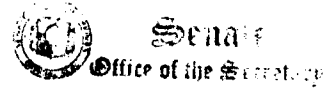
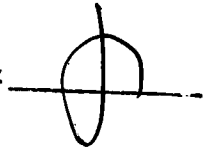


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 SEP 14 P5:53

SENATE

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S.B. NO. 2441

(In substitution of SBNs 1407, 1672, 1679, 1708 and 2079, taking into consideration HBN 5001)

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Basic Education with Senators Revilla Jr., Villar (M.), Lapid, Go, Tulfo, Escudero, and Gatchalian as authors thereof

AN ACT
MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WAIVE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES AND CHARGES OF CERTAIN STUDENTS QUALIFIED TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

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 “*Free College Entrance*
2 *Examinations Act*”.

3 *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to
5 democratize access to quality tertiary education. In line with this declared policy, and
6 in cognizance of the need to assist disadvantaged students that show potential for
7 academic excellence, the State shall exempt qualified graduates and graduating
8 students from payment of entrance examination fees administered by private higher
9 education institutions (HEIs).

10 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act:

11 (a) *College Entrance Examinations* shall refer to examinations administered
12 by private HEIs that serve as one of the criteria in the selection of
13 prospective students for admission;

- 1 (b) *Graduates and Graduating Students* shall refer to learners who have
2 completed or are about to complete the Enhanced Basic Education
3 Program as provided under Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as
4 the "*Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*"; the Accreditation and
5 Equivalency Assessments and Certifications for Senior High School Level
6 under the Alternative Learning System as provided under Republic Act
7 No. 11510, otherwise known as the "*Alternative Learning System Act*";
8 and other similar educational programs or accreditation and equivalency
9 assessments and certifications as may be identified by the Department
10 of Education (DEPED);
- 11 (c) *Higher Education* shall refer to the stage of formal education, or its
12 equivalent, requiring completion of secondary education and covering
13 programs of study leading to bachelor and advanced degrees, including
14 associate degrees; and
- 15 (d) *Private Higher Education Institutions* shall refer to HEIs duly recognized
16 by CHED which are owned or operated by private persons, natural or
17 juridical, whether sectarian or non-sectarian.

18 **Sec. 4. *Waiver of Entrance Examination Fees.*** – All private HEIs are hereby
19 mandated to waive the college entrance examination fees and charges imposed on
20 qualified graduates and graduating students who are applying for college admission.

21 **Sec. 5. *Eligibility Requirements.*** – A graduate or graduating student shall be
22 eligible for the waiver of college entrance examination fees and charges upon the
23 satisfaction of the following qualifications and requirements:

- 24 (a) The graduate or graduating student must be a natural-born Filipino
25 citizen;
- 26 (b) The graduate or graduating student must belong to the top ten percent
27 (10%) of his or her graduating class;
- 28 (c) The graduate or graduating student must belong to a family whose
29 combined household income falls below the poverty threshold as defined
30 by the National Economic and Development Authority or cannot afford in
31 a sustained manner to provide for their minimum basic needs of food,

1 health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life duly
2 certified as such by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

3 (d) The graduate or graduating student must apply for college entrance
4 examination to any private HEI within the country; and

5 (e) The graduate or graduating student must satisfy all other requirements
6 as specified by the private HEI concerned;

7 *Sec. 6. Penalties.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is hereby
8 authorized, in accordance with Section 8(e) of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise
9 known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”, to determine and impose appropriate
10 sanctions against responsible officials or employees of private HEIs for failure or
11 refusal to comply with the provisions of this Act.

12 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the DEPED and in
14 consultation with the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the
15 Philippines, or its equivalent institution, promulgate the rules and regulations to
16 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

17 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
19 remain in full force and effect.

20 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
21 rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
22 this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

23 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately following its
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,