

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10555

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAMBUNTING, GO (M.), ROMULO, TUTOR, DIMAPORO (A.), OUANO-DIZON, CABREDO, BORDADO, LABADLABAD, NIETO, ONG (J.), TEJADA, BENITEZ, CUARESMA, LUSOTAN, DALOG, VIOLAGO, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, ELAGO, NOGRALES (J.F.F.), LACSON, ESCUDERO, SAULOG, FARINAS (R.C.), BARBA, OLIVAREZ, TIANGCO AND VILLARICA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1352

AN ACT

MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WAIVE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

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 College Entrance Examinations
2 **Act.”**

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to expand and further
4 democratize access to quality college education in private higher education institutions (PHEIs) by
5 instituting mechanisms that promote the rights of the underprivileged and deserving high school graduates.

6 The exemption from the imposition of entrance examination fees is one such mechanism that shall
7 ensure that underprivileged and deserving high school graduating student and high school graduates are
8 given adequate assistance and equal opportunity to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college education.

9 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

10 a) ***College entrance examinations*** – refer to the examinations required and administered by higher
11 education institutions on college entrants as one of the criteria for determining admission to a college
12 degree program;

1 b) *Higher education institution* – refers to an educational institution recognized by the Commission
2 on Higher Education (CHED) and is legally authorized to offer a program of education leading to the
3 conferment of a degree; and

4 c) *Underprivileged graduating high school students and graduates* – refer to graduating high school
5 students or high school graduates entering college, whose parents live below the poverty line or belong to
6 the poorest of the poor, as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
7 and the National Household Targeting System of the Department of Social Welfare and Development
8 (DSWD).

9
10 SEC. 4. *Waiver of Fees.* – All PHEIs offering degree-granting programs at the undergraduate level
11 are hereby mandated to waive college entrance examination fees to underprivileged graduating high
12 school students and high school graduates belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class
13 who are applying for college admission.

14
15 SEC. 5. *Qualification Requirements.* – A student shall become eligible as beneficiary under this
16 Act when the following requirements are met:

17
18 a) Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen;

19
20 b) Must be a graduating high school student or a high school graduate belonging to the top ten
21 percent (10%) of the graduating class entering college and intends to enroll in any PHEI within
22 the country; and

23
24 c) Must have parents or guardians living below the poverty line, as determined by the NEDA and
25 the DSWD.

26
27 SEC. 6. *Sanctions.* – The CHED shall reprimand any PHEI official or employee and other
28 concerned individuals violating Section 4 of this Act and impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to its
29 powers under Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of
30 1994,” for a repetition of the same offense.

31
32 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of
33 this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the Department of Education and the Coordinating Council
34 of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines, issue the necessary rules and regulations to fully
35 implement the provisions of this Act.

36
37 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared
38 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
39 effect.

1 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations
2 contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
3 accordingly.

4
5 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
6 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,