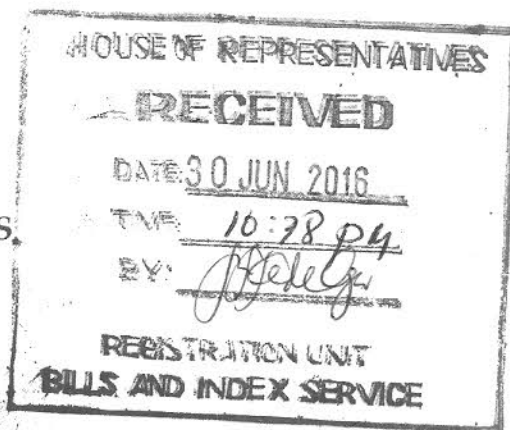


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 643

Introduced by Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to expand the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), amending section 1 of RA 9547 amending RA 7323 otherwise known as the "Special Program for Employment of Students" and providing funds therefor. For several years of implementation, it is recognized that SPES has changed the lives of many Filipino youth. It cannot be denied, however that its implementation has encountered problems.

The current program covers only enrolled students setting aside other disadvantaged youth to pursue education. The program should also be extended to youth who are not enrolled in any educational institutions and to dependents of workers who are involuntarily separated from work or business. The age limit or coverage of the program must also be increase from twenty-five (25) years to thirty (30) years and in the same manner, the period of employment be extended to sixty-six (66) working days.

While unemployment remains a chronic problem in the country, this could be mitigated through the innovative and productive strategies like the SPES program to improve the lives of the Filipino youth.

Immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III
Representative
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 643

Introduced by Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS,
AMENDING SECTION 1 OF R.A. 9547 AMENDING RA 7323 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS"
AND PROVIDING FUNDS 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 "Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) Expansion Act."

SECTION 2. Section 1 of R.A. 9547, otherwise known as the "Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES)", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, any person or entity employing at least ten (10) persons may employ poor but deserving students, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTHS, AND DEPENDENTS OF DISPLACED WORKERS DUE TO INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM WORK OR BUSINESS, INTENDING TO ENROLL IN ANY SECONDARY, TERTIARY, TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, fifteen (15) years of age but not more than [twenty-five (25)] THIRTY (30) years old, paying them a salary or wage not lower than the minimum wage for private employers and the applicable hiring rate for the national and local government agencies: *Provided*, that student enrolled in the secondary level shall only be employed during summer and/or christmas vacations, while those enrolled in the tertiary, vocational or technical education may be employed at any time of the year: *Provided, further*, That their period of employment shall be from twenty (20) to [fifty-two (52)] SIXTY-SIX (66) working days only, except that during Christmas vacation, employment shall be from ten (10) to fifteen (15) days which may be counted as part of the students' probationary period should they apply in the same company or agency after graduation: *Provided, finally*, That students employed in activities related to their course may earn equivalent academic credits as may be determined by the appropriate government agencies.

"For purposes of this Act, poor but deserving students, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTHS, AND DEPENDENTS OF DISPLACED WORKERS DUE TO INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM WORK OR BUSINESS, INTENDING TO ENROLL IN ANY SECONDARY, TERTIARY, TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS refer to those whose parents' combined income, together with their own, if any, does not exceed the annual regional poverty threshold level for a family of six (6) for the preceding year as may be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Employment facilitation services for applicants to the program shall be done by the Public Employment Service Office (PESO).

"Participating employers in coordination with the PESO, must inform their SPES employees of their rights, benefits, and privileges under existing laws, company policies, and employment contracts."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,