

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11110



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The role of senior citizens in the Filipino family and in nation-building is valuable and is recognized by the State, with laws such as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 and 2010 among others.

Similarly, quality education for all is fervently valued by the State as well. Sec. 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote the “right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all,” calling for the establishment of a “complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.”

This bill seeks to affirm our recognition of the invaluable contributions of senior citizens and support those who have yet to gain access to education or are interested in continuing their academic journey. It is the hope of this measure to support the dreams of every Filipino, regardless of age, for quality education.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 the “*Free Education for Senior Citizens Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is the State’s duty to provide its citizens access to quality education regardless of their age. This bill seeks to ensure that quality education is made available to Senior Citizens by exempting them from the payment of tuition fees in any public school.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms and phrases shall apply:

- (a) *Public School* refers to any school, primary, secondary, or tertiary educational institution, which receives regular funding from the government.
- (b) *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

SECTION 4. Exemption from the Payment of Tuition Fees. – Senior Citizens as defined in this Act shall be exempt from paying tuition fees in any public school in the Philippines. Senior Citizens availing of this exemption shall still be required to comply with the minimum admission requirements of the school they wish to enroll in.

No additional academic requirements shall be imposed on Senior Citizens to avail of the exemption from payment of tuition fees under this Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education together with the Commission on Higher Education shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Non-Impairment Clause*. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,