

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1590**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Introduced by: HON. ARNULFO "NOLI" P. FUENTEBELLA**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The purpose of education is to provide an individual with knowledge, skills, competence and desirable qualities of behavior to render him fit for the duties of life. This is the foremost reason our Constitution explicitly mandates the State not only to make education accessible to all but also to uphold the right of citizens to quality education.

In pursuance of this expressed constitutional mandate, Congress passed Republic Act No. 6655 otherwise known as the Free Secondary Education Act.

It is worthy to mention that our government has invested heavily in the education of our school children knowing fully well that investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

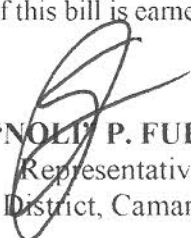
This can be gleaned from another provision in the Constitution mandating the State to give highest budgetary priority to education.

It is sad to note however, that the purpose of the government to invest heavily in the education of our children in order to equip them with knowledge and competence to render him fit for the duties of life may just come to naught if they will not be able to pursue higher education.

The mass exodus of agricultural workers to shift to a high paying job in the urban areas or to even sell their farmlands in order to send their children to college or university has severely affected the governments desire to increase agricultural productivity.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to cure this problem by providing full scholarship grant to legitimate dependent children of farmers and fisherfolks attending state college or university.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ARNULFO "NOLI" P. FUENTEBELLA**  
Representative  
Fourth District, Camarines Sur

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO LEGITIMATE DEPENDENT**  
**CHILDREN OF FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS ATTENDING STATE**  
**COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Scholarship Grant.*** - There shall be granted full scholarship to legitimate dependent children of farmers and fisherfolks attending state college or university. The scholarship grant covers exemption from paying tuition and matriculation fees.

**SEC. 2. *Municipal or City Agricultural Workers Registry.*** - There shall be established in every municipality or city a publicly accessible agricultural workers registry that will serve as a database for all farmers and fisherfolks who voluntarily register that will serve as a basis in determining the legitimacy of their occupation in the field of agriculture.

The municipality or city shall furnish with a list or database of all farmers or fisherfolks the regional field unit of the Department of Agriculture (DA), which shall issue a Certification for the purpose of availing of the scholarship grant provided under this Act.

**SEC. 3. *Contents of the Registry.*** - A farmer or fisherfolk who desires to be listed in the registry shall provide the following details or information:

- a) Name;
- b) Address;
- c) Contact details;
- d) Occupation;
- e) Photocopy of at least two (2) government issued identification cards; and

- f) Other details or information which the municipality or city may deem necessary.

**SEC. 4. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the annual appropriation of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

**SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*