

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
Second Regular Session

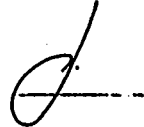
)  
)  
)

21 APR 15 P3:56

**SENATE**

**P. S. RES. NO** 701

RECEIVED



---

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

---

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO CONDUCT A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT"**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act" (UAQTEA) established a student loan program (SLP) for all Filipino students who enroll in state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), private higher education institution (HEI) and technical vocation education and training (TVET) programs in all technical vocational institutions registered under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);

**WHEREAS**, the loans under the SLP may either be short-term or long-term loan, with short-term loans payable within one academic year, while long-term loans are payable once the beneficiary secures gainful employment with the necessary compensation, remuneration or earnings in order to repay the loan, as determined by the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFast) Board;

**WHEREAS**, the UniFast Board issued the guidelines for the availment of the short-term loan under the SLP on October 15, 2018, while the UniFast Board committed to prepare a separate set of guidelines for the long-term loan program within two years from the enactment of UAQTEA, or sometime in 2019;

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) entered into a memorandum of agreement to implement the short-term student loan program under the UAQTEA, with

an initial budget of Php1 billion.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, the partnership will “provide timely and automated disbursement requirements for the UAQTEA’s SLPTE-ST and other scholarships, grants and financial assistance programs;”<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, no similar guidelines, to date, has been issued regarding the implementation of the long-term student loan program under the UAQTEA;

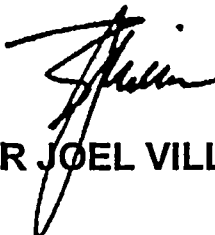
**WHEREAS**, with massive unemployment at 8.7% as of October 2020, equivalent to 3.8 million jobless Filipinos, a lot of students have also found themselves affected with the change in the financial situation of their parents, guardians or other people who support them in their education;

**WHEREAS**, considering that the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to end soon, the one-year repayment period under the short-term loan component of the SLP may not be enough to help tide students over the next academic year;

**WHEREAS**, given the global economic contraction and the financial difficulties being faced by many, there is a need to ensure that the existing programs of the government that provide financial aid to students, such as the SLP under the UAQTEA, are communicated broadly to all students and their parents. In addition, these financial assistance programs should also be implemented properly and more intensely to help the most number of students;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and other appropriate committees of the Senate, to conduct a review, in aid of legislation, of the implementation of the student loan program established under UAQTEA, with the end of view of ensuring that the loan program is disseminated widely and the implementation of both the short-term and long-term loan programs under the UAQTEA are immediately, properly and widely rolled-out.

Adopted,

  
**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

---

<sup>1</sup> 2019, April 17. CHED allots P1 billion for short-term student loan program. Rappler. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/nation/ched-allotment-for-student-loan-program>

<sup>2</sup> 2019, April 17. CHED, DBP deal to fully implement student loan program. Philippine News Agency . Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1067630>