitive Identification Tools** refers to assessment methods, including non-verbal intelligence measures, native-language evaluations, portfolio reviews, and behavioral observations, designed to evaluate potential without linguistic or cultural bias.
- i. **Regional Gifted Hubs and Pull-Out Programs** refers to division-level specialized learning centers and enrichment tracks within regular public schools that cater to gifted learners who cannot relocate to specialized national high schools.

SEC. 5. Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program. – A "Gifted and Talented Learners Development Program", hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be created to address the special needs of gifted or talented learners. This shall include comprehensive and aligned services that use individualized, consultative and collaborative methods to enhance student performance in cognitive and affective areas.

Gifted or talented learners shall have access to learning resources such as technology infused learning, internships, acceleration, enrichment programs, mentorships or individual projects based on student interest and

areas of giftedness or talent: Provided, That, to ensure the proper education approach, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and all other concerned agencies shall formulate and adopt policies geared towards the full development of gifted or talented learners. The components of the program shall include, among others:

- a. **Acceleration Component** - The DepEd, CHED and other concerned agencies shall devise an "Acceleration Program" to address the advanced learning requirements of gifted or talented learners. Such as entrance to school at a younger age than their peers, grade-skipping or early entry to tertiary education, regardless of their age.
- b. **Mentorship Component** - A Mentorship Program shall be made available to gifted or talented learners. The Committee shall facilitate in the appropriate matching of an in-school and external mentor, who may come from the private or public sector. The designated mentor shall supervise the content enrichment, transfer of knowledge and specific gift-based or talent-based skills development of the learner.
- c. **Government Fellows Component** - To encourage participation in policy development, all gifted or talented learners who enjoyed any of the scholarships, grants and other benefits under this Act shall enter into a "Government Fellows Program" requiring public service for a specific number of years after completing tertiary education. They shall be bound by a Service Obligation Contract and the terms therein shall be equitably determined by the Committee.
- d. **Culturally Sensitive Identification Component** - DepEd and CHED shall formulate assessment protocols that utilize non-verbal tools, multi-language testing, performance-based auditions, and portfolio evaluations. Special outreach campaigns shall be conducted in far-flung, rural, and indigenous communities to ensure underrepresented gifted youth are identified.

SEC. 6. Local and International Scholarships. - Gifted or Talented Learners who meet the requirements of the selection process shall enjoy any or all of the following scholarship grants:

- a. **Primary and Secondary Education.** - Gifted or talented learners shall have immediate access to specialized high schools such as the Philippine Science High School and the Philippine High School for the Arts, among others. In case the student chooses a private educational institution, scholarship grants including, but not limited to, the cost of tuition and miscellaneous fees shall be subsidized.
- b. **Tertiary Education and Vocational Education.** - Tertiary and Vocational Education scholarship grants, aids and other assistance shall be governed by R.A. No. 10687, otherwise known as the "Unified Student Financial System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act of

2015", and R.A. No. 10648, otherwise known as the "Iskolar ng Bayan Act of 2014": *Provided*, That, the high school graduation requirement for application shall be waived for exceptionally gifted or talented students; *Provided further*, That enjoyment of benefits under the aforementioned laws shall not prejudice the conferment of additional benefits and incentives given to gifted or talented learners under this Act: *Provided finally*, That in the event that the UniFAST Program or the Iskolar ng Bayan Program shall not be applicable to selected gifted or talented learners, the Committee shall formulate the necessary scholarship program/s that would allow such learners access to quality education and training relevant to their needs.

- c. **International Education Programs.** - If international scholarships and programs are available to qualified students, the Committee shall encourage and assist in the application process of gifted or talented learners. All fees pertinent thereto, including the cost of the program, shall be shouldered by the State.
- d. **Gifted and Talented Education Committee.** - To carry out the purposes of this Act, a Gifted and Talented Education Committee, hereon shall be called the Committee, shall be created. It shall be attached to the DepEd, composed of the Secretary of the DepEd as ex officio Chairperson, the CHED Commissioner and other heads of concerned agencies as may be determined by the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Committee shall formulate and approve policies and strategies for gifted or talented learners and review existing policies to ensure consistency with policy framework under this Act. It shall promulgate the minimum guidelines and rules and regulations for determining qualified Beneficiaries for the Gifted and Talented Learners Education Program.

SEC. 7. Additional Benefits. - In addition to scholarship grants, gifted or talented learners shall be entitled to the following monthly benefits:

- a. Educational Expenses Allowance: Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 5,000.00);
- b. Medical and Mental Health Allowance: Two Thousand Pesos (PHP 2,000.00), specifically usable for specialized counseling and healthcare needs;
- c. Transportation Allowance: One Thousand Pesos (PHP 1,000.00);
- d. Board and Lodging Allowance: Ten Thousand Pesos (PHP 10,000.00) for underprivileged or marginalized learners from remote areas who must relocate for their studies; and

- e. Competition and Showcase Sponsorships: Full coverage of application fees, international travel, accommodation, and daily allowances for the student and one (1) accompanying parent or guardian when representing the Philippines in international events.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php100,000,000) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, specifically for the creation of the Committee and the initial implementation of this Act, shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DepEd.

Of this initial allocation:

- a. At least fifteen percent (15%) shall be dedicated to teacher capacity building and professional development (Sec. 5b);
- b. At least ten percent (10%) shall be dedicated to the formulation and distribution of culturally sensitive identification tools (Sec. 5a); and
- c. At least ten percent (10%) shall be earmarked for social-emotional counseling programs and mental health infrastructure (Sec. 5e).

Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – For the purpose of establishing an institutionalized government support system for gifted or talented learners, a committee composed of the DepEd, CHED, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Center for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Sports Commission (NSC) and other concerned government agencies shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,