

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 309

Submitted by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations on MAY 18 2020

Re: House Bill No. 6756

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 878, 1626, 2139, 2881, 3445, 3745, 3847, 3865, 4205, 4315, 4364, 4471, 4659, 4889, 4974, 5197, 5243, 5343 and 6347

Sponsors: Representatives Mark O. Go, Eric Go Yap and Angelina "Helen" D. L. Tan, M.D.

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations, to which were referred:

House Bill No. 878, introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo, entitled:

"AN ACT
PROVIDING THE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES";

House Bill No. 1626, introduced by Rep. "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, entitled:

"AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL
MUNICIPALITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN: ONE
DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES";

House Bill No. 2139, introduced by Rep. Angelina "Helen" D. L. Tan, M. D., entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR
DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 2881, introduced by Rep. Ann K. Hofer, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR
DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 3445, introduced by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL
MUNICIPALITIES ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN: ONE
DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 3745, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 3847, introduced by Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 3865, introduced by Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 4205, introduced by Rep. Alfred D. Vargas, entitled:

“AN ACT
CREATING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR
THE RECRUITMENT OF QUALIFIED FILIPINOS WHO WILL SERVE AS PRIMARY
CARE WORKERS IN PRIORITY BARANGAYS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND CITIES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 4315, introduced by Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4364, introduced by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, entitled:

“AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ACADEMY, ESTABLISHING THE
PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4471, introduced by Rep. Jumel Anthony I. Espino, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4659, introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 4889, introduced by Rep. Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 4974, introduced by Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”;

House Bill No. 5197, introduced by Rep. Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 5243, introduced by Rep. Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL
MUNICIPALITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN: ONE
DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5343, introduced by Rep. Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

and

House Bill No. 6347, introduced by Reps. Eric Go Yap and Paolo Z. Duterte, entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. _____, entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM
FOR DESERVING STUDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

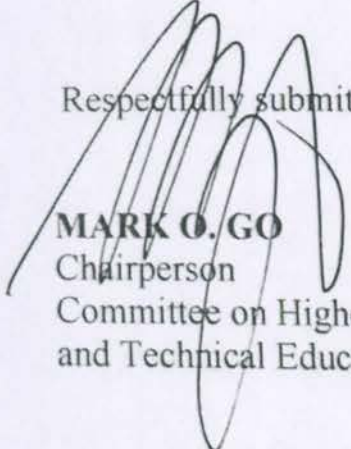
be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 878, 1626, 2139, 2881, 3445, 3745, 3847, 3865, 4205, 4315, 4364, 4471, 4659, 4889, 4974, 5197, 5243, 5343 and 6347 and with Representatives Angelina "Helen" D. L. Tan, M.D., Vilma Santos-Recto, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Precious Hipolito Castelo, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Ann K. Hofer, Tyrone D. Agabas, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Alfred D. Vargas, Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Eric L. Olivarez, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Florencio Gabriel "Bem" G. Noel, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte, Mark O. Go, Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Ruth Mariano Hernandez, Strike B. Revilla, Wilfredo "Willy" S. Caminero, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr., Gil "Kabarangay" A. Acosta, Jr., Edgar M. Chatto, Peter John D. Calderon, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Isidro T. Ungab, Joey Sarte Salceda, Junie E. Cua, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Micaela S. Violago, Greg G. Gasataya, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Juar Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Ed Christopher S. Go, Manuel "Way Kurat" E. Zamora, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Gloria G. Labadlabad, Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Ramon "Monmon" V. Guico III, Kristin Singson-Meehan, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Stell Luz A. Quimbo, Isagani S. Amatong, Jr., Lorenz R. Defensor, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Ferdinand R. Gaite, and Rosanna "Ria" Vergara as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC GO YAP

Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



MARK O. GO

Chairperson
Committee on Higher
and Technical Education

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6756

(In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 878, 1626, 2139, 2881, 3445, 3745, 3847, 3865, 4205, 4315, 4364, 4471, 4659, 4889, 4974, 5197, 5243, 5343 and 6347)

Introduced by: REPS. ANGELINA "HELEN" D. L. TAN, M.D., VILMA SANTOS-RECTO, RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO, "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO, ANN K. HOFER, TYRONE D. AGABAS, JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO, ALFRED D. VARGAS, BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA-DY, JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO, LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR., ERIC L. OLIVAREZ, JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO, FLORENCIO GABRIEL "BEM" G. NOEL, JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, MARK O. GO, CESAR "JAWO" L. JIMENEZ, JR., JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING, RUTH MARIANO HERNANDEZ, STRIKE B. REVILLA, WILFREDO "WILLY" S. CAMINERO, CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA, LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR., GIL "KABARANGAY" A. ACOSTA, JR., EDGAR M. CHATTO, PETER JOHN D. CALDERON, DIEGO "NONOY" C. TY, JOEY SARTE SALCEDA, JUNIE E. CUA, JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA, MICAELA S. VIOLAGO, GREG G. GASATAYA, ROMEO M. JALOSJOS, JOSE ENRIQUE "JOET" S. GARCIA III, JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO, MANUEL JOSE "MANNIX" M. DALIPE, ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO, MANUEL "WAY KURAT" E. ZAMORA, NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR., GLORIA G. LABADLABAD, JOSELITO "JOEL" S. SACDALAN, FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR., RAMON "MONMON" V. GUICO III, KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN, ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO, YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG, GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR., STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, ISAGANI S. AMATONG, JR., LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS, FERDINAND R. GAITE, ROSANNA "RIA" VERGARA, HENRY R. VILLARICA, SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D., JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO, DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO, CARMELO "JON" B. LAZATIN II, ISIDRO T. UNGAB, and ERIC GO YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE
PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS, 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 "Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) Program Act."

1 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to
2 health of the people, develop its human resources to meet the health needs of its citizens and to ensure
3 that the shortage of medical practitioners in the country is addressed.

4
5 Towards this end, the State shall establish a medical scholarship and return service program that
6 will help deserving medical students pursue medical education and training in the field of health and
7 medicine who shall eventually render services in government public health offices or government
8 hospitals in their hometown or in any municipality in their home province or in any underserved
9 municipality in any province, as part of their integration into the public health and medical service
10 system. This shall ensure the availability of doctors who will provide quality basic, promotive,
11 preventive and curative health care services in every municipality in the country, especially the
12 underserved, remote, economically underdeveloped, distressed, conflict-afflicted, and geographically
13 disadvantaged areas.

14
15 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) Program.** -
16 There shall be established a Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) Program for deserving
17 students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) or in private higher education institutions (PHEIs) in
18 regions where there are no SUCs offering a medical course: *Provided*, That the scholarship program
19 shall accept at least one (1) scholar from each municipality of the country: *Provided, further*, That only
20 upon determination that there is no qualified applicant from a certain municipality shall another
21 qualified applicant be considered, irrespective of domicile: *Provided, further*, That the applicant has
22 passed the admission and other qualifying requirements of the SUCs and PHEIs: *Provided, finally*, That
23 the total number of scholars per province or municipality shall depend on the number of government
24 physicians needed for each province or municipality, as determined by the Department of Health
25 (DOH).

26 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** The MSRS Program established under this Act shall be made available to
27 deserving Filipino students who want to pursue a degree in Doctor of Medicine in regions where there
28 are no SUCs offering a degree program in Medicine.

29 The student financial assistance for the MSRS Program shall include the following:

- 30 a) Free tuition and other school fees;
31 b) Allowance for prescribed books, supplies and equipment;
32 c) Clothing or uniform allowance;
33 d) Allowance for dormitory or boarding house accommodation;
34 e) Transportation allowance;
35 f) Internship fees, including financial assistance during post-graduate internship;
36 g) Medical board review fees;
37 h) Annual medical insurance; and
38 i) Other education-related miscellaneous subsistence or living allowances.

39
40 **SEC. 5. Qualification Requirements.** – An applicant for the MSRS Program shall possess the
41 following qualifications:

- 42
43 a) Must be a natural-born or naturalized Filipino citizen residing in the Philippines;
44 b) Must be a graduating student or a graduate of an appropriate undergraduate program identified as
45 a prerequisite for a Doctor of Medicine degree, from any higher education institution (HEI) duly
46 recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), including a direct entrant to the

1 seven-year Integrated Liberal Arts Medicine Program or INTARMED Program of the University
2 of the Philippines (U.P.) who satisfactorily completes the first two years of the program:
3 *Provided*, That deserving incoming second year medical students and those in the higher year
4 levels of the Doctor of Medicine program shall also be covered under this Act;

- 5 c) Must have passed the entrance examinations and complied with other related requirements for
6 admission into a Doctor of Medicine degree in the SUC or PHEI where the scholar intends to
7 enroll, including the INTARMED Program of the U.P., as well as the other requirements of the
8 CHED and the DOH; and
9 d) Must have obtained a National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) score mandated by the CHED
10 and the cut-off score required by the SUC or PHEI where the student intends to enroll in.

11
12 **SEC. 6. Conditions for the Grant of Scholarship.** Deserving students accepted to the MSRS
13 Program shall be subject to the following conditionalities:

- 14
15 a) Must sign an agreement stating the terms and conditions of the scholarship on a form prescribed
16 by the CHED and the DOH;
17 b) Must carry the full load of subjects prescribed per semester by the SUC or PHEI, and shall not,
18 under any circumstance, drop a course which will result in underloading;
19 c) Must finish the entire Doctor of Medicine program in the prescribed time frame in the SUC or
20 PHEI where the scholar is enrolled in, subject to the retention policies of the SUC or PHEI;
21 d) Must undertake post-graduate internship in a DOH-accredited public health facility or hospital
22 upon graduation from the Doctor of Medicine program and after satisfying all the requirements
23 of an association which credits an internship program: *Provided*, That the scholar enrolled in the
24 SUC or PHEI must undertake the post-graduate internship in the SUC's or PHEI's base
25 hospital;
26 e) Must take the board examination within a maximum period of one (1) year after completion of
27 an internship program which may be a post-graduate internship program for scholars under a
28 four-year Doctor of Medicine program or after completion of internship as a fifth-year medical
29 student for scholars under a five-year Doctor of Medicine program; and
30 f) Must serve in a government public health office or government hospital in the scholar's
31 hometown or, in the absence of a need thereat, in any municipality within the scholar's home
32 province, or in any underserved municipality closest to the scholar's hometown in any province
33 determined by the DOH as a priority area, upon passing the licensure examination for physicians
34 and integration into the public health and medical service system. The mandatory return service
35 shall be carried out for at least four (4) years or one (1) year for every scholarship year availed
36 of, which shall be completed within six (6) years upon completion of internship for those who
37 have availed of a four-year (4) program, and seven (7) years for those who have availed of a five
38 (5) year program, *Provided*, That this mandatory return service shall be in addition to the post-
39 graduate internship requirement of the Doctor of Medicine program and shall also be in addition
40 to the return service requirement of the SUC or PHEI: *Provided, further*, That residency training
41 shall not be considered as return service under this provision: *Provided, finally*, That the
42 physician shall receive appropriate salaries and other benefits for service rendered under the
43 mandatory integration into the public health and medical service.

44
45 The scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons preventing the enrollment, to defer availing of the
46 scholarship and file a leave of absence for a period not exceeding one (1) school year, subject to the
47 guidelines and policies of the concerned SUC or PHEI.
48

1 The scholar who fails to pass the licensure examination within one (1) year after graduation and
2 completion of post-graduate internship and other academic requirements shall shoulder all the necessary
3 expenses for the succeeding professional licensure examinations.

4
5 **SEC. 7. Disqualifications.** – The scholar shall repay the full cost of scholarship and related
6 benefits received, including all the expenses incurred during participation in the scholarship program,
7 and the scholarship grant shall be terminated, in case of the following circumstances:

- 8
9 a) If the scholar accepts another scholarship from other government or private agency or entity
10 while enjoying the benefits under this Act;
11 b) If the scholar fails in forty percent (40%) of the subjects or fails to meet the academic
12 requirements or to complete the course within the prescribed period without valid cause as may
13 be determined by the SUC or PHEI, CHED or the DOH such as due to absence without notice,
14 willful neglect or other causes within the control of the scholar: *Provided, That*, a scholar whose
15 scholarship status has been terminated may opt to work within the government's public health
16 service system, such as engaging in health-related research work for the government or by
17 teaching health-related subjects in a public educational institution, or be integrated into the
18 public health service system for a period equivalent to eight (8) years or the mandatory length of
19 service that should have been rendered as stipulated in this Act, instead of repaying the cost of
20 the scholarship grant received: *Provided, further*, That the alternative return service shall exclude
21 residency training;
22 c) If the scholar fails to pass the licensure examination for physicians for the second time; and
23 d) If the scholar is found guilty of behavioral misconduct in a manner that would bring significant
24 damage to certain persons, the HEI, government institution concerned, and the community.

25
26 **SEC. 8. Mandatory Return Service and Integration of the Scholar into the Public Health and**
27 **Medical Service System.** – Upon passing the Physician Licensure Examination (PLE) administered by
28 the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) and conferment by the PRC of the license to practice the
29 medical profession, the scholar shall be integrated into the public health and medical service system,
30 through the DOH, and shall receive the appropriate civil service rank, salary and related benefits. Upon
31 integration into the public health and medical service system under this Act, the scholar shall render the
32 mandatory return service for a period equivalent to at least four (4) years within six (6) years for those
33 who have availed of a four-year program, and seven (7) years for those who have availed of a five-year
34 program.

35
36 The mandatory return service and integration into the public health and medical service system
37 under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the return service rendered to an SUC or PHEI by a
38 scholar in lieu of refunding the cost of a terminated scholarship grant pursuant to Section 7 hereof, and
39 the mandatory post-graduate internship in a DOH-accredited public health facility or hospital which is a
40 prerequisite for taking the licensure examination for physicians.

41
42 **SEC. 9. Sanctions.** – A physician who has availed of the MSRS Program but fails or refuses to
43 serve in a government hospital or any local health office in the scholar's hometown, or in any
44 municipality in the scholar's home province, or in any underserved municipality in any province, as
45 provided under Section 6 (f) hereof, or fails or refuses to comply with the mandatory return service and
46 integration requirement, as provided in Section 8 hereof, shall be required to pay twice the full cost of
47 scholarship, including other benefits and expenses incurred by reason of participation in the scholarship
48 program.

1 In case of non-payment, as provided in the preceding paragraph, the PRC shall deny the renewal
2 of the physician's license: *Provided*, That the abovementioned penalties shall not apply to physicians
3 who fail to comply with the required return service on account, or by reason of, severe or serious illness.

4
5 **SEC. 10. Role of the CHED.** - The CHED shall perform the following functions in the
6 implementation of the MSRS Program:

- 7
8 a) Conduct regular information dissemination of and recruitment to the MSRS Program in
9 SUCs and PHEIs to ensure that there will be an adequate number of medical doctors in all
10 the municipalities and provinces;
11 b) Review, modify and enhance the medical education curriculum to prepare graduates to work
12 in community-based health programs, and to function competently when working with
13 experienced physicians;
14 c) Coordinate, together with the SUCs and PHEIs, with the DOH for the integration of the
15 medical scholar who has passed the PLE into the public health and medical service system;
16 d) Formulate, promulgate, disseminate and implement the necessary policies, standards,
17 guidelines, and rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the Medical
18 Scholarship Program under this Act;
19 e) Develop strategies to improve the quality of the Doctor of Medicine program and implement
20 a system of quality control for the offering of Doctor of Medicine program in SUCs and
21 PHEIs;
22 f) Monitor and evaluate existing Doctor of Medicine programs of SUCs and effect the
23 continuation or closure of programs in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No.
24 7722 or the "Higher Education Act of 1994" and other CHED issuances, as applicable;
25 g) Review and approve or disapprove applications of SUCs and PHEIs for the offering of new
26 Doctor of Medicine programs;
27 h) Disseminate information on the required percentile cut-off score of SUCs and PHEIs to guide
28 the student applicants on which school to apply to;
29 i) Require SUCs and PHEIs to implement and submit a tracking, monitoring, evaluation and
30 assistance system in order to determine the whereabouts of the medical scholars after
31 graduation from SUCs or PHEIs;
32 j) Ensure that the SUCs and PHEIs provide the timely release and accurate distribution of
33 allowances and other fees to the scholars; and
34 k) Recommend to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) the prerequisite
35 appropriation for the implementation of the MSRS Program in SUCs and PHEIs based on the
36 result of its monitoring and evaluation.

37
38 **SEC. 11. Role of the SUCs and PHEIs.** - The SUCs and PHEIs shall perform the following
39 functions in the implementation of the MSRS Program:

- 40 a) Monitor the progress of all scholars in their respective educational institutions, identify those
41 who have low or failing grades, and counsel them to improve their academic performance;
42 b) Ensure the timely release and accurate distribution of allowances and other fees to the
43 scholars;
44 c) Make an annual report to the CHED on the performance of medical scholars and other
45 necessary or vital information regarding the MSRS Program;
46 d) Assist the CHED in the conduct of regular information dissemination on, and recruitment to,
47 the MSRS Program;

- e) Review, modify and enhance the medical education curriculum to prepare the scholars to work in community-based health programs;
- f) Coordinate with the DOH in the conduct of an inventory of its trainable personnel who can be potential beneficiaries of the program;
- g) Coordinate with the CHED, DOH, PRC, other concerned agencies, and LGUs in the integration of the scholar into the public health and medical service system;
- h) Develop strategies to improve the quality of the Doctor of Medicine program and implement a system of review and evaluation for quality control for the offering of Doctor of Medicine program in their respective educational institutions;
- i) Conduct a tracer study on the whereabouts of their respective medical scholars after graduation from their respective educational institutions and submit the results of the tracer study to the CHED;
- j) Recommend to the CHED and the DBM the budget necessary to implement the Medical Scholarship Program in their respective institutions, based on their own monitoring and evaluation of results; and
- k) Perform such other functions as the presidents of the SUC or PHEI may deem necessary for the success of the MSRS Program in their respective educational institutions.

SEC. 12. *Role of the DOH.* The DOH shall perform the following functions in the implementation of the MSRS Program:

- a) In coordination with the CHED, SUCs and PHEIs, determine the number of physicians needed for every municipality or province, and pursuant to Section 16 of this Act, every five (5) years from its effectivity, to be used as basis for calculating the number of scholars to be admitted every school year to the MSRS Program;
- b) Determine the distribution of scholars per municipality or province;
- c) Coordinate with the CHED, SUCs, PHEIs and the PRC to determine the number of graduates of the Doctor of Medicine degree program and passers of the medical board examination;
- d) Manage the integration of scholars into the public health and medical service system, and propose for the creation of plantilla positions, as necessary, to accommodate the new doctors to be placed in the provincial hospitals;
- e) Assist the CHED in the conduct of the regular information dissemination on the MSRS Program, the recruitment of scholar applicants, and the integration of successful scholars into the public health and medical service system to ensure the continuous deployment of medical doctors to all provinces, especially in the underserved, remote, economically underdeveloped, distressed, conflict-afflicted, and geographically disadvantaged municipalities;
- f) Craft a career pathway for physicians who are beneficiaries of the MSRS Program in the DOH and at the local level as an incentive to continually upgrade their competencies and skills for career progression;
- g) Coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) for the mandatory integration of doctors/scholars into the public health and medical service system;
- h) Conduct an inventory of its trainable personnel who can benefit from the program;
- i) Monitor, supervise, and evaluate the performance and length of service of the scholars integrated into the public health and medical service system;
- j) Provide funds for the implementation of the integration program under this Act; and

- 1 k) Recommend to the DBM the budget for the plantilla positions for the doctors to be
2 integrated into the public health and medical service system, including the determination of
3 salaries and salary increases.
4

5 **SEC. 13. Role of LGUs.** LGUs are mandated to support the integration of the scholar into the
6 public health and medical service system by performing the following functions:
7

- 8 a) Create a mechanism or system to provide the necessary support, including ensuring safety
9 and protection, for the integration of physicians who will be assigned to the LGU;
10 b) Coordinate with the DOH and the physicians to determine the specific health needs or
11 requirements of the community and provide the necessary assistance, including involvement
12 in the research component of the medical service system;
13 c) Maintain a regular counterpart fund to be used for providing the balance of the scholarship
14 budget for scholars enrolled in PHEIs, subject to availability of funds;
15 d) Provide for the board and lodging, travel expenses and other forms of financial assistance
16 enumerated under Section 4 of this Act, subject to availability of funds, for the scholar
17 enrolled in the PHEIs located in the municipality under the concerned LGU: *Provided*, That
18 the scholar shall serve in the same LGU upon passing the licensure examination.
19 If the municipal government cannot afford the said expenses, the provincial government
20 shall shoulder the same: *Provided, further*, That the said provincial government shall decide
21 the municipality where the scholar shall eventually serve;
22 e) Provide other forms of financial assistance, subject to availability of funds, to support the
23 integration program of doctors in the LGUs;
24 f) Ensure the safety and security of the physicians integrated into the public health and medical
25 service program;
26 g) Recommend to the concerned SUC or PHEI any improvement in the implementation of the
27 MSRS Program;
28 h) Conduct an information dissemination campaign on the MSRS Program within the
29 municipality or province, with the objective of attracting bright applicants to the said
30 Program;
31 i) Coordinate with the CHED, other government agencies and non-governmental organizations
32 involved in the MSRS Program;
33 j) Coordinate with and encourage the active participation of the parents and other family
34 members of the scholars in the MSRS Program;
35 k) Exercise such other powers and perform all other acts and duties which shall assist the
36 scholar and ascertain the success of the MSRS Program; and
37 l) Execute and enforce laws, ordinances and regulations which may, directly or indirectly, have
38 a positive impact on the MSRS Program.

39 **SEC. 14. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this
40 Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the SUCs and the DOH.

41 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the MSRS Program and
42 this Act shall be included and subsumed into the scholarship program of the SUCs and the CHED in the
43 annual General Appropriations Act.

44 **SEC. 15. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on MSRS System.** – There is hereby
45 created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation
46 of this Act.

1 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate and from
2 the House of Representatives, and shall include the following: Chairperson of the Senate Committee on
3 Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and
4 Technical Education; Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography; Chairperson of
5 the House Committee on Health; and three (3) members each to be chosen from the membership of the
6 Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education, and the House Committee on Higher
7 and Technical Education by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively: *Provided*, That at
8 least one (1) member from the respective nominees of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall
9 be chosen from the Minority party/ bloc.

10
11 **SEC. 16. *Five-Year Review of the Number of Scholars to be Admitted.*** - Every five (5) years
12 from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED, the DOH, the SUCs and the PHEIs shall determine the
13 number of scholars to be admitted every school year. The number of physicians needed by the
14 municipality or province where the SUC or PHEI is situated shall be taken into consideration in
15 determining the number of scholars.

16
17 **SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
18 this Act, the CHED and the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Association of State Universities
19 and Colleges, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations, League of Municipalities,
20 Association of Municipal Health Officers, Non-Government Community-Based Health Programs, PRC,
21 DBM, SUCs, PHEIs, associations of medical schools and medical students and other relevant
22 stakeholders, shall formulate and issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this
23 Act.

24
25 **SEC. 18. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional
26 or invalid, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

27
28 **SEC 19. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other
29 issuances or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified
30 accordingly.

31
32 **SEC. 20. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
33 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34
35 *Approved,*

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6756

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 878, 1626, 2139, 2881, 3445, 3745, 3847, 3865, 4205, 4315, 4364, 4471, 4659, 4889, 4974, 5197, 5243, 5343 and 6347)

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by: REPS. ANGELINA "HELEN" D. L. TAN, M.D., VILMA SANTOS-RECTO, RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO, "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO, ANN K. HOFER, TYRONE D. AGABAS, JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO, ALFRED D. VARGAS, BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA-DY, JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO, LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR., ERIC L. OLIVAREZ, JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO, FLORENCIO GABRIEL "BEM" G. NOEL, JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, MARK O. GO, CESAR "JAWO" L. JIMENEZ, JR., JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING, RUTH MARIANO HERNANDEZ, STRIKE B. REVILLA, WILFREDO "WILLY" S. CAMINERO, CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA, LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR., GIL "KABARANGAY" A. ACOSTA, JR., EDGAR M. CHATTO, PETER JOHN D. CALDERON, DIEGO "NONOY" C. TY, ISIDRO T. UNGAB, JOEY SARTE SALCEDA, JUNIE E. CUA, JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA, MICAELA S. VIOLAGO, GREG G. GASATAYA, ROMEO M. JALOSJOS, JOSE ENRIQUE "JOET" S. GARCIA III, JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO, MANUEL JOSE "MANNIX" M. DALIPE, ED CHRISTOPHER S. GO, MANUEL "WAY KURAT" E. ZAMORA, NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR., GLORIA G. LABADLABAD, JOSELITO "JOEL" S. SACDALAN, FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR., RAMON "MONMON" V. GUICO III, KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN, ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO, YASSER ALONTO BALINDONG, GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR., STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, ISAGANI S. AMATONG, JR., LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS, FERDINAND R. GAITE, ROSANNA "RIA" VERGARA, HENRY R. VILLARICA, SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D., JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO, DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO, CARMELO "JON" B. LAZATIN II, and ERIC GO YAP

*Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION***
*Committee Chairperson: **REP. MARK O. GO***

OBJECTIVES:

- To protect and promote the right to health of the people, and to develop its health human resources
- To meet the health needs of the citizens by striving to produce at least one doctor for every municipality
- To address the shortage of medical practitioners in the country

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Establishes a Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) Program for deserving students in state universities and colleges (SUCs) or in private higher education institutions (PHEIs) in regions where there are no SUCs offering a medical course
- Mandates the acceptance of at least one (1) scholar from each municipality of the country, but will consider other applicants if there is no qualified applicant from a certain municipality
- Instructs the Department of Health (DOH) to determine number of physicians needed for each province or municipality
- Grants the following financial assistance, among others, to qualified students: free tuition and other school fees; allowance for prescribed books, supplies and equipment; clothing or uniform allowance; allowance for dormitory or boarding house accommodation; transportation allowance; internship fees; medical board review fees; annual medical insurance; and other education-related miscellaneous subsistence or living allowances
- States that accepted scholars must, among others, finish the entire Doctor of Medicine program in the prescribed time frame in the SUC or PHEI where the scholar is enrolled in, and undertake post-graduate internship in a DOH-accredited public health facility or hospital upon graduation from a four-year Doctor of Medicine program

- Provides that the mandatory return service shall be in addition to the required post-graduate internship after graduating from a four-year Doctor of Medicine program and shall also be in addition to the return service requirement of the SUC or PHEI
- Provides that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall formulate, promulgate, disseminate and implement the policies, standards, guidelines, and rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the scholarship program
- Instructs the DOH to provide for the integration of the scholar into the public health and medical service program
- Mandates the Local Government Units (LGUs) to assist the DOH in the integration of the scholar into the public health and medical service system in the municipality. They shall ensure that there is a mechanism to provide the necessary support to the integration program of the physicians who will be assigned to the LGU
- Mandates that the amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the SUCs and the DOH. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the MSRS program and this Act shall be included and subsumed into the scholarship program of the SUCs and the CHED in the annual General Appropriations Act.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8545 (Expanded Government Assistance To Students And Teachers In Private Education or the E-GASTPE Act)
- R. A. No. 7722 (Higher Education Act of 1994)
- R. A. No. 10678 (Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education or the UniFAST Act)