

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1089

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Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State." In addition, Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution states, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all".

Throughout the century, the country has been experiencing "brain-drain" phenomenon. Characterized by the growing number of citizens opting to for employment abroad, the teaching profession has not been spared from this phenomenon. Teachers, especially those employed in public schools, are not enticed to stay due to relatively low salaries, lack of benefits and career growth. As a result, public schools have continuously suffered from a lack of teachers. Coupled with the decrease in the number of students taking up courses in education, the quality of education in the country will eventually decline. Thus, there is a need to enhance the number and quality of teachers in public schools in order to give the younger generation a quality education they rightfully deserve.

In order to combat the lack of teachers, this bill seeks to mandate free primary, secondary, tertiary and special courses in education and obligate qualified beneficiaries to teach for a period of time in public schools. By doing so, the effect of "brain-drain" shall be controlled if not eradicated. Most importantly, the quality of education in the country will be improved by the addition of more teachers. As a final result, the State will not only sustain growth but also be a step closer towards the goal of offering quality education for all. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.


SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FREE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
EDUCATION COURSES IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “*Education Courses Act of 2016*”.

SECTION 2. *Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority to education in order to accelerate social development and promote progress. In line with this, the State shall increase the number of teachers in State colleges and schools.

SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) “Free education courses” shall mean any primary, secondary, tertiary and special education course offered in State colleges and universities;
- (b) “State Colleges and Universities” refers to institutions of higher learning, including specialized schools, maintained and funded by the government;
- (c) “Qualified beneficiary” shall mean a person possessing all the qualifications for the grant of scholarship as determined under the rules and regulations promulgated after the implementation of this Act.
- (d) “Tuition fee” shall refer to the fee representing the direct costs of instruction and training facilities;
- (e) “Other School Fees” refers to fees covering other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including, but not limited to medical and dental, athletic, library and laboratory fees;

SECTION 4. *Free Education Courses* – It is hereby mandated the establishment of free education courses in all State colleges and universities. Qualified beneficiaries intending to enroll or already enrolled in such courses shall be free from payment of tuition and other school related fees and shall be entitled to other benefits as may be granted in accordance with such rules and regulations to be promulgated hereinafter. Provided, that nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the diminution or removal of any benefit which the government presently grants to the beneficiaries.

SECTION 5. *Limitations* – The right of any beneficiary to avail of the benefits granted in this Act shall cease if he or she fails any three (3) subjects included in the course curriculum.

SECTION 6. *Service Obligations* – Immediately upon completion of each qualified beneficiary of his or her education course and acquisition of the required license, he or she shall teach in a public school, on a full-time basis, in line with his or her degree for a period of four (4) years. For this purpose, the qualified beneficiary shall execute a contract with the Government incorporating the details of said service obligation.

Any qualified beneficiary who has not passed the licensure examination after three (3) attempts and who shall thereafter be engaged in another job which involves the application of her degree or any qualified beneficiary who shall violate the service obligation shall be liable to reimburse the Government the total amount plus legal interest of the fund assistance received under this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. - Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provisions hereof shall be thereby affected.

SECTION 9. *Appropriation*. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act for the first five (5) years shall be sourced out from the gross annual revenues of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and thereafter in a special fund to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall, within six (6) months after its approval prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,