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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 198

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DISMAL PASSING RATE OF HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS ON LICENSURE AND ELIGIBILITY EXAMINATIONS

Whereas, the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;

Whereas, Republic Act No. 7722 or the Higher Education Modernization Act was enacted in 1994 which created the Commission on Higher Education and mandating it, as an independent and separate agency from the Department of Education to be in-charge of both public and private institutions of higher education as well as degree-granting programs in all post-secondary educational institutions, public and private, to ensure that these higher learning institutions gear their programs to national, regional or local development plans;

Whereas, pursuant to Sec. 8, letter e. of RA 7722 or the Higher Education Act of 1994, the Commission on Higher Education shall monitor and evaluate the performance of programs and institutions of higher learning for appropriate incentives as well as the imposition of sanctions such as, but not limited to, diminution or withdrawal of subsidy, recommendation on the downgrading or withdrawal of accreditation, **program termination** or school closure;

Whereas, the professions currently requiring government licensure administered by the Professional Regulations Commission are: Marine Engineer Officers, Architects, Pharmacists, Geodetic Engineers, Physical Therapists & Occupational Therapists, Ocular Pharmacology, Physicians, Sanitary Engineers, Marine Deck Officers, Landscape Architect, Medical Technologists, Master Plumbers, Criminologists, Electronics & Communications Engineer, Mechanical Engineers & C.P.M., Registered Electrical Engineers, Registered Master Electricians, Midwives, Chemical Engineers, Civil Engineers, Certified Public Accountants, Dentist, Nurses, Radiologic Technologists & X-Ray Technologists, Foresters, Environmental Planners, Social Workers, Agriculturists, Nutritionists-Dietitians, Optometrists, Optometrists, Agricultural Engineers, Veterinarians, Mining Engineers, Metallurgical Engineers, Professional Teachers, Chemists, Naval Architects & Marine Engineers, Registered Electrical Engineers, Engineer Officers, Fishery Technologists, Customs Brokers, Interiors Designers, Librarians, and Aeronautical Engineers;

Whereas, since the creation of CHED, there have been four (4) reviews of the results of licensure examinations and the issuance of corresponding phase-out orders to higher education institutions (HEIs) found to have been performing poorly;

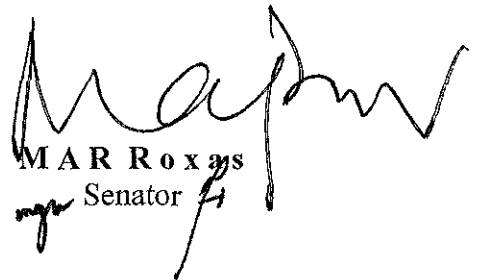
Whereas, in the year 2002-2003, there are a total of 1,603 tertiary level schools in the Philippines, where 1,214 are private while the rest are public;

Whereas, as of April 2004, there are 191 higher learning institutions with programs phased-out order due to poor performance in the PRC licensure examinations. Among the top three (3) courses with dismal passing rate are: BS Accountancy, Bachelor of Elementary Education, and BS Civil Engineering;

Whereas, data from CHED reflect that from CY 1997 – 2001, the average passing percentage across 33 professional fields requiring eligibility or license prior to practice for the past five (5) years is 44.53%, with Geology obtaining the highest average passing percentage in 2001 (91%), followed by Mining Engineering (87%). But for medicine, it is 62% in 2001;

Whereas, there is a need to look into the dismal passing rate of colleges and universities and determine whether stricter rules on mandatory review should be instituted, or a uniform cut-off rate should be imposed in evaluating the performance of an HEI, or limit the minimum passing rate to a 5% in order for an HEI to be allowed to offer the degree program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the dismal passing rate of higher learning institutions on licensure and eligibility examinations.



MAR Roxas
Senator