EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since its passage in 2013, R.A. 10533, otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, or K-12 as it is popularly known, many have questioned its efficacy in terms of producing graduates who are job-ready. The said law is laudable in terms of its objective, and the implementing agencies like the DEPED, CHED, and TESDA, likewise deserve our admiration for implementing such a delicate and complicated change in our educational system.

However, years after it was passed, there still remains the clamor of low-income families, indigents, and other vulnerable sectors that the projected benefits of the law does not translate into the actual employment of K-12 graduates. Many K-12 graduates still found it difficult to land jobs since the education, training, and diploma that they have is only a high school diploma. This does not match the common requirement of employers of having at least two (2) years of undergraduate studies or a college diploma for entry-level positions. Thus, the mismatch between the graduates’ qualifications and the qualifications for available jobs remain to be the problem.

Thus, in order to address the problem on the employability of graduates, this representation seeks the approval of this bill which amends the K-12 program. From the usual six years of elementary education, four years in junior high school and two years in senior high school, this bill will revert to the pre-K12 high school curriculum, and replace the senior high school with an associate’s degree program. The associate’s degree program shall include a comprehensive education and intensive skills training which will equip the graduates with necessary knowledge and skills on fields with a high demand for workers as determined by the Department of Labor and Employment. With this move, it is expected that more graduates will have better chances at being hired.
and being part of our growing labor force. It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Alfred C. Delos Santos

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7082

Introduced by ANG PROBINSYANO
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

AN ACT ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH A
REFORMULATED PRO-EMPLOYMENT CURRICULUM. AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Education to
Employment Act of 2020.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to give
priority to education and to promote and protect the intellectual well-being of the
youth. It is likewise declared the policy of the State that every Filipino graduate
shall be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills or training which will lead
to an increase in their employability.

SECTION 3. Revision of the K-12 Curriculum; Associate’s Degree Program. –
The current basic education under the K-12 curriculum as provided in Republic
Act 10533, otherwise known as the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013,”
shall be modified as follows:

a) The junior high school stage comprising of four (4) years shall
remain, but shall now be referred to as “high school;”

b) The current senior high school stage comprising of two (2) years
shall be abolished, and shall be replaced with an Associate’s Degree
Program;

c) The Associate’s Degree Program shall be equivalent to a two (2) year
undergraduate course; and
d) An Associate’s Degree Program can only be offered by the TESDA, private or public colleges or universities presently offering K12 programs, other education institutions certified or accredited by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) or Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and public and private high schools after certification from the Department of Education (DEPED) that they are ready to implement the Associate's Degree curriculum in their schools.

The changes provided in this provision shall take effect two (2) academic years after the publication of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act and completion of the curriculum for each associate degree program to provide the DEPED, CHED, TESDA ample time to prepare, and to allow educational institutions to create the necessary learning materials and equipment for all the associate's degree courses that they wish to offer.

SECTION 4. Determination of Programs to be Offered. – The DEPED, CHED, and TESDA, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), private and public schools associations, national student organizations, national teacher organizations, and the chambers of commerce on matters affecting the concerned stakeholders, shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectiveness of this Act, create a list of associate degree programs, each with a corresponding description and scope, which shall be offered to students.

SECTION 5. Curriculum Creation Committee; Curriculum Development. – Upon completion of the list of degree programs to be offered, the Curriculum Creation Committee, chaired by the DEPED Secretary or his/her duly authorized representative, and with members composed of a representative from CHED, TESDA, DOLE, PRC, and DOST, shall develop a curriculum for each associate degree program.

The Committee shall ensure that the curriculum for each degree shall give every student sufficient knowledge and skills training in order for them to be employable after graduation.

The drafting of the curriculum for all associate degree programs, the consultation with concerned groups, and the completion of the curriculum shall be made within one hundred twenty (120) days from the completion of the task in the preceding section.

SECTION 6. Crediting of Units Completed During the Associate’s Degree Program – The CHED shall issue a directive to all tertiary schools to recognize and credit, either totally or partially, in favor of a student, who wishes to undertake a bachelor's degree program after receiving his/her associate's degree,
those units successfully completed during the associate’s degree that are similar
in content to subjects being offered for such bachelor’s degree.

SECTION 7. Financial Assistance. – The DEPED shall provide financial
assistance to all deserving associate’s degree students by way of subsidies,
allowances, or tuition fee scholarships. The DEPED shall have the discretion as
to the requirements and qualifications for the grant of financial assistance.
However, priority shall be given to students from low-income families, indigents,
and students who are members of indigenous peoples groups.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within one hundred
eighty (180) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DEPED Secretary, the CHED
Chairperson, and the TESDA Director General shall promulgate the rules and
regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is
held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected
shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential
decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
circulation.

Approved,