

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City  
  
**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE BILL NO. 4244**

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Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The start of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Economic Community in 2015, a phenomenon which is otherwise known as "ASEAN Integration", presents both opportunities and challenges for our country.

With its avowed intention to form a single regional market and production base for the 10 ASEAN members composed of the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and the consequent free flow of goods, services, investments, skilled labor and free movement of capital, it is a phenomenon which both the government and the private sector should be ready to accept and prepare for so as to get the most therefrom.

As the ASEAN Integration appears to be a game-changer in Philippine foreign economic relations, there should be corresponding initiatives in the academe so that the country can meet the challenges of ASEAN Integration.

A good start among our institutions of higher learning, which this Act hopes to achieve, in this regard, is to offer courses on ASEAN studies either on the collegiate or graduate level and to support undertakings or scholarships related thereto.

  
**SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.**  
Representative  
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING AN ASEAN STUDIES AND SCHOLARSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

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 “ASEAN Studies and Scholarship Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. In an era of regional cooperation such as what the ASEAN Integration brings, it is the duty of the government to prepare the country and its citizens for the opportunities and challenges that it brings.

SEC. 3. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby mandated to establish a scholarship program whereby there should be at least one faculty member of every State University or State College who shall be given a scholarship to pursue graduate studies in studies relating to the economy, culture and society of any or a combination of the ten member nations of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Each scholarship grant shall enable the scholar to pay for his tuition and other related expenses, including reasonable lodging expenses, in any public school in the Philippines where he or she will be pursuing such graduate studies provided that as much as possible, such scholarship grant may be pursued in a college or university in any of the ASEAN member countries pursuant to faculty exchange study programs

between the college or university of origin of the scholar and the university in any of the other ASEAN member countries where the scholar will be studying.

SEC. 4. All state universities and colleges in the country are likewise mandated to explore the possibility of offering college and post-graduate studies relating to the economy, culture and society of the member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and to offer incentives to students who are enrolling in such studies.

SEC. 5. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is mandated to formulate the rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 6. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.