

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4228



Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recent years, we are witnesses to the phenomenon of foreigners coming to the Philippines to study collegiate courses such as those in the field of Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering and the like. Apparently, the reason is that it is cheaper to pursue a college degree in the Philippines as compared to that in many other countries. Plus, of course, the continuing influx of such foreign students attest to the fact that the education offered by our colleges is comparable to those offered in other countries.

Such phenomenon may be referred to as "Education Tourism" and it has the positive effect not only of increasing the income of our schools but also of the entire country as the foreign students come with money to spend which oils our economy. It also results to much-needed job generation and spawns the burgeoning of enterprises that cater to the needs of such education tourists.

This Act intends to give governmental support to Education Tourism by laying policies and rules that would further promote it, strengthen its job generation and enterprises-creation effects, and protect the welfare of the education tourist.


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

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AN ACT
PROMOTING EDUCATION TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

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 Tourism Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is a policy of the state to promote the full employment of its citizens, and to take care of their general welfare.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms –

(a) “Education Tourism” refers to the phenomenon of foreigners coming to the Philippines to pursue a college course.

(b) “Education Tourist” is a foreigner who comes to the Philippines to pursue a college education

SEC. 4. Formulation of policies, rules and regulations- The Commission on Higher Education, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, and the Department of Health, is hereby mandated to formulate policies that will make it more attractive for more education tourists to come to the Philippines, facilitate and assist education tourists during their stay in the country, protect their safety and health, and ensure that education tourism indeed redounds to increased income,

employment and enterprises generation for our country. The Commission on Higher Education, in collaboration with the same aforementioned agencies are likewise mandated to formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 5. Creation of One-Stop-Shops – There shall be created one stop shops at the international airport of entry of the education tourist, with at least one such one-stop shop each in Manila, Cebu and Davao. Each one-stop shop is tasked to assist the education tourist in all his concerns during his stay in the Philippines including concerns about his visa, school of choice and its scholastic requirements, lodging, currency, communication, safety, and other related concerns. Such one stop shops shall offer their services to education tourists free of charge. In addition, each one stop shop shall coordinate with the school of destination of the education tourist for all the above-mentioned concerns.

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.