

13TH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

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S. No. 554

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many institutions of higher learning in the country have deteriorated to an extent that they fail to produce passers of national examinations. As of late, at least 11 schools and colleges failed to produce graduates who passed national licensure examinations in accountancy, civil engineering, nursing, midwifery, and law.

To arrest this shameful state of the educational system, it is imperative to give more powers to the Commission on Higher Education so that they can adequately address this problem. The CHED at present suffers from bureaucratic infirmities. More leeway and flexibility to its mandate may give it the tools to do something about the proliferation of "diploma mills" in the country.

Approval of this Bill is, thus, requested.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR GENERATING QUALITY GRADUATES
OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BASED ON PERFORMANCE IN
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Professional Examination Zero-
2 Performance Policy Act.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to constantly
4 improve the standards of higher education in the Philippines to ensure that students get the best
5 education possible from both the public and private higher education institutions.

6 In the furtherance of this policy, the State shall likewise provide for appropriate safeguards to
7 maintain the high quality of professional education by arresting the perceived decline in the
8 quality of higher education brought about by the continued onslaught of commercialization of
9 education in higher education institutions whose administrations are more inclined to maximize
10 the tuition revenues than the provision of a sound and competent higher education.

11 The State shall ensure provision of quality and relevant higher education by linking continued
12 government accreditation of professional degree courses of higher education institutions to the
13 performance of their graduates in the professional board examinations.

14 SEC. 3. *Zero-Performance Policy.* – Government recognition and/or permit to operate
15 pertinent and related professional courses by any higher education institution whether public or
16 private, whose graduates have registered zero-performance in any professional board or bar

1 examination in three (3) out of five (5) consecutive times they participated in shall be revoked
2 permanently.

3 SEC. 4. *Publication.* – In addition to the usual publication of individual examinee results,
4 the various professional examination boards under the Professional Regulation Commission
5 (PRC) and the Supreme Court, in case of the bar examinations, are hereby required to also
6 publish results in nationally circulated newspapers showing the percentage of successful
7 examinees from the higher education institutions that participated in the examinations.

8 The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)
9 and the Supreme Court (as the case may be), shall jointly publish professional examination
10 results in nationally circulated newspapers of the top ten (10) best and worst performing higher
11 education institutions in each of the higher education programs with professional licensure
12 examinations. Further, the CHED shall likewise be required to publish in nationally circulated
13 newspapers the list of higher education institutions whose government recognition and/or permit
14 to operate pertinent and related professional courses have been revoked because of zero-
15 performance in professional licensure examinations.

16 SEC. 5. *Incentives and Awards.* – The CHED shall provide incentives and/or
17 awards/recognition to higher education institutions which have consistently registered best
18 performance for five (5) consecutive years in each of the higher education programs with
19 professional licensure examinations. The necessary criteria shall be set by the CHED in
20 consultation with PRC, Supreme Court and other relevant professional organizations.

21 SEC. 6. *Implementation.* – The CHED in cooperation with the PRC, or the Supreme Court
22 in case of the bar examination, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
23 implementation of this Act and shall implement this Act: *Provided, That* the implementation
24 shall not be later than one (1) academic year after the passage of this Act.

25 SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall
26 be charged against the current year's appropriations of the CHED and/or the Higher Education
27 Development Fund (HEDF). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued
28 implementation of the Professional Examination Zero-Performance Policy Act shall be included

1 in the annual General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That incentives and/or rewards to be given
2 to higher education institutions as provided under Section 5, hereof, shall be taken from the
3 HEDF.

4 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, statutes, directives, orders and/or presidential
5 issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be repealed or amended
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general publication,
9 whichever comes first.

Approved,