

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1235

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT
PROHIBITING A "NO PERMIT, NO EXAM" POLICY OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PREVENTS
STUDENTS OF ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION FROM TAKING THEIR EXAMINATIONS DUE
TO UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

High-quality education is a dream all Filipino parents have for their children and they often go to great lengths to send them to the best schools in the country.

Unfortunately, the mounting financial requirements of raising children today leave some parents unable to pay their child's tuition and other fees on time.

Adding to the anxiety is a widespread discriminatory practice in schools that prevents students with outstanding balances from taking examinations. As a result, many students' academic careers are compromised when they are disallowed from taking final examinations.

This bill seeks to criminalize the "No permit, No exam" policy in schools, and make it illegal for any school to prevent a student from taking examinations due to unpaid fees.

By penalizing this unlawful practice, Filipino families stand to gain by guaranteeing that students unable to settle educational fees on-time, may still benefit from the continuity of their education once outstanding balances are fully paid.

In addition, this bill also promotes the welfare of educational institutions by putting in place measures that protect a school's right to fair payment for tuition and miscellaneous fees.

It is of utmost importance to protect the welfare of our students and ensure that they have a fair opportunity to complete their education.

This legislation will greatly benefit students and families who suffer financial distress during the examination season and uphold the dignity of every student in schools.

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


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV



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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 "Banning a No Permit, No
2 Exam Policy Act."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right of all the citizens to quality education at all levels. The State shall take
5 appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Thus, it is hereby declared
6 unlawful for any educational institution, whether public or private to disallow any student
7 from taking any examination due to non- payment of tuition and other school fees.

8 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** - This Act shall cover the following educational institutions:
9

- 10 a) Private elementary schools;
- 11 b) Private secondary schools;
- 12 c) Public and private post-secondary technical -vocational institutes; and
- 13 d) Public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including local
- 14 colleges and universities.

15 **SEC. 4. No Permit, No Exam Policy.** - Schools shall be prohibited from adopting a
16 "No Permit, No Exam Policy", which limits the right to every student to take examinations
17 notwithstanding the existence of unpaid financial obligations to the school. Provided, That
18 the parents or legal guardian of the student provide a promissory note, addressed to the
19 school, indicating the amount and the date of payment.

20
21 The school shall reserve the right to pursue the recovery of the unpaid tuition fees
22 through proper court action where civil rights and liabilities may be judicially established
23 and collected. This shall not prohibit the student, parents, or legal guardians to seek

1 informal means of resolving tuition fee disputes or enter into an agreement with the school
2 before proceeding to court.

3 **SEC. 5. *Prohibited Acts.*** – The following acts shall be prohibited:

- 4 a) Disallowing students with due and unpaid tuition and other school fees from
5 taking examinations or providing a different schedule of exam from the rest
6 of the student body; and
7 b) Requiring the students to secure a special permit to take the examinations
8 from the school authorities prior to the administration of examinations.

9 **SEC. 6. *Penalties.*** - Any educational institution official or employee, including deans,
10 coordinators, advisers, professors, instructors, principals, teachers and other concerned
11 individuals found guilty of violating any of the unlawful acts enumerated in Section 7 of this
12 Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) but
13 not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 50,000.00).

14 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** –The Department of Education
15 (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Commission on
16 Higher Education (CHED) shall issue the rules and regulations necessary to implement the
17 provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from the date of its approval.

18 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or
19 unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby and
20 shall remain in force and effect.

21 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
22 proclamations, issuances, administrative order, rules and regulations contrary to or
23 inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
24 accordingly.

25 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.