

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2821**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Representatives Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Here is a young person, fresh out of college, with dreams and aspirations to have a decent opportunity and livelihood, then finding out that in order for him to reach these dreams and aspirations, he has to shell out money to pay for the many pre-employment documents, clearances and applications required of him by a prospective employer. Such requirements usually include Police and/or NBI clearance, identification number and card from the Social Security System, certification or community tax certificate from the local government, tax identification number (TIN) and other fees to be paid, excluding transportation fare in getting these documents.

The situation is difficult for the fresh graduate, and at times oppressive, considering that these new graduates seek employment precisely to obtain a regular income. The family resources are often depleted by the time of graduation because of the high costs of college education.

This bill seeks to address this situation by providing a reasonable waiver of the fees collected by government for various clearances, applications, licenses, and other documents from fresh graduates wanting to work and become productive members of society. It is a simple measure that intends to not only provide relief but also to show the State's commitment to promote the interest of the youth. The waiver of these fees must be taken not as a loss of revenue for the government but as an investment in labor force, which is in its best interest to protect and promote.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.¹


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija


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2nd District, Sultan Kudarat

¹ This bill is a re-file of House Bill No. 5088 filed during the 16th Congress.

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House Bill No. _____

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AN ACT

**PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES BY WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES
AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH DOCUMENTARY
REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Fresh Graduates Pre-
2 Employment Assistance Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the
4 interest of the youth. It shall endeavor to provide them opportunities for development by
5 creating policies that improve access to employment.

6 SECTION 3. *Waiver of Fees and Charges.* – All government agencies and
7 instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and
8 local government units (LGUs), shall not collect fees or charges from a fresh graduate
9 Filipino citizen: *Provided*, That such fee or charge is paid in connection with the application
10 for and the granting of licenses, proof of identification, clearances, certificates, or other
11 documents usually requires in the course of employment: *Provided, further*, That the person
12 is applying for such license, proof of identification, clearance, certificate, or other document
13 within one (1) year after graduation from high school, college, or any vocational or technical
14 course: *Provided, finally*, That the fees and charges to be waived shall not include those
15 collected in connection with the granting of a professional licensure examination by the
16 Professional Regulation Commission or with the granting of a Philippine passport by the
17 Department of Foreign Affairs.

18 SECTION 4. *Proof of Graduation.* – To avail of the waiver authorized in this Act, a
19 fresh graduate must submit to the government agency or instrumentality concerned a copy
20 of his or her diploma, certification, document or communication from the academic,
21 vocational or technical institution from which he or she has graduated from, written or issued
22 to the effect that such person has indeed successfully completed the course required. The
23 diploma, certification, document or communication should clearly state the date of
24 graduation or completion and the course completed or degree earned and should be signed
25 by the institution’s duly authorized representative.

1 Such copy of the diploma, certification, document or communication submitted, even
2 if not original or certified true copy, shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of the fact and date
3 of graduation and shall be sufficient for the government agency to grant the waiver:
4 *Provided*, That any person found to be guilty of fabricating or falsifying any proof of
5 graduation as described in this Section shall be liable under Article 172 (Falsification and
6 Use of Falsified Documents) of the Revised Penal Code.

7 SECTION 5. *Administrative Offense.* – No government agency or instrumentality
8 shall issue unduly restrictive regulations for the carrying out of its provisions to render
9 nugatory the benefit of the waiver prescribed. Such shall constitute an administrative
10 offense punishable under the Administrative Code and other pertinent laws.

11 SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Civil
13 Service Commission and the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall issue the
14 relevant rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

15 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17 Approved,