

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 82



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to pursue a dignified life through decent employment is a promise that must be made accessible to all—regardless of social or economic background. For many young Filipinos, passing a licensure or civil service examination is the final hurdle before entering the workforce as professionals. However, for those who live in poverty, even this final step can be financially out of reach.

This bill seeks to exempt qualified indigent Filipinos from paying the examination fees required for government-administered professional and civil service exams. By doing so, it eliminates a key barrier that prevents capable but underprivileged individuals from practicing their chosen profession and earning a livelihood based on merit and education.

The measure is grounded on Article II, Section 9 of the Philippine Constitution, which provides that “[t]he State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and

free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

As we continue to expand access to higher education, this bill serves as a logical and compassionate complement. While current legislation helps students enter and finish college, and new graduates begin looking for jobs, this proposal focuses on that crucial in-between step—when a graduate must take a licensure or eligibility exam to begin formal employment.

In addition, this bill mandates an inter-agency information and education campaign to raise awareness about the benefit and outlines reporting requirements to track its impact—ensuring that the program is transparent, accountable, and attuned to the needs of its intended beneficiaries.

By institutionalizing this exemption, the State affirms its commitment to equitable access to professional development. It ensures that talent and potential, not poverty, determine a Filipino’s future.

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


RAMON JOJO B. REVILLA III


LANI MERCADO-REVILLA


BRYAN B. REVILLA

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AN ACT
EXEMPTING QUALIFIED INDIGENT FILIPINOS FROM PAYMENT
OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES 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 "*Free Professional*
2 *Examinations Act of 2025*".

3 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State to
4 promote full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for
5 all. Corollary to this, the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that
6 will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide
7 adequate social services and improve the quality of life for all. In this regard,
8 efforts should be exerted to provide the qualified indigent Filipinos access to
9 government certifications which will recognize their potential as professionals
10 and partners to nation-building.

1 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As provided for in this Act;

2 a. "*Professional Examination*" shall refer to the licensure examinations
3 conducted by the Professional Regulations Commission leading to the
4 issuance of a professional license, and the examinations conducted by the
5 Civil Service Commission leading to eligibility for employment to the
6 government as a civil service professional or sub-professionals.

7 b. "*Qualified Indigent*" refers to a person who has no visible means of income
8 or support, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence or basic
9 needs of his family, as may be determined by the Department of Social
10 Welfare and Development (DSWD).

11 **Sec. 4. Requirements for Availment.** - For purposes of availing the benefits
12 of this Act, an examinee shall secure a certification from the DSWD that said
13 examinee is a qualified indigent. Such certification shall be presented to the
14 Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), or the Civil Service Commission
15 (CSC), as the case may be, in lieu of the payment of examination fees. No other
16 fee shall be charged against the qualified indigent for purposes of the professional
17 examination.

18 **Sec. 5. Limitations on Availment.** - Benefits of this Act may be availed of
19 only by a qualified indigent once.

20 **Sec. 6. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.** -
21 The DSWD, PRC, and CSC, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
22 in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby mandated
23 to conduct an annual IEC campaign in order to inform the people of the
24 procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act.

25 **Sec. 7. Reportorial Requirement.** - For purposes of determining the impact
26 of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, CSC and CHED shall submit an
27 annual report to the Senate Committee on Civil Service, Government

1 Reorganization and Professional Regulation and House Committee on Civil
2 Service and Professional Regulation. The said report shall indicate the detail,
3 among others, geographic distribution, demographic characteristics and
4 socioeconomic profile of the beneficiaries of this Act.

5 **Sec. 8. *Non-Duplication of Benefits.*** - Examinees who are already covered
6 with similar benefits under other laws and programs of the government shall not
7 be entitled to the benefits of this Act.

8 **Sec. 9. *Harmonization with the CHED.*** - *Unified Student Financial*
9 *Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST)* - The implementation of
10 this Act shall be harmonized with the the implementation of the Tertiary
11 Education Subsidy under Section 7 of Republic Act 10931, otherwise known as,
12 “*Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act.*”

13 **Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within ninety (90)
14 days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, CSC and CHED
15 shall formulate the IRR for the proper and effective implementation of the
16 provisions of this Act.

17 **Sec. 11. *Appropriations.*** - An amount necessary for the implementation of
18 this Act shall be charged against the respective budgetary allocations of the
19 concerned government agencies. Thereafter, an amount necessary for the proper
20 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
21 Act.

22 **Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
23 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
24 shall remain in full force and effect.

25 **Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and
26 regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
27 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 **Sec. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in two a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

Approved,