



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6577

BY REPRESENTATIVES TINGA, ANGARA, BIAZON, PALATINO, PIAMONTE,
TEVES, SY-ALVARADO AND DEL MAR, PER COMMITTEE REPORT
No. 2408

AN ACT GRANTING FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES, COLLEGE ENTRANTS OR TRANSFERREES
APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES AND LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND
TO UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE
GRADUATING CLASS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN
PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

*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
2 College Entrance Examination Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to expand and further democratize access to quality education at the
5 college level by instituting mechanisms that protect the rights of
6 underprivileged but bright and deserving high school graduates.

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

1 ³ SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
2 terms shall mean:

3 (a) *College entrance examinations* refer to examinations required by
4 higher education institutions on graduating high school students or high school
5 graduates as one of the criteria for determining admission to a four (4)-year or
6 five (5)-year college degree program in the said educational institutions

7 (b) *Underprivileged public high school graduates* refer to public high
8 school students who belong to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating
9 class and whose parents live below the poverty line or belong to the poorest of
10 the poor, as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority
11 (NEDA) and the National Household Targeting System of the Department of
12 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

13 (c) *Higher Education Institution (HEI)* refers to an educational
14 institution that is legally authorized to offer a program of education leading to
15 the conferment of a degree.

16 SEC. 4. *Coverage.* – All state universities and colleges (SUCs) and
17 local colleges and universities (LCUs) offering degree-granting programs are
18 hereby required to provide free college entrance examinations to graduating
19 high school students, high school graduates, college entrants and transferees
20 who are applying for college admission.

21 All private colleges, universities or institutions of higher education or
22 degree-granting programs are hereby required to provide free entrance
23 examinations to underprivileged public high school students belonging to the
24 top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class and who are applying for college
25 admission.

1 SEC. 5. *Qualification Requirements for Free College Entrance*
2 *Examination Beneficiaries in SUCs and LCUs.* – To be eligible to take the
3 free college entrance examination in an SUC or LCU, an applicant must be a
4 natural-born Filipino citizen and a graduating high school student or high
5 school graduate, college entrant or transferee and intends to enroll in any
6 public HEI.

7 SEC. 6. *Qualification Requirements for Free College Entrance*
8 *Examination Beneficiaries in Private HEIs.* – To be eligible to take the free
9 college entrance examination in a private HEI, an applicant must:

- 10 (a) Be a natural-born Filipino citizen;
11 (b) Be enrolled in or have graduated from a public high school; and
12 (c) Belong to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class as
13 certified by the public school and the Department of Education (DepED);
14 *Provided, however,* That the applicant's parents or guardians live below the
15 poverty line as determined by the NEDA and the DSWD.

16 SEC. 7. *Penalties.* – Any HEI official or employee and other
17 concerned individuals found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall
18 suffer the penalty of *prision correccional* or imprisonment from six (6) months
19 and one (1) day to six (6) years and a fine of Seven hundred fifty thousand
20 pesos (P750,000.00).

21 In addition, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may impose
22 disciplinary sanctions against any HEI official or employee violating the
23 provisions of this Act pursuant to Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722,
24 otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1994”.

25 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The CHED, in
26 coordination with the DepED, the Philippine Association of State Universities
27 and Colleges (PASUC), the Coordinating Council of Private Educational

1 . Associations (COCOPEA) and the Association of Local Colleges and
2 Universities (ALCU), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
3 effective implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is
5 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sanctions or provisions not
6 otherwise affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7 SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees,
8 instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any
9 provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

10 SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
11 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,

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