



S E N A T E

S. No. 2441

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1407, 1672, 1679, 1708,
and 2079, taking into consideration House Bill No.
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,
GATCHALIAN, VILLANUEVA, DELA ROSA, PADILLA AND
LEGARDA 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
2 the “Free College Entrance Examinations Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared
4 the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of

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

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

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

15 (b) *Graduates and Graduating Students* shall refer to
16 learners who have completed or are about to complete the
17 Enhanced Basic Education Program as provided under
18 Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the
19 “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”; the Accreditation

1 and Equivalency Assessments and Certifications for Senior
2 High School Level under the Alternative Learning System
3 as provided under Republic Act No. 11510, otherwise
4 known as the “Alternative Learning System Act”; and
5 other similar educational programs or accreditation and
6 equivalency assessments and certifications as may be
7 identified by the Department of Education (DepEd);

8 (c) *Higher Education* shall refer to the stage of formal
9 education, or its equivalent, requiring completion of
10 secondary education and covering programs of study
11 leading to bachelor and advanced degrees, including
12 associate degrees; and

13 (d) *Private Higher Education Institutions* shall refer
14 to HEIs duly recognized by the Commission on Higher
15 Education (CHED) which are owned or operated by
16 private persons, natural or juridical, whether sectarian or
17 non-sectarian.

18 SEC. 4. *Waiver of Entrance Examination Fees.* – All
19 private HEIs are hereby mandated to waive the college

1 entrance examination fees and charges imposed on
2 qualified graduates and graduating students who are
3 applying for college admission.

4 SEC. 5. *Eligibility Requirements.* – A graduate or
5 graduating student shall be eligible for the waiver of
6 college entrance examination fees and charges upon the
7 satisfaction of the following qualifications and
8 requirements:

9 (a) The graduate or graduating student must be a
10 natural-born Filipino citizen;

11 (b) The graduate or graduating student must belong
12 to the top ten percent (10%) of his or her graduating class;

13 (c) The graduate or graduating student must belong
14 to a family whose combined household income falls below
15 the poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic
16 and Development Authority or cannot afford in a sustained
17 manner to provide for their minimum basic needs of food,
18 health, education, housing and other essential amenities of

1 life duly certified as such by the Department of Social
2 Welfare and Development;

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

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

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

15 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
16 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
17 CHED shall, in coordination with the DepEd and in
18 consultation with the Coordinating Council of Private
19 Educational Associations of the Philippines, or its

1 equivalent institution, promulgate the rules and
2 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this
3 Act.

4 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part
5 hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of
6 this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain
7 in full force and effect.

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

12 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect
13 immediately following its publication in the *Official*
14 *Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,