



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5001

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAMBUNTING, GO (M.), BONGALON, REVILLA (B.), CAGAS, BALINDONG, REVILLA (R.J.), ADIONG, RILLO, MANUEL, SUAN, CARDEMA, YU (J.V.), GARCIA (D.), DOMINGO, ABALOS, GARCIA (M.A.), EUDELA, CHUA, SACDALAN, AGARAO, SALO, QUIMBO, CASTRO (F.), GULLAS, DIMAPORO (S.A.), GALEOS, CHATTO, DIMAPORO (M.K.), GOMEZ AND VILLARICA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 50

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 THEIR GRADUATING CLASS

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 Act.*”
- 2 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to expand and further
3 democratize access to quality college education in private higher education institutions by instituting
4 mechanisms that promote the rights of the underprivileged graduating high school students and high
5 school graduates belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of their graduating class.
- 6 The exemption from the imposition of entrance examination fees is one such mechanism that shall give
7 adequate assistance and equal opportunity to these students to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college
8 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
11 higher education institutions on college entrants that is a criterion for determining admission
12 to a college degree program;

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

4 (c) *Private Higher Education Institution* – refers to a higher education institution not owned or
5 controlled by the government or its instrumentalities and may be sectarian (usually non-stock,
6 non-profit, duly incorporated, owned and operated by a religious organization) or non-sectarian
7 (not affiliated to any religious organization, duly incorporated, owned and operated by private
8 entities); and

9 (d) Underprivileged graduating high school students and graduates – refer to graduating high
10 school students or high school graduates entering college, whose parents have a combined
11 income that falls below the poverty threshold, as determined by the National Economic and
12 Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Household Targeting System of the
13 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

14 **SEC. 4. *Waiver of Fees.*** – All private higher education institutions are hereby mandated to waive
15 college entrance examination fees to underprivileged graduating high school students and high school
16 graduates belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class who are applying for college
17 admission.

18 **SEC. 5. *Qualification Requirements.*** – A student shall become eligible as beneficiary under this
19 Act when the following qualifications are met:

20 (a) Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen;

21 (b) Must be a graduating high school student or a high school graduate who belongs to the top ten
22 percent (10%) of their graduating class and seeks to be admitted to a private higher education
23 institution within the country; and

24 (c) Must belong to a family whose combined income falls below the poverty threshold, as determined
25 by the NEDA and the DSWD.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,