

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S E N A T E

S. No. 309

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is a right and not a privilege. However, with the enormous problems encountered by our country today, education remains a small percentage of the household's expenditure. University and college students, both in private and public schools, despite their full efforts to update the school fees obligation, still find extreme difficulties to meet on the scheduled dates the payment of such school fees.

Despite this problem, school authorities still imposed their hard rules by disallowing students with arrearages in school fees from taking mid-term or final examinations unless delinquencies are first settled.

This bill seeks to prescribe a reasonable compromise between the competing needs of students and the administration of the schools where such students are enrolled.

S. Osmeña III

SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING
STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MID-TERM
OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. **Unlawful Practice** – It is hereby declared unlawful for any
2 school, public or private, to disallow any student from taking any mid-term or final
3 examination due to non-payment of tuition fees not exceeding one installment
4 under the established terms of payment prescribed by the school concerned and
5 approved by the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Commission on Higher
6 Education.

7 SEC. 2. **Rights of School** – Students permitted to take mid-term or final
8 examinations, notwithstanding their being invoke by the school authorities
9 concerned to the following:

10 a. The school authorities concerned are entitled to withhold the release of
11 the grades of such students until the unpaid tuition fees, plus interest
12 charges, are fully paid.

13 b. A student, with an unpaid tuition fee, may not be admitted by the
14 school authorities concerned at the next succeeding semester's

1 classes or at the next succeeding opening of a new academic year, as
2 the case may be, until the prior delinquencies are fully paid.

3 c. The school authorities concerned cannot be compelled to issue
4 clearance to students with financial obligations to their schools, which
5 remain due and unpaid.

6 SEC. 3. **Obligation of Students** – The students and/or their parents,
7 unless waived by the school authorities concerned shall be obligated to pay an
8 interest for the unpaid tuition fees, an amount equivalent to not more than
9 fourteen percent (14%), per annum, computed from the date of the examination
10 taken until the tuition fee due and unpaid, are fully liquidated.

11 SEC. 4. **Implementation Guidelines** – The DepEd shall promulgate the
12 implementing guidelines necessary to enforce fully the objectives of this Act.

13 SEC. 5. **Penalty Imposed** – Violations of the provisions of this Act shall
14 be punished by suspension and/or cancellation of the permits of the offending
15 schools and fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) but not
16 exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

17 SEC. 6. **Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its
18 publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

19 Approved,