

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11471



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Entering the workforce after graduation is an important transition for young Filipinos, but it often comes with immediate expenses. Job applications, transportation, documentation, medical examinations, work attire, and other requirements can impose a financial burden at a time when many fresh graduates have yet to receive their first income from employment.

For many young Filipinos, the lack of readily available funds can make the transition from education to employment more difficult. A modest and timely form of financial assistance can help bridge this gap and enable graduates to pursue employment opportunities without having to rely immediately on family members or incur debt for basic employment-related expenses.

This measure seeks to provide qualified fresh Filipino graduates of duly recognized or authorized higher education institutions or duly registered technical-vocational programs in the Philippines with a one-time cash grant of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00).

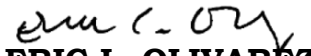
The proposed grant is not conditioned on unemployment or household income. Its purpose is to provide basic transition assistance to qualified graduates as they seek and commence employment. The measure likewise limits availment to one time per beneficiary and requires application within one year from graduation or completion of the program.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is designated as the lead implementing agency, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the verification and processing of applications of graduates and completers of technical-vocational programs. The measure further provides for electronic verification of graduation records and safeguards against duplicate availment, while requiring compliance with existing data privacy laws.

The amount necessary for implementation shall be provided through the annual General Appropriations Act.

The enactment of this measure will provide practical and immediate assistance to young Filipinos as they take their first steps toward employment and productive participation in the economy.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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**“AN ACT
PROVIDING FRESH FILIPINO GRADUATES OF PHILIPPINE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS WITH A ONE-TIME CASH
GRANT OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00)”**

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

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building. The State shall promote and protect the welfare of the youth and facilitate their access to employment and livelihood opportunities.

To this end, the State shall establish measures to assist fresh Filipino graduates in addressing the initial financial burden associated with seeking and obtaining employment, including expenses for job applications, transportation, documentation, medical examinations, work attire, and other reasonable pre-employment and employment-related expenses.

Section 3. Coverage of Cash Grant to Fresh Graduates. - All qualified Fresh Filipino Graduates of duly recognized or authorized higher education institutions or duly registered technical-vocational programs in the Philippines shall be entitled to a one-time cash grant of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to cover the pre-employment, onboarding, and other initial employment-related expenses

For purposes of this Act, a “*Fresh Filipino Graduate*” refers to a Filipino citizen who has successfully graduated from a duly recognized or authorized higher education institution or completed a duly registered technical-vocational program in the Philippines, and who applies for the cash grant within one (1) year from the date of graduation or completion of the program.

No qualified beneficiary shall be entitled to receive the cash grant more than once, regardless of the number of degrees, certificates, or programs completed.

Section 4. Proof of Graduation or Completion. – To avail of the one-time cash grant under this Act, the Fresh Filipino Graduate shall provide proof of successful graduation or completion of his or her degree, diploma, certificate, or program through documentary submission or electronic verification of official records, which may include a diploma, certificate of graduation or completion, certification, or other official school or training records issued by the institution from which he or she graduated or completed the program.

The diploma, certification, or other official school or training document shall, whenever applicable, indicate the date of graduation or completion and the degree, diploma, certificate, course, or training program completed, and shall be duly signed or authenticated by the head or authorized representative of the concerned institution.

The implementing agencies shall establish mechanisms for the electronic verification of graduation or completion records to facilitate the efficient processing of applications and, where practicable, dispense with the submission of physical documentary proof.

Section 5. Implementing Agencies and Inter-Agency Coordination. – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act.

The CHED shall, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), establish the mechanisms for the application, verification, approval, and disbursement of the cash grant.

The CHED shall administer the grant for qualified graduates of higher education institutions, while TESDA shall administer the grant for qualified graduates or completers of technical-vocational education and training programs within its mandate, in accordance with the mechanisms established jointly by CHED and TESDA under this Act.

The CHED and TESDA shall establish appropriate mechanisms for the verification of graduation or completion records and the prevention of duplicate availment of the cash grant.

The concerned agencies may coordinate with other government agencies and local government units for the efficient implementation of this Act.

The processing and implementation of the cash grant shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations on data privacy and security.

Section 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the appropriations of the CHED and the TESDA, subject to the usual budgetary, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED and the TESDA, in coordination with other concerned government agencies, shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

The implementing rules and regulations shall include, among others, the application and verification procedures, documentary requirements, mechanisms for the disbursement of the cash grant, measures to prevent duplicate availment, and appropriate mechanisms for electronic verification of graduation or completion records.

Section 8. 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 9. 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 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,