



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3832

Introduced by

HON. REPRESENTATIVE LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to provide free access to the Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) licensure examination and Civil Service Commission's (CSC) eligibility examinations for qualified aspiring graduate professionals. The indigents are identified and certified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as those whose income may "not be sufficient to meet their family's basic needs."

Currently, fees charged for application to take the respective professional licensure examinations range from P 900.00 to P 1,500.00 for baccalaureate degrees and P 600.00 for non-baccalaureate. These amounts matter particularly to graduates of state universities and colleges and beneficiaries of the CHED Tertiary Education Subsidy and the 4Ps Program of the DSWD. According to the PRC, in 2023, a total of 633,551 examinees took board exams, 311,381 of whom were first-time takers.

Under the bill, the privilege can only be availed of "once a year."

This represents a significant step towards fostering inclusivity and providing equal opportunities for all aspiring board passers and ensures that

Filipinos will not only have jobs, but quality employment which fits their qualifications.

This bill was approved by the House of Representatives on 3rd Reading in the 19th Congress and was transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence. However, due to lack of material time, it was enacted into law.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of the bill is earnestly urged.


HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3332

Introduced by

HON. REPRESENTATIVE LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4th DISTRICT, BUKIDNON

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO
QUALIFIED INDIGENTS

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 “Free Professional Examinations Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is declared the policy of the State to promote full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for all. Furthermore, it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide adequate social services, and improve the quality of life for all. In this regard, the State shall provide the poor access to mechanisms that expand opportunities for better employment.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Professional Examinations* refer to the licensure examinations conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) leading

to the issuance of professional licenses to successful examinees. It shall also include examinations conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) leading to eligibility for employment in the government.

- (b) *Qualified Indigents* refer to persons who have no visible means of income or support, or whose income may not be sufficient for the subsistence or basic needs of the family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Section 4. Requirements for Availment. – For purposes of availing the benefits of this Act, an examinee shall secure Certificate of Indigency from the DSWD. Such certification shall be presented to the PRC and CSC, as the case may be, to be exempt from the payment of examination fees. No other fee shall be charged against the qualified indigents for purposes of taking the professional examinations.

Section 5. Limitations on Availment. – Benefits of this Act may be availed of by a qualified indigent only once a year.

Section 6. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign. – The DSWD, PRC, and CSC, in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), are hereby mandated to conduct an annual IEC campaign in order to inform the people of the procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act.

Section 7. Reportorial Requirement. – For purposes of determining the effectiveness and social impact of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, and CSC shall submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress indicating therein the number of indigent examinees who benefited from this Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof

inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.