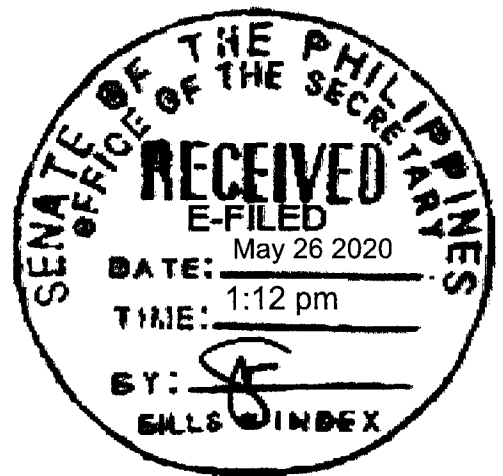


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. NO. 422**

---

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

---

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE AND ASSESS THE RESPONSE AND ACTION PLANS OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC), THE SUPREME COURT (SC), THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC), THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION (NAPOLCOM), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), AND THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs), ON THE CONDUCT OF ITS RESPECTIVE ENTRANCE AND LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW NORMAL**

1           WHEREAS, on 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO)  
2 declared the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease as a public health  
3 emergency of international concern;

4           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted a lot of countries  
5 worldwide, placing the global count of confirmed coronavirus cases to 5,335,868  
6 million and the total number of global deaths to 341,549 as of 24 May 2020,  
7 according to Johns Hopkins University's case tracker;

8           WHEREAS, serious health concerns on coronavirus along with the lockdown  
9 measures in different countries have affected almost all sectors globally including the  
10 education sector, which saw an interruption on the academic year and a forced  
11 cancellation or postponement of classes and examinations;

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Gwang-Chol Chang, Chief of United Nations Educational,  
13 Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Section of Education Policy has  
14 indicated that based on the organization's rapid global analysis, 58 out of 84  
15 surveyed countries had postponed or rescheduled exams, 23 introduced alternative

1 methods such as online exam, 22 maintained exams, while 11 countries cancelled  
2 examinations altogether;

3 WHEREAS, for the first time, in March 2020, 280 sixth-year medicine  
4 undergraduates of the Imperial College London took a remote final exams online  
5 composed of 150 questions in a span of three hours;

6 WHEREAS, in the Philippines, the Professional Regulation Commission  
7 postponed 24 licensure exams from March to July 2020 due to the continuous  
8 spread of COVID-19 in the country;

9 WHEREAS, on 29 April 2020, the Supreme Court issued Bar Bulletin No. 11, s.  
10 2020 which postponed the 2020 Bar examinations to 2021 due to the increasing  
11 number of COVID-19 cases in the country, as well as the social and economic  
12 disruption caused by the pandemic;

13 WHEREAS, the Civil Service Commission suspended the Career Service  
14 Examination-Pen and Paper Test (CSE-PPT) nationwide scheduled on 15 March 2020  
15 with expected participants of 293,845 individuals;

16 WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police Entrance and Promotional Exam on  
17 26 April 2020 was suspended and re-scheduled tentatively in October 2020 by the  
18 NAPOLCOM;

19 WHEREAS, according to CHED Chairman Prospero De Vera III during the  
20 Senate's Committee of the Whole hearing on 21 May 2020, several colleges and  
21 universities have opted to waive entrance examinations and instead assess students'  
22 admission based on their high school general average;

23 WHEREAS, in the same hearing, Chairman De Vera III informed the upper  
24 chamber that there are some state universities and colleges (SUCs) who are keen to  
25 have a combination of an online test and physical test;

26 WHEREAS, despite the cancellation, postponement, and modification of  
27 different exams nationwide, the concerned agencies and other stakeholders should  
28 work on crafting plans that will safeguard the integrity of all examinations while  
29 assuring that minimum recommended health protocols are well in place with due  
30 regard to the specific needs of individuals with disabilities, with less conducive  
31 environment, with no access to internet, and those who are currently in isolation;

1           NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the  
2 Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate senate committee to conduct an  
3 inquiry, in aid of legislation, to determine and assess the response and action plans  
4 of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Supreme Court (SC), the Civil  
5 Service Commission (CSC), the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), the  
6 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the public and private Higher  
7 Education Institutions (HEIS) on the conduct of their respective entrance and  
8 licensure examinations amid the COVID-19 pandemic and in preparation of the New  
9 Normal.

*Approved,*



SONNY ANGARA