



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**H. No. 3795**

---

Introduced by **Representative Raul C. Tupas**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

Based on the Labor Force Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the unemployment rate in July 2016 was estimated at 5.4 percent. Among the regions, CALABARZON (7.6%), National Capital Region (NCR) (6.5%), Central Luzon (6.2%), and Northern Mindanao (6.1%) were the regions with the highest unemployment rates.

Among the unemployed persons in July 2016, 60.7 percent were males. Of the total unemployed, the age group 15 to 24 years comprised 48.2 percent, while the age group 25 to 34, 28.2 percent. By educational attainment, 21.9 percent of the unemployed were college graduates, 14.4 percent were college undergraduates, and 28.1 percent were high school graduates.<sup>1</sup>

The unemployment rate for the age group 15 to 24 years old is significant and it is important to assist individuals belonging to this group since they are part of the population that are entering the labor force.

Every year, the government tries to improve employment facilitation strategies and address the country's job-skills mismatch problem.

To assist new graduates who are applying for first time employment, this bill seeks to mitigate the expenses incurred by graduates by waiving fees collected by government agencies for various pre-employment documents, clearances, and mandatory memberships to government agencies as a pre-requisite for employment.

The bill is supportive of the government's endeavor to provide fresh opportunities for development by creating support a system that improve access to employment.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/employment-rate-july-2016-estimated-946-percent>

The short-term loss in revenue will eventually compensated when fresh graduates are eventually employed and become part of the working population that pay income taxes.

In viewing of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
RAUL C. TUPAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
H. No. 3795

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

**AN ACT GRANTING 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as "Fresh Graduates Pre-  
2       Employment Assistance Act of 2016."

3  
4       **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Article II, Section 13 of the 1987  
5       Philippine Constitution states, "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in  
6       nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,  
7       intellectual and social well-being. it shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and  
8       nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. "

9  
10       It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth. The State shall  
11       endeavor to provide the youth with opportunities for development by creating policies  
12       that improve access to employment.

13  
14       **SECTION 3. Waiver of Fees and Charges.** – All government agencies and  
15       instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs)  
16       and local government units (LGUs), shall not collect fees or charges from a fresh  
17       graduate Filipino citizen; *Provided*, that such fee or charge is paid in connection with  
18       the application for and the granting of licenses that serve as proof of identification,  
19       clearance, certificate, membership or other document usually required in the course of  
20       employment; *Provided further*, that the person is applying for such license, proof of  
21       identification, clearance, certificate, membership or other document within one (1) year  
22       after graduation from high school, college or any vocational or technical course;  
23       *Provided, furthermore*, that the fees and charges to be waived shall not include those  
24       collected in connection with the granting of a professional licensure examination by  
25       the Professional Regulation Commission or with granting of a Philippine passport by  
26       the Department of Foreign Affairs.

27  
28       **SECTION 4. Proof of Graduation.** - To avail of the waiver authorized this Act,  
29       the graduate must submit to the government agency or instrumentality concerned a  
30       copy of his or her diploma, certification, document or communication from the

1 academic, vocational or technical institution from which he or she has graduated,  
2 written or issued to the effect that such person has indeed successfully completed the  
3 course required. The diploma, certification, document, or communication should  
4 clearly state the date of graduation or completion and the course completed or degree  
5 earned, and should be signed by the institution's duly authorized representative.

6  
7 Such copy of the diploma, certification, document, or communication  
8 submitted, even if not original or certified true copy, shall serve as prima facie  
9 evidence of the fact and date of graduation and shall be sufficient for the government  
10 agency to grant the waiver; Provided, that any person found to be guilty of fabricating  
11 or falsifying any proof of graduation as described in this Section, shall be liable under  
12 Article 172 (Falsification and Use of Falsified Documents ) of the Revised Penal Code.

13  
14 **SECTION 5. Administrative Offense.** – No government agency or  
15 instrumentality shall issue unduly restrictive regulations for the carrying out of the  
16 provisions to render nugatory the benefit of the waiver prescribed. Such shall  
17 constitute an administrative offense punishable under the Administrative Code and  
18 other pertinent laws.

19  
20 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Commission on  
21 Higher Education (CHED) in consultation with the Department of Labor and  
22 Employment (DOLE), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the Department of Interior  
23 and Local Government (DILG) shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to  
24 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

25  
26 **SECTION 7. Effectivity.** – This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
27 publication the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,  
28 whichever comes earlier.

29  
30 Approved,