

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2313

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE	<u>2 AUG 2016</u>
TIME	<u>3:00 PM</u>
BY	<u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Honorable Evelina G. Escudero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Moreover, Section 2(3) provides that, the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

Due to high market prices of basic commodities, families earning a minimum wage, with more than one child enrolled in higher or technical education institutions, are not able to afford their children's daily expenses, aside from their family's daily basic needs.

This bill seeks to relieve these families from financial stress and encourage the students in continuing their education by at least providing the students discounts for basic services and educational services.

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



EVELINA G. ESCUDERO
Representative
First District, Sorsogon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2313

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

AN ACT
GRANTING DISCOUNTS ON BASIC AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO
UNDERPRIVILEGED HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

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 “Underprivileged Higher and Technical Education Students’ Discounts Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to prioritize quality education and take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act:

- a. Basic Services - refer to basic necessities such as food for snacks and meals, and medicines;
- b. Discounts - refer to an amount deducted or counted off from the cost of goods under basic services and educational services;
- c. Educational Services - refer to education-related expenditures such as books and school supplies; and
- d. Underprivileged Higher and Technical Education Students - refer to Filipino students enrolled in Bachelor's Degree Programs at the college level and post-secondary non-degree technical-vocational courses, respectively, including beneficiaries of the Conditional Cash Transfer or *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps) and other poverty reduction programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), whose parents have a gross annual income of not more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), subject to review by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) every three (3) years. These also include Filipino students who opt to take part-time jobs to subsidize their education and whose income combined with the annual gross income of their parents do not exceed one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), subject to review by the NEDA every three (3) years.

SEC. 4. *Discounts for Underprivileged Higher and Technical Education Students.* underprivileged higher and technical education students shall be entitled to discounts on the following:

- a. food establishments. – A five percent (5%) discount shall be granted by food establishments such as food chains, canteens and restaurants anywhere in the country;
- b. medicines. – A five percent (5%) discount shall be granted by pharmacies or drug stores anywhere in the country; and
- c. textbooks and school supplies. – A five percent (5%) discount shall be granted by establishments anywhere in the country that sell reference books for technical-vocational education and training and college and school supplies.

SEC. 5. *Limitations.* The discounts granted to an underprivileged higher and technical education student under this Act shall be discontinued under the following circumstances:

- a. if the student fails for one (1) semester in the majority of the academic subjects enrolled in during the course of study under a degree program or if the student fails in the non-degree certificate/diploma course enrolled in, unless such failure is due to some valid cause beyond the student's control, as determined by the Commission on Higher Education or the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
- b. if the student fails to finish the short-term non-degree course enrolled in;
- c. if the student stops schooling; and
- d. if the student is convicted of any crime.

SEC. 6. *Roles of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).* The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall determine the qualified higher and technical education student-beneficiaries under this Act and shall perform the following additional functions:

- a. to plan, implement and monitor yearly work programs, evaluate and submit annual reports in pursuance of the objectives of this Act;
- b. to screen applicants, receive documentary proof, and identify who are the eligible underprivileged higher and technical education students based on the provisions of this Act;
- c. to closely coordinate with the NEDA in determining the income brackets of Filipino families for the purpose of identifying underprivileged higher and technical education students;
- d. to closely coordinate with the DSWD as to its poverty reduction programs, which can be used as additional reference on the identification of potential beneficiaries for the discount;

- e. to issue identification cards which shall be valid anywhere in the country as proof of the eligibility of the underprivileged higher and technical education students to avail themselves of the discounts;
- f. to maintain and regularly update, on a quarterly basis, the list of underprivileged higher and technical education students who avail themselves of the discounts and to review, evaluate and assess their academic standing;
- g. to cancel the identification cards issued for those disqualified under Section 5 of this Act;
- h. to provide information to the affected establishments under Section 4 of this Act for any questions regarding the eligibility of any underprivileged tertiary education students claiming the discounts through the CHED or TESDA website;
- i. to monitor the extent of implementation of this Act and to coordinate with the concerned agencies regarding the imposition of penalties on violators of this Act; and
- j. to perform such other functions as may be determined by the CHED Chairperson or the TESDA Director-General.

SEC. 7. *Tax Incentives.* Discounts granted by establishments to underprivileged higher and technical students under this Act shall be treated as allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* The first violation of any provision of this Act shall cause the suspension of the license to operate or the business permit of the establishment or person concerned for not less than one (1) week but not more than four (4) weeks and a fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) but not more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00).

The second violation of any provision of this Act shall cause the suspension of the license to operate or the business permit of the establishment or the person concerned for not less than four (4) weeks and a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), but not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00): *Provided, however,* That the procedure of notice and hearing shall have been complied with prior to the imposition of the said penalties.

If the offender is a corporation, organization or any similar entity, the officers thereof shall suffer the same penalty imposed on any person found violating this Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the CHED and TESDA, in coordination with the NEDA, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Finance (DOF), and other agencies concerned with establishments or businesses which may be affected by this Act, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Enforcement.* Pursuant hereto, the DTI, DOH, and local government units (LGUs), in coordination with the CHED and TESDA, shall have the mandate to implement the provisions of this Act. After filing of an appropriate complaint, and after due notice and hearing, the proper authorities may also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to operate,

franchise and other similar privileges granted to any business entity that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,