

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3332**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Victoria Isabel G. Noel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Employment is fettered with requirements and other fees. Fresh graduates who seek employment find it expensive thereby hindering them from getting all the required documents and eventually losing the chance of getting hired.

This bill seeks to provide waiver of the fees collected by government for clearances, licenses and other documents from fresh graduates who seek employment. The waiver of these fees serves as the assistance of the government to its developing labor force and commitment to help its youth and improve the standard of living.

This measure was approved on 3rd reading in the previous Congress but did not pass into law due to lack of material time.


VICTORIA ISABEL G. NOEL

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. **3332**

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AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO NEW GRADUATES BY WAIVING
GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH
THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR
EMPLOYMENT

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth. It shall endeavor to provide them opportunities for development by creating policies that will improve their access to employment.

SEC. 2. Waiver of Fees and Charges. – Subject to exceptions provided in Section 4 of this Act, all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and local government units (LGUs) shall not collect fees or charges from new graduates: *Provided*, that such fees or charge is paid in connection with the application for and the granting of licenses, proofs of identification, clearances, certificates, or other documents usually required in the course of employment: *Provided further*, that the application for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other documents is submitted within one (1) year after graduating from high school, college or any vocational or technical course.

SEC. 3. *Proof of Graduation.*—A copy of the new graduate's diploma or a certification from the concerned academic, vocational or technical institution that the said graduate has successfully completes the course required must be submitted before the waiver authorized under this Act can be availed of. The diploma or certification should clearly state the date of graduation or completion of the degree earned, and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized representative.

Such a copy of the diploma or the certification submitted shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of the fact of graduation and shall be sufficient for the government agency concerned to grant the waiver: *Provided*, that any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of graduation as described in this section shall be liable under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

SEC. 4. *Exceptions.* – The fees and charges to be waived shall not include those collected in connection with an application to take a professional licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission or an application for a Philippine passport.

SEC. 5. *Administrative Offenses.* - No government agency or instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations which will render nugatory the benefit of the waiver as prescribed under this Act. Such shall constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

SEC. 6. *Interagency Monitoring Committee.* – An interagency monitoring committee is hereby created with Executive Secretary as Chairperson, and the heads of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Finance, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and other departments whose participation the committee may deem necessary as its members. The committee shall monitor the compliance of the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, and may recommend to the proper authorities the filing of an administrative complaint against any person who refuses to comply with the provision of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,