

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4211



Introduced by Representative ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution includes multiples provisions that uphold the youth's right to education:

"The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. (Article II, Section 17)"

"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. (Article XIV, Section 1)"

President Rodrigo Duterte recently signed the Executive Order 5 which adopts the 25-year long term vision entitled *Ambisyon Natin 2040* as a guide for development planning. The *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, initiated by the National Economic and Development Authority, represents the aspirations of the Filipino people and describes the kind of life that people want to live, as well as how the country will look like by 2040.

According to the studies supporting the *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, 79% of Filipinos aspire for a simple and comfortable life which includes having enough earnings to support the everyday needs of the family and having the capacity to provide college education for their children. However, 48.5% of Filipinos are not fully confident that they can reach their goals. Thus, the government must exert all efforts necessary to invest in the Filipino people and ensure the fulfilment of the aspirations of the people.

This bill seeks to establish a mechanism to enable poor Filipino families to have at least one graduate. Under this policy, a student-grantee from among the household beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program shall receive a maximum of Php60,000.00 per academic year to cover the cost of tuition and other expenses to empower the student to complete his or her college degree.

Through this initiative, we are providing poor Filipino families with the supreme opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, thereby gearing our country forward towards the realization of the *AmBisyon Natin 2014*.

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



ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO ENABLE POOR FILIPINO FAMILIES TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE GRADUATE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXPANDED STUDENT GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ESGP-PA) 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 “*One Family, One Graduate Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all Filipino citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Further, it is the policy of the State to establish and maintain a system of grants, scholarships and subsidies, which shall be available to deserving students, especially to the underprivileged, to help poor families rise above poverty and contribute to national development.

SEC. 3. *Objective.* This Act aims to contribute to the National Government’s thrust to effectively address poverty by increasing the number of graduates in higher education among poor households and by ensuring that these graduates are employed in high-value occupations. This ensures that qualified household beneficiaries of the government’s *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* shall have at least one family member who graduated from college.

SEC. 4 *Establishment of an Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation.* An Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty (ESGP-PA) shall be established, which shall be exclusively granted and used for the tertiary education of poor but deserving students belonging to indigent households under the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), or informal sector families.

Potential student-grantees shall be enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in course offerings aligned with the priorities of the government.

SEC. 5. Coverage. Grantees of ESGP-PA shall be limited to poor but deserving students, giving priority to 4Ps beneficiaries who are qualified to enrol in selected SUCs to take up priority programs of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 6. Entitlement. A student-grantee shall be entitled to a maximum of Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000.00) per academic year or Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00) per semester. The amount shall cover the cost of tuition and other school fees, academic and extracurricular expenses, purchase of textbooks, board and lodging, transportation, clothing, medical needs and other valid related education expenses and support services to complete the student-grantee's degree program.

SEC. 7. Selection of Student-Grantees and Role of DSWD. The DSWD shall identify and validate potential student-grantees from among the household beneficiaries of the 4Ps Program, which shall be submitted to participating SUCs for admission process. It shall likewise coordinate necessary interventions for the student-grantee and family at the local level, and co-monitor with CHED the implementation of the program.

SEC. 8. Creation of the National ESGP-PA Committee. A National ESGP-PA Committee shall be created, which shall be composed of the following:

1. CHED Chairperson, as Chairperson of the Committee
2. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), member
3. Secretary of the Department of Welfare and Development (DSWD), member
4. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), member
5. President of the Philippine Association of States Universities and Colleges (PASUC),
6. member

SEC. 9. Functions of the National ESGP-PA Committee. The Committee shall have the following functions:

1. Overseas the operation and implementation of the program;
2. Enhance the policies that will ensure that the services provided by the program shall serve the target student-grantees;
3. Orient SUCs on the implementation of the program;
4. Re-allocate unfilled slots to other equally deserving students-grantees;
5. Decide on appeals, grievances, complaints, request for additional slots; and
6. Monitor and evaluate the administration and implementation of the program.

SEC. 10. *Qualifications of the Student-Grantees.* Student-grantees must have the following qualifications to be eligible for the program:

1. Identified "4Ps" beneficiary;
2. Physically and mentally fit;
3. High school graduate or equivalent;
4. No other higher education scholarship/grant from public institutions;
5. Pass the entrance exam and academic requirements set by the SUCs;
6. Pass the requirements set by the National ESGP-PA Committee; and
7. Must enrol in CHED Priority programs.

SEC. 11. *Responsibilities of Student-Grantees.*

1. Carry a full load per semester as prescribed in the curriculum and finish within the required period of the program.
2. Maintain a satisfactory academic performance in accordance with the policies and standards of the SUC.
3. Enter into a return service agreement of 2 years after graduation.
4. Adhere to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Contract.

SEC. 12. *Responsibilities of Parents/Guardian of the Student/Grantees.*

1. Sign the Contract with the SUCs as the executor of the program.
2. Ensure that related expenses and other incidental expenses for health and clothing shall be paid on time.
3. Ensure that recipient will religiously attend his/her classes, minimize absences, and complete school requirements.
4. Ensure that all financial benefits directly received by the grantee shall only be spent on legitimate purposes and on time.
5. If the beneficiary is the head of the family, he shall assume the foregoing responsibilities to complete his studies.

SEC. 13. *Monitoring and Reporting by State Universities and Colleges.* State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) where grantees of the ESGP-PA are enrolled shall monitor and report to the ESGP-PA Committee the academic performance of the grantees at the end of each academic year until the grantees have graduated.

SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* The DBM shall release directly to the respective SUCs the amount of Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (P2,500,000,000.00) for the student-grantees and the activities of the program for each academic year, which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The CHED, in consultation with the DSWD, DOLE, DBM and PASUC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act, within six (6) months from its effectivity.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,