

SENATE
S. No. 1672

23 JAN 12 P5 :49

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO THE
UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING
STUDENTS AND GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP FIFTEEN PERCENT
(15%) OF THEIR GRADUATING CLASS FOR ADMISSION IN PRIVATE
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

College admission has become more of a privilege than a right nowadays. Under privileged students struggle in taking the college admission examinations in their aspired university not because of lack of capability to pass the same but due to limited financial capacity to take the admission test.

In order to ensure that every students are given equal opportunity to pursue their aspired degree in their chosen university, or to be given another chance in college should they fail to secure admission in a State University, a legislative initiative granting free college entrance examination to the underprivileged Public Senior High School graduating students and graduates belonging to the Top Fifteen Percent (15%) of their graduating class for admission in private higher education institution is hereby proposed.

This bill seeks to aid the students from underprivileged background to rise up and pursue their dream in applying for admission in private higher educations. It aims to increase the morale of the students and encourage those who are academically gifted but financially lacking that cost of entrance examinations should not limit their opportunities in life and should not be a hindrance in the pursuit of their college admission in a private higher education.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARK A. VILLAR

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Libreng College*
2 *Entrance Exam Fee Act*".

3 Sec 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 expand and further democratize access to quality college education in private higher
5 education institutions by instituting mechanism to promote the rights of the
6 underprivileged public senior high school graduating students and graduates
7 belonging to the top fifteen percent (15%) of their graduating class.

8 This exemption from imposing of the entrance examination fees is one
9 mechanism that shall provide adequate assistance and equal opportunity to these
10 students to pursue their dream of obtaining a college education.

11 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* –

12 a. *College Entrance Examinations* – refer to the examinations required
13 and administered by higher education institutions on college degree
14 program;

1 b. *Underprivileged Public Senior High School Graduating Students and*
2 *Graduates* – refer to graduating senior high school students or
3 graduates of public schools entering college, whose parents have
4 combined income that falls below the poverty threshold, as
5 determined by the National Economic Development Authority
6 (NEDA) and the National Household Targeting System of the
7 Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD);

8 c. Private Higher Educational Institution (PHEI) – refers to a higher
9 educational institution not owned or controlled by the government
10 or its instrumentalities and may be sectarian or non-sectarian.

11 Sec. 4. *Waiver of Fees.* – The college entrance examination fees in PHEIs for
12 the underprivileged public senior high school graduating students and graduates
13 belonging to the top fifteen percent (15%) of their graduating class shall be waived.
14 It shall be covered under the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education – Unified
15 Student Financial Assistance Secretariat (CHED-UniFAST).

16 Sec. 5. *Qualification Requirements for Free College Entrance Examination*
17 *Beneficiaries in Private HEIs.* – A student shall become eligible as beneficiary under
18 this Act when the following requirements are met:

19 a. A natural born Filipino Citizen;

20 b. Must be a graduating senior high school student or graduate who
21 belongs to the top fifteen percent (15%) of their graduating class
22 and seeks to be admitted to a private higher education institution
23 within the country; and

24 c. Must belong to a family whose combined income falls below the
25 poverty threshold, as determined by the NEDA and DSWD.

26 The eligible beneficiaries may avail of these waived fees for no more than
27 three (3) examinations.

28 Sec. 6. *Sanctions.* – The CHED shall reprimand any official or employee of a
29 PHEI or other individuals who violate Section 4 of this Act, and impose disciplinary
30 sanctions for a repetition of the same offense, pursuant to its power under Section
31 8(e) of the Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "*Higher Education Act of*
32 *1994*".

1 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days
2 from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED-UniFAST in coordination with the
3 Department of Education (DepEd) and the Coordinating Council of Private
4 Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA), shall promulgate the
5 necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. *Provided,*
6 That the non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this section
7 shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon effectivity.

8 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
10 continue to be in full force and effect.

11 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
12 instructions, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with
13 this Act shall be deemed notified, amended, or repealed accordingly.

14 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
15 its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,