

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1375

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION APPROVED HIGHER TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES FOR 313
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides: The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development”;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in 2012 said in its Memorandum Order No. 3, Section 7, that schools applying for tuition increase should submit the following as part of the requirements:

7.2.2. The Certificate of Intended Compliance (COIC) shall state that:

For intended increase in tuition, 70 percent of the proceeds to be derived from the tuition fee increase shall be used for the payment of increase in salaries, wages, allowances, and other benefits of its teaching and non-teaching personnel and other staff, except administrators who are principal stockholders of the HEI, and may be used to cover increases as provided for in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), if any, existing in force at the time when Republic Act No. 6728 was approved and made effective. At least 20 percent shall go to the improvement or modernization of buildings, equipment, libraries, laboratories, gymnasias, and similar facilities and to the payment of other costs of operation pursuant to R.A. 6728. The COIC shall be certified under oath by the school head.

7.2.3. The Certificate of Compliance (COC) shall state that:

For increase in tuition, 70 percent of the proceeds to be derived from the tuition fee increase shall be used for the payment of increase in salaries, wages, allowances, and other benefits of its teaching and non-teaching personnel and other staff, except administrators who are principal stockholders of the HEI, and may be used to cover increases as provided for in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), if any, existing in force at the time when Republic Act No. 6728 was approved and made effective. At least 20 percent shall go to the improvement or modernization of buildings, equipment, libraries, laboratories, gymnasias, and similar facilities and to the payment of other costs of operation pursuant to R.A. 6728. The COC shall be certified under oath by the school head.

1 WHEREAS, various media sources in May reported that the Commission on Higher
2 Education (CHED) approved higher tuition and other school fees for 313 colleges and
3 universities nationwide;

4 WHEREAS, citing CHED data, the news said 283 higher education institutions (HEIs)
5 were allowed to increase tuition, 212 to increase other school fees, while 182 schools were
6 allowed to increase both tuition and other school fees;

7 WHEREAS, the total number of 313 HEIs granted tuition and school fee hikes in 2015
8 reportedly rose from 287 in 2014;

9 WHEREAS, the CHED claimed that despite the increase in the number of HEIs, the
10 average tuition increment dipped to ₱29.86 per unit in 2015 from the average increment of
11 ₱35.66 per unit in 2014, while the average increment in school fees decreased to ₱135.60 in
12 2015 from ₱141.55 in 2014;

13 WHEREAS, education advocacy groups allegedly questioned CHED's approval of the
14 increase in tuition and other fees, saying that the proceeds collected from the increased fees will
15 only serve as profit to private entities running HEIs;

16 WHEREAS, it is the duty of government to protect the welfare of students and to broaden
17 access to higher education;

18 WHEREAS, there is a need to determine whether the CHED is fully capable of
19 monitoring strict compliance to guidelines it issued on the use of proceeds resulting from an
20 increase in tuition and other school fees;

21 WHEREAS, Congress must consider drafting legislation that will establish monitoring
22 mechanisms to ensure that tuition and other school fees are used to collect funds to be used
23 appropriately, and not abused for profit;

24 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
25 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that the
26 Commission on Higher Education approved higher tuition and other school fees for 313 colleges
27 and universities nationwide.

Adopted,

/karp


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
JP