

Republic of the Philippines  
**Congress of the Philippines**  
Metro Manila  
Fifteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand twelve.

[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. **10609** ]

AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS  
ENROLLED IN COURSES REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL  
LICENSING EXAMINATIONS TO ENROLL IN REVIEW  
CENTERS OF THEIR CHOICE AND PROVIDING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as  
the "Protection of Students' Right to Enroll in Review Centers  
Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy  
of the State to promote and protect the right to education as  
enshrined in the Philippine Constitution. While the State  
recognizes the complementary roles of public and private  
institutions in the enhancement and strengthening of the  
educational system, it is also the responsibility of the State to  
ensure the protection of students against possible abuses by  
Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in relation to the right of  
students to choose their review centers.

**SEC. 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover all public and private HEIs, including local colleges and universities, offering courses that require professional licensure examinations.

**SEC. 4. Unlawful Acts.** – In recognition of the student's freedom to choose his/her review center, the following acts by HEIs shall be considered unlawful:

(1) Compelling students enrolled in courses requiring professional examinations to take review classes, which are not part of the curriculum, in a review center of the HEI's choice;

(2) Making such review classes a prerequisite for graduation or completion of the course;

(3) Forcing students to enroll in a review center of the school's choice, and to pay the corresponding fees that include transportation and board and lodging; and

(4) Withholding the transcript of scholastic records, diploma, certification or any essential document of the student to be used in support of the application for the professional licensure examinations so as to compel the students to attend in a review center of the HEI's choice.

**SEC. 5. Penalties.** – Any HEI official or employee, including deans, coordinators, advisers, professors and other concerned individuals found guilty of violating any of the unlawful acts enumerated in Section 4 of this Act shall suffer the penalty of *prision correccional* or imprisonment from six (6) months and one (1) day to six (6) years and a fine of Seven hundred fifty thousand pesos (P750,000.00). He/She shall also be suspended from his/her office and his/her professional license revoked.

In addition, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may impose disciplinary sanctions against an HEI official or employee violating this Act pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1994".

**SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The CHED shall be tasked to issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within thirty (30) days after this law takes effect.

