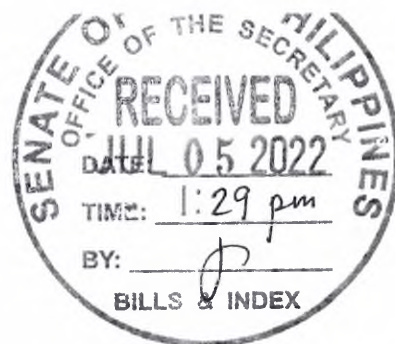


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 29



Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION
ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 2 (3) of the Constitution provides that the State shall "establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged."

Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Education Act," was enacted on 2017 pursuant to that Constitutional mandate. It declared that quality education is an inalienable right of all Filipinos. Also, it recognizes the complementary roles of public and private higher education institutions (HEIs) and technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) in the educational system.

This bill proposes the expansion of the coverage of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) as provided under RA 10931 by introducing the voucher system to allow indigent and academically competent students to enroll and study in private schools in cities and municipalities where there are existing state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs) and public TVIs.

The Department of Education (DepEd) is already implementing the voucher system as a program of financial assistance wherein subsidies in the form of vouchers are provided to qualified Senior High School (SHS) learners in participating private or

non-DepEd public SHSs. The subsidy is not given to the learner as cash and DepEd instead pays directly to the non-DepEd SHS where the learner enrolls. It aims to increase access to SHS and provide greater choice to learners and their families in deciding the SHS program that caters to their needs and career goals.¹

As stated in the updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the United Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board is encouraged to consider “implementing a voucher system and improve the loan system to give students a choice in school (whether public or private) and educational tracks (whether TVET or higher education) prior to the enrollment period.” Further, it stated that “[s]uch would also level the playing field among quality private and public HEIs and TVIs².”

Under this proposed bill, all TES beneficiaries shall continue to receive such benefits or subsidy until they complete their higher education degree program, provided that they do not fail in any of their subjects and comply with the residency requirements.

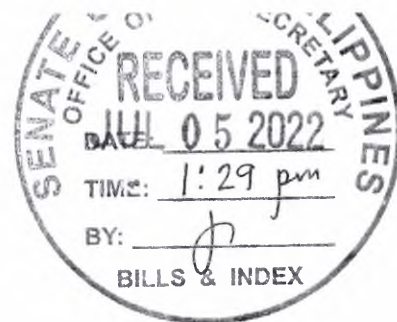
This measure was already approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives during the Eighteenth Congress.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

¹ DepEd order No. 037, s. 2021. https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/DO_s2021_037.pdf

² <https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Pre-publication-copy-Updated-PDP-2017-2022.pdf>



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

1 Section 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to
2 Quality Tertiary Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 "Sec. 7. **TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY (TES)** for Filipino
4 *Students.* – To support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion
5 thereof, a TES is hereby established **IN ALL SUCs, LUCs, PRIVATE HEIs**
6 **AND TVIs** for all Filipino students who [shall] enroll in the **FIRST**
7 undergraduate, post-secondary **TERTIARY EDUCATION** program[s] [of
8 SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs] of their choice. The TES shall be
9 administered by the UniFAST Board and the amount necessary to fund the
10 TES shall be included in the **RESPECTIVE** budgets of the CHED and the
11 TESDA: Provided, That prioritization shall be given to students in the
12 following order: (a) students who are part of households included in the
13 **UPDATED** Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to the estimated per capita
14 household income; and (b) students not part of the Listahanan 2.0, ranked
15 according to estimated per capita household income based on submitted
16 documentation of proof of income to be determined by the UniFAST Board;

1 Provided further, That such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students
2 in cities and municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus **AND**
3 **PUBLIC TVI.**

4 **"THERE SHALL BE A PROPORTIONAL BUDGETARY**
5 **ALLOCATION IN THE FORM OF A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR**
6 **AND ACADEMICALLY COMPETENT STUDENTS WHO OPT TO**
7 **STUDY IN PRIVATE HEIs AND PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND**
8 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs AND**
9 **PUBLIC TVIs. STUDENTS FROM LISTAHANAN HOUSEHOLDS**
10 **SHALL BE PRIORITIZED AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE TES IN**
11 **AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NO EXISTING SUCs, LUCs AND PUBLIC**
12 **TVIs.**

13 **"ALL VOUCHERS ISSUED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE USED**
14 **EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING POOR AND**
15 **ACADEMICALLY COMPETENT STUDENTS WHO OPT TO STUDY IN**
16 **PRIVATE HEIs AND PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND**
17 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs AND**
18 **PUBLIC TVIs.**

19 **"TO SUPPORT THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION OR ANY**
20 **PART OR PORTION THEREOF, [₱]the TES may among others, [and to**
21 ~~support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof,]~~ cover
22 the following:

- 23 a) Tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and private or
24 LGU-operated TVIs which shall be equivalent to the tuition and
25 other school fees of the nearest SUC or state-run TVI in their
26 respective areas;
- 27 b) [An] Allowance for books, **SCHOOL** supplies, transportation **TO**
28 **AND FROM SCHOOL**, and [miscellaneous personal expenses,
29 including a] reasonable allowance for the documented rental or
30 purchase of a [personal computer or laptop] **DESKTOP OR**
31 **PORTABLE COMPUTER WHEN APPLICABLE** [and other
32 education-related expenses];

- 1 c) An allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student
- 2 **WHEN APPLICABLE;**
- 3 d) x x x
- 4 e) x x x

5 **ALL TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE**
6 **SUCH BENEFITS OR SUBSIDY UNTIL THEY COMPLETE THEIR**
7 **POST-SECONDARY TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSE OR**
8 **HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAM: PROVIDED, THAT THEY**
9 **DO NOT FAIL IN ANY SUBJECT ENROLLED IN AND COMPLY WITH**
10 **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES**
11 **OF THE HEIs AND TVIs.**

12 *Sec. 2. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
14 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

15 *Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
17 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
18 accordingly.

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

Approved,