

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2867

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Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To improve the quality of education and quality of graduates in the elementary, secondary and tertiary levels, the Philippine educational system has been undergoing innovative transformation and restructuring. Presently, a small percentage of college graduates successfully find appropriate employment perfectly suited for their respective courses, resulting to unemployment and over supply of college graduates in white collar jobs and shortages in skilled manpower. Further, recent results of professional examinations consistently yielded small percentage of successful examinees. It is then further aggravated by the continuous emigration of our professionals seeking employment and high paying jobs in other countries.

This bill seeks to address this pressing and urgent problem, by institutionalizing a mechanism which will check, screen and monitor the flow of secondary graduates to post-secondary learning institutions. A National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) will act as an instrument to maintain a viable balance among the number of white collar employees, skilled manpower and entrepreneurs through a provision of career direction to secondary graduates.

It aims to provide redirection of skills development program in the tertiary level specifically aimed at harmonizing and matching the supply from the post-secondary institution with that of the demand of the country's current employment market. Also, it shall institutionalize a career direction program for secondary graduates which would assess the potential of an individual to enter a four-year degree program, to take a technical/vocational course or embark to entrepreneurship. Finally, it shall answer the pressing and apparent need to prepare high school graduates for national development and global competitiveness.

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


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2867

Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL CAREER ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION TO PROVIDE A CAREER DIRECTION PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Career Assessment Examination Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain the highest quality of education for national development and to respect the right of every citizen to education.

The State recognizes the importance of assessing the career aptitude of high school students to guide them in their choice of courses in colleges, universities, and technical-vocational institutions where their potentials will be best developed and where their training and education will be needed for national development.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) Provide fair, reasonable, and equitable admission and academic requirements;

(b) Maintain the highest quality of education in the Philippines by regulating and monitoring the admission of high school graduates to courses where they have better aptitude or potential;

(c) Minimize wastage in education arising from dropping out, non-completion, and poor performance of students in colleges and universities, and the decreasing percentage of successful examinees in professional licensure examinations;

(d) Assess the academic, technical-vocational, and entrepreneurial aptitudes of high school students to facilitate and rationalize their placement in degree and nondegree courses; and

(e) Attain excellence in education within the context of national development, open more job opportunities to our labor force, and properly utilize their productive potentials.

SEC. 4. *Nature and Scope of the Examination.* – There is hereby established a National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) which is a system of assessing or evaluating the aptitude of students to pursue a college or university course, a technical-vocational course, or an entrepreneurial course.

The NCAE shall be administered by the Department of Education (DepED), through the National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC), to Grade 9 students in all public and private secondary schools. The test result which indicates the aptitude, skill, or inclination of the student in a particular occupational field shall serve as a guide for each examinee in choosing a course or career option to take up after high school and shall be a prerequisite for enrolment to any college or university course, technical-vocational course, or entrepreneurial course.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Duties of the Secretary.* – To carry out the purposes and objectives of the NCAE, the Secretary of Education is hereby vested with the following authority:

(a) Conduct an annual NCAE through the NETRC in order to promote and implement a program that assesses and evaluates the potential or aptitude of each and every high school graduate to pursue a college or university course, a technical-vocational course, or an entrepreneurial course;

(b) Determine the method, form, and content of the test and the process of checking and evaluating its results, as well as to fix the date and place of examination;

(c) Enter into agreements or contracts, when necessary, with qualified persons, institutions, organizations, government agencies, entities, and establishments and make payments incidental to such agreements or contracts to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;

(d) Determine, as the exigencies or national interest may dictate, exemptions from the provisions of this Act; and

(e) Perform such other acts as may be proper and necessary in order to achieve the policies of the NCAE.

SEC. 6. *Content of the Examination.* – The NCAE shall measure the following aptitudes and skills:

(a) General Scholastic Aptitude

(1) Scientific Ability – an assessment of scientific abilities and skills to adopt scientific methods, procedures, and processes in constructing knowledge and solving experimental or real-life problems.

(2) Reading Comprehension – measures the ability to understand what has been stated directly; to analyze, interpret, and criticize what has been read; and to recognize reasonable application of principles or opinions expressed by the author.

(3) Verbal Ability – measures the assertive ability with the use of grammatical rules and logical arrangement of ideas.

(4) Mathematical Ability – assesses quantitative abilities and computational skills, particularly on working with numbers, perceiving relationship between two (2) quantities, and solving arithmetic problems.

(5) Logical Reasoning Ability – assesses logical and critical thinking and reasoning ability.

(b) Technical-Vocational Aptitude

(1) Manipulative Skill – measures the ability to render perceptual and visual judgment in determining figures, symbols, patterns, and nature of space as well as skills in mentally manipulating objects and concrete materials.

(2) Clerical Ability – measures the ability and skill to encode data/information and file office records, and ability to note details.

(c) Entrepreneurial Skill – assesses capacity to engage in business undertakings.

(d) Nonverbal Ability – assesses reasoning ability to identify patterns presented in diagrammatic form.

(e) Occupational Fields of Interest

(1) Outdoor Interest – indicates inclination towards working with naturalistic elements such as plants and animals.

(2) Mechanical Interest – indicates inclination towards working with machines, their components and operations.

(3) Investigative Interest – indicates inclination towards activities which require mental work or the use of thinking skills.

(4) Artistic Interest – indicates inclination towards activities that analyze aesthetic principles such as forms, designs, and patterns.

(5) Social Interest – indicates inclination towards work activities that assist other people and promote learning and personal development.

(6) Enterprising Interest – indicates inclination towards activities that involve carrying out a project, especially business ventures.

(7) Clerical Interest – indicates inclination towards work activities that follow set procedures and routines.

The DepED shall, from time to time, review the content of the NCAE and make revisions, as may be deemed necessary, to maintain the relevance, validity, and integrity of the examination.

SEC. 7. *Examination Centers and Date of Examination.* – Unless otherwise previously announced, the NCAE shall be administered throughout the country on the last Wednesday of August of every year, in the place where the schools division office is located. Additional examination centers may be established in the province as may be determined by the Division Examination Committee and approved by the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 8. *Processing of Examination Results.* – The processing of the examination result shall be in the National Capital Region through the NETRC.

SEC. 9. *Issuance of Certificate of Rating.* – An NCAE Certificate of Rating indicating the score in each of the domains of the NCAE shall be issued to every examinee by the Secretary of Education through the NETRC. A consolidated master list of the names of examinees and their corresponding ratings shall be made available in the concerned schools division office and questions relating to the results of the NCAE may be verified from this master list. Issuance of a second copy of the certificate may be requested from the NETRC.

SEC. 10. *Involvement of Other Agencies.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall adopt programs based on the NCAE results, such as utilization of examination results as basis for the selection of grantees for scholarship programs and in setting the cut-off score for the various CHED and TESDA courses.

SEC. 11. *Limitations.* – Results of the NCAE shall not automatically entitle a student for admission into any particular academic or technical-vocational course in a post-secondary institution which imposes its own entrance examination as a requirement for admission.

Institutional results of the NCAE shall be used exclusively for the purposes stipulated under this Act and not for any other intent such as school ranking and advertisement.

SEC. 12. *Penalties.* – Any official, employee, or teacher who violates or causes the violation of the provisions of this Act, or commits or causes to commit acts of dishonesty or misconduct related to the performance of their duties in the administration of the NCAE shall be administratively dealt with in accordance with existing civil service laws, rules and regulations.

Students who commit or cause the commission of any act of dishonesty or misconduct concerning their application to or in taking the NCAE shall be barred from further taking the examination and the correction of their examination papers shall be withheld without prejudice to any disciplinary administrative action that may be taken against them in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the DepED.

SEC. 13. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary to cover the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriation of the DepED for the conduct of the NCAE under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Education may, as may be deemed proper and necessary, issue supplementary instructions or amendments to any provisions of the rules and regulations implementing this Act: *Provided, further*, That the implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section and any supplementary issuance thereof shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,