

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11274**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit secondary schools and higher education institutions from requiring students to complete work immersion, internship, or on-the-job training (OJT) programs abroad or outside the province where the institution is located as a mandatory requirement for graduation. It ensures that participation in such programs remains voluntary and subject to the informed consent of students and their parents or guardians.

Experiential learning programs play a vital role in preparing students for the workforce. However, when these programs are conducted outside the student's home province or abroad and are made compulsory, they often impose significant financial burdens on students and their families. Transportation, accommodation, meals, and other incidental expenses can become prohibitive, particularly for learners from low-income households, forcing some students to incur debt, delay completion of their academic requirements, or forego educational opportunities altogether.

Education shall be accessible to all, and existing laws recognize the duty of the State to remove barriers that prevent students from completing their education. This measure ensures that educational institutions cannot compel students to participate in costly off-site immersion or internship programs as a condition for graduation. At the same time, it preserves opportunities for students who voluntarily wish to participate in such programs and strengthens accountability through mandatory reporting and regulatory oversight.

No student should be denied the opportunity to graduate simply because they cannot afford the additional expenses associated with mandatory out-of-province or overseas training. This measure upholds

fairness, protects the right to accessible education, and ensures that experiential learning remains an opportunity rather than a financial obstacle.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
TO PROHIBIT SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS FROM CONDUCTING MANDATORY IMMERSIONS,
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS, OR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS
OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE WHERE THE CAMPUS IS LOCATED OR
ABROAD, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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 “*Mandatory Overseas Immersion Ban*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to accessible quality education at all levels. Towards this end, the State shall ensure that required immersion, internship, and on-the-job training (OJT) programs do not impose unreasonable financial or logistical burdens on students, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover the following:

a. Any work immersion programs required as part of the curriculum for Grade 12 students, both in public or private schools under the Department of Education (DepEd); and

b. Any internship or on-the-job training (OJT) programs required as part of the curriculum for college or tertiary level students in both public and private higher education institutions.

SEC. 3. *Prohibition on Mandatory Immersion or Internship Programs Outside the Province or Abroad.* – No secondary or higher education institution shall require students enrolled therein to complete immersion, internship, or OJT training programs outside the province where the campus at which the student is enrolled is located, or abroad, as a condition for graduation, completion of a course, or compliance with a curricular requirement.

SEC. 4. *Voluntary Participation.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit a student from voluntarily participating in an immersion, internship, or OJT program outside the province where the campus is located, or abroad: *Provided,* That such participation is done with full written consent and is not a mandatory requirement for graduation or the completion of the course.

For students who are minors, participation in such programs shall be subject to the written consent of the parent or legal guardian.

SEC. 5. *Mandatory Reporting.* – All secondary and higher education institutions shall submit an annual report to the DepEd or the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as may be applicable, detailing all immersion, internship, or OJT programs conducted by their students outside the province or abroad during the preceding year, and certifying that participation therein was voluntary. The report shall contain:

- a. the number of students who participated in such programs;
- b. the location and general nature of the programs;
- c. a certification that participation in such programs was not imposed as a condition for graduation, completion of a course, or compliance with a curricular requirement; and
- d. the financial assistance, scholarship, or other institutional support provided to participating students, if any.

The DepEd and CHED shall prescribe the form and manner of submission of such reports. Failure to submit the required report or the submission of materially false information shall constitute a ground for appropriate sanctions in accordance with Section 6 of this Act, other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* – Any secondary or higher education institution found to be in violation of this Act shall be subject to penalties, as may be

determined by DepEd or CHED. Repeated violations may result in the suspension or revocation of the institution's license to operate.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and CHED, in coordination with relevant stakeholders and organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,