

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3704**



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Introduced by  
**HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that "the State shall protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all" (Article XVI, Section 3). The right to education, therefore, does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender and socio-economic status, including age. Many Filipinos, who for lack of financial resources or other pressing circumstances, have to put off their college education until their senior years.

With the adoption of Republic Act 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, Filipino senior citizens are recognized as an integral part of Filipino society. Therefore, they are assured with full assistance and support from the State in order to realize the improvement of their total well being, motivate them to contribute to nation building, and foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive ageing

Providing scholarships for qualified indigent senior citizens will maximize their contribution to nation building and provide access and equity to quality education among financially disadvantaged but academically deserving students. This scholarship program will enable them to pursue and complete their post-secondary or tertiary education and thus affirm their full participation in Filipino society.

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

  
**Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, First District of Leyte

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11 Introduced by  
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15  
16 AN ACT GRANTING FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIGENT SENIOR  
17 CITIZENS ENROLLED IN STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES, AND  
18 FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
19

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21 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of the Representatives of*  
22 *the Philippines in Congress assembled:*  
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24 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Senior Citizen  
25 Scholarship Act of 2016".  
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27 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the  
28 State to provide elderly citizens with full assistance support to the  
29 improvement of their total well-being, motivate them to contribute to nation  
30 building, and foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive  
31 ageing, in full recognition that senior citizens are integral part of Filipino  
32 society.  
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34 To this end, a four-year college scholarship grant shall be provided to  
35 qualified indigent senior citizens, who have not yet attained a college degree  
36 and have satisfied the requirements for admission in a state college or  
37 university, to enable them to pursue and complete their post-secondary or  
38 tertiary education and thus affirm their full participation in Filipino society.  
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1       **Section 3. Nature and Extent of Scholarship Grants.** Scholarship  
2 grants are hereby automatically granted in the form of free tuition, to the  
3 extent feasible, to any senior citizen who intends to pursue post-secondary or  
4 tertiary education in a state college or university: *Provided*, That the enrolled  
5 student must be at least sixty (60) years old: *Provided further*, That the  
6 enrolled senior citizen shall meet the minimum requirements for admission:  
7 *Provided furthermore*, That he or she must not yet completed any four-year  
8 undergraduate program: *Provided finally*, That he or she must present a proof  
9 of indigency issued by the Municipal Social Welfare Office or Office of Senior  
10 Citizen Affairs.

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12       **Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60) days  
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education shall  
14 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective  
15 implementation of this Act.

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17       **Section 6. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
18 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the  
19 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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21       **Section 7. Separability Clause.** If any part or provision of this Act is  
22 held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
23 affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

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25       **Section 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
26 following completion of its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two  
27 (2) newspapers of general circulation.