

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5743



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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the Philippine Medical Association, there are 130,000 licensed physicians in the country. However, there are only 70,000 who are active in the profession. This means that the present doctor-population ratio of the Philippines is at 1:33,000. It has been reported that a good number of doctors have turned to nursing and worked as nurses overseas. Due to such disparity in doctor-patient ratio, there is a need to augment the number of physicians to work in the country.

Besides the number of physicians who prefer to work overseas, another problem that contributes in the shortage of licensed physicians in the country is the cost of medical education which is so costly that even families from the middle class find it difficult to avail of. The total fee for a medical student in one semester in the Philippines is roughly around One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php150,000.00) and the expenses do not end there. Not to mention the cost of books and medical instruments that are required as part of their studies, becoming a doctor is most definitely expensive.

As a measure to increase the number of licensed physicians in the country, this Bill intends to confer a full scholarship grant to all incoming first year medical students who graduated as part of the ten of their class and whose parents' combined income is below economic standards in all state universities and colleges. This way, incoming medical students who have performed exceptionally in their collegiate studies and whose financial capabilities deprive them of the chance to avail of medical education will be able to do so thereby eventually adding to the number of physicians in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

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

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known as the “The National Medical Scholarship Act.”

**SECTION 2.** State Universities and Colleges shall hereby confer a full scholarship grant to all incoming first year medical students who graduated as top ten of their class and whose parents’ combined income is below economic standards.

**SECTION 3.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act be changed against the 2019 appropriations of the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the official Gazette in at least three newspaper of general circulation thirty (30) days upon its approval.

**Approved.**