

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

S E N A T E



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 86

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher Technical and Vocational Education; Health and Demography; and Finance on May 11 2020.

Re: Senate Bill No. 1520

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1, 1130 and 1283

Sponsor: Senator Villanueva

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Higher Technical and Vocational Education; Health and Demography; and Finance, to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 1**, introduced by Senator Vicente C. Sotto III, entitled:

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

Senate Bill No. 1130, introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCS) AMENDING**

**FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

And **Senate Bill No. 1283**, introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva, entitled:

**"AN ACT
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS TAKING MEDICAL
EDUCATION PROGRAMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate, with the recommendation that the attached Senate Bill No. **1520** authored by Senator Sotto III, Recto, and Villanueva be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos.1, 1130, and 1283 with the recommendation that it be approved immediately.

Respectfully submitted:

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*Committee on Health and Demography;
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher, Technical and
Vocational Education*

SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

*Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Higher, Technical and
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SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

*Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
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Vice-Chairpersons

SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

*Committees on Health and Demography;
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Member, Committee on Higher, Technical and
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SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

*Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational
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SENATOR MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

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SENATOR CYNTHIA S. VILLAR

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Member, Committee on Higher, Technical and
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**SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON**

*Committee on Finance;
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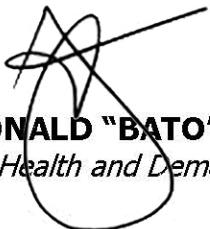
SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS

*Committee on Finance;
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SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

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Vocational Education; and Health and Demography*

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Committee on Health and Demography

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Committee on Finance



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**SENATOR FRANCIS "KIKO"
PANGILINAN**
*Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational
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Finance*

** May interpellate/amend


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HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
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SENATE
S. B. NO. 1520



(In Substitution of S.B. Nos. 1, 1130 and 1283)

Prepared by the Committee on Higher, and Technical and Vocational Education, with Senators Sotto III, Recto, and Villanueva as Authors

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

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 the "Medical Scholarship
2 Act."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to protect and promote the right to health of the people through the formulation
5 and implementation of policies and strategies for the appropriate generation,
6 recruitment, retraining, regulation, retention, and reassessment of health
7 workforce for the needs of the population. It is also the declared policy of the
8 State to promote social justice by expanding access to quality education and
9 creating opportunities for underprivileged individuals.

10 Towards these goals, the State shall institutionalize a medical scholarship
11 program for deserving and qualified aspiring, new, and continuing medical
12 students, that will establish access for them to pursue education in the field of
13 medicine, integrate them, upon qualifying as doctors of medicine, into the
14 public health care system to provide quality basic, promotive, preventive and
15 curative health care services in under-served, remote, economically

1 underdeveloped, distressed, conflict-afflicted and/or geographically isolated
2 and disadvantaged areas.

3 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the Medical Scholarship and Return Service**

4 **Program.** – There shall be established a Medical Scholarship and Return
5 Service Program (MSRSP) for deserving Filipino students in State Universities
6 and Colleges (SUCs) and in partner private higher education institutions (PHEIs)
7 in regions where there are no SUCs offering medicine; *Provided*, that the
8 applicant has satisfied the qualifications enumerated in Section 5 of this Act.

9 The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may designate more than one
10 partner higher education institutions (HEI) in the region, as deemed necessary,
11 upon consultation with the DOH.

12 **SEC. 4. Coverage of the Medical Scholarship and Return Service**

13 **Program.** – The student financial assistance under the MSRSP shall cover the
14 following:

- 15 a) Tuition and other school fees;
- 16 b) Allowance for prescribed books, supplies and equipment;
- 17 c) Clothing or uniform allowance;
- 18 d) Allowance for dormitory or boarding house accommodation, or
19 transportation allowance, whichever is more applicable;
- 20 e) Internship fees, including financial assistance during the required
21 internship period;
- 22 f) Medical board review fees and licensure fees; *Provided*, that the support
23 shall only be limited to the first licensure examination of the scholar
24 concerned taken within one (1) year after graduation or completion of
25 post-graduate internship and other academic requirements, as
26 appropriate;
- 27 g) Annual medical insurance; and
- 28 h) Subsistence or living allowance.

29 **SEC. 5. Qualification Requirements.** – An applicant to the MSRSP shall
30 possess the following qualifications:

- 31 a) Must be a natural-born or naturalized Filipino citizen residing in the
32 Philippines;

- 1 b) Must have a family income not sufficient to support medical education;
- 2 c) Must be a graduating student or a graduate of an appropriate
- 3 undergraduate program identified as a prerequisite for a Doctor of
- 4 Medicine degree from any CHED-recognized HEI or a direct entrant to the
- 5 integrated pre-medical and medical degree program, such as the seven-
- 6 year Integrated Liberal Arts Medicine (INTARMED) Program of the
- 7 University of the Philippines, who satisfactorily completes the first two (2)
- 8 years of the program; *Provided*, That deserving incoming second year
- 9 medical students and those in the higher year levels of the Doctor of
- 10 Medicine program may also apply for the MSRSP, as long as they have
- 11 maintained a general weighted average of at least a passing grade in the
- 12 past terms preceding their scholarship application;
- 13 d) Must have passed the entrance examinations and other related
- 14 requirements for admission for a Doctor of Medicine degree in the SUC or
- 15 PHEI where the scholarship intends to enroll, as determined by CHED and
- 16 the DOH; and
- 17 e) Must have obtained the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) score
- 18 mandated by CHED and the cut-off score required by the SUC or PHEI
- 19 where the student intends to enroll in.

20 **SEC. 6. Conditions for the Grant of Scholarship.** – Students accepted to

21 the MSRSP shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 22 a) Must sign an agreement containing the terms and conditions for the grant
- 23 of the scholarship as provided under this Act and as may be prescribed in
- 24 the implementing rules and regulations;
- 25 b) Must carry the full load of subjects prescribed per semester by the SUC or
- 26 the PHEI concerned, and shall under no circumstance, drop a course
- 27 which will result in overloading;
- 28 c) Must finish the entire Doctor of Medicine program within the prescribed
- 29 time frame of the SUC or PHEI where the scholar is enrolled in, subject to
- 30 the retention policies of the SUC or the PHEI; *Provided that*, the scholar
- 31 may be allowed, for valid and justifiable reasons, to file a leave of absence
- 32 for one (1) academic year;

- 1 d) Must undertake the required medical internship in a DOH-accredited
- 2 public health facility or hospital upon graduation from a four-year Doctor
- 3 of Medicine program, subject to the Association of Philippine Medical
- 4 Colleges (APMC) Intern Matching Program or the rules and regulations of
- 5 the SUC or PHEI concerned;
- 6 e) Must take the board examination within a maximum period of one (1) year
- 7 after completion of an internship program; and
- 8 f) Must agree to render return of service as provided under Section 8 of this
- 9 Act.

10 **SEC. 7. Termination of Scholarship and Penalties.** – The grant of benefits
11 under the MSRSP shall be terminated and the scholar shall repay the full cost
12 of scholarship and related benefits received in case of the following
13 circumstances:

- 14 a) If the scholar fails to comply with any of the conditions for the grant of
15 scholarship as provided under Section 6 of this Act;
- 16 b) If the scholar accepts another scholarship from other government or
17 private agencies or entities while enjoying the benefits under this Act;
- 18 c) If the scholar fails in forty percent (40%) of the subjects he/she is enrolled
19 in or fails to meet the academic requirements of the SUC or the PHEI or
20 to complete the course within the prescribed period without valid cause
21 as may be determined by the SUC or PHEI, CHED or DOH: *Provided*, That
22 instead of repaying in cash the full cost of the scholarship and related
23 expenses, the terminated scholar may opt to repay the same in kind by
24 working in the public health sector for a period equivalent to the number
25 of years the scholarship has been availed; *Provided further*, That the
26 alternative return service shall exclude the period of internship and
27 residency training; and
- 28 d) While being a scholar, the scholar commits gross misconduct in a manner
29 that would bring significant damage to the SUC or PHEI concerned or to
30 the community as a whole.

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1 **SEC. 8. Mandatory Return Service and Integration into the Public**
2 **Health and Medical Service System.** – Within one (1) year from the
3 passing of the licensure examinations for physicians, the scholar shall serve in
4 a government public health office or government hospital in the scholar's
5 hometown, province or region or, in the presence of threat for his/her safety,
6 in any underserved municipality determined by the DOH as a priority area, for
7 one (1) year for every year that the scholarship has been availed of; *Provided*,
8 That such mandatory return service and integration into the public health and
9 medical service system under this Act shall be separate and distinct from the
10 return service requirement, if any, of the SUC or PHEI concerned, the
11 mandatory post-graduate internship in a DOH-accredited public health facility
12 required by Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as a prerequisite for
13 taking the PLE and the residency training.

14 In the event that a physician-scholar fails or refuses to serve the return service
15 required under this Act, he/she shall be required to pay the full cost of the
16 scholarship, including other benefits and related expenses incurred by reason
17 of participation in the scholarship program. In case of non-payment, the PRC
18 shall deny the renewal of the physician's license: *Provided*, That the sanction
19 shall not apply to physicians who fail to comply with the required return service
20 on account of, or by reason of, severe or serious illness.

21 In the event that a scholar has failed to obtain a passing grade in his/her PLE
22 within five (5) years from the time he/she has completed his/her mandatory
23 internship program, the scholar shall have the option to pay the full cost of the
24 scholarship and other related expenses, or in lieu thereof, be integrated into
25 the public health and medical service system in accordance with this Section.

26 **SEC. 9. Integration of All Nationally-Funded Medical Scholarship**
27 **Programs.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, all nationally-funded medical
28 scholarship programs shall be harmonized, rationalized and consolidated under
29 the MSRSP.

30 **SEC. 10. Determination of Number and Allocation of Scholars to be**
31 **Admitted.** – Every five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and
32 CHED shall, upon assessing the shortage of health human resource workforce

1 in the country against the ideal standards and the National Health Human
2 Resource Master Plan created under Section 23 of RA 11223 or Universal Health
3 Care (UHC) Law, and upon consultation with participating SUCs and PHEIs, the
4 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the PRC, shall determine
5 the number and allocation of scholars to be admitted every school year;
6 *Provided*, that in determining the allocation quota of the scholars to be admitted
7 to the program, utmost priority is given to regions with the low doctor-to-
8 population ratios.

9 **SEC. 11. Funding.** – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation
10 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the
11 participating SUC, DOH and CHED.

12 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of the
13 medical scholarship provided under this Act shall be included in the scholarship
14 program of SUCs and CHED in the annual in the General Appropriations Act.

15 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred
16 eighty days (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health
17 and the Chairman of CHED, in consultation with various SUCs and PHEIs and
18 other relevant stakeholders, shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations
19 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

20 **SEC. 13. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
21 held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof that are
22 not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, or rules inconsistent with
24 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25 **SEC. 15. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
26 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
27 circulation.

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29 **Approved,**