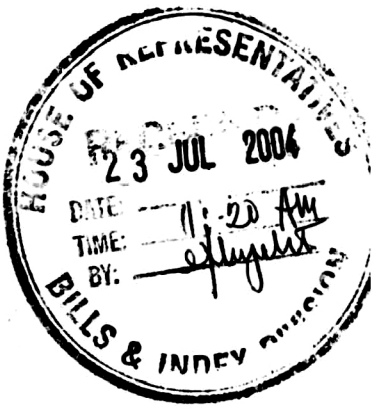
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB NO. 1601

Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to regulate the prices of matriculation, tuition and other school fees in all public and private schools nationwide and proposes to create for the purpose a School Fee Board in all public and private school levels.

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "the State shall protect the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

Every opening of the school year, floods of complaints from parents and students reach the government because of the sky-rocketing increases of matriculation, tuition and other school fees imposed by both the public and private schools in all academic levels. This scenario has often made parents alienated from their desire to send their children to school to the point that many of them feel helpless and disappointed by the fact that the State, in one way or the other, play deaf, blind and mute of the hardship that they face in sending their children to school.

There has been attempts on the part of the students, especially those in the college or university levels, to rally behind either to shut off or delay any plans by schools to impose increases in school fees. Unfortunately, efforts have been found to be inutile and futile inasmuch as the State, despite the aforesaid constitutional provision which protects the interest and welfare of students especially in regard to the accessibility of educational opportunities, has somehow adopted a quite lackadaisical approach towards stopping imminent school fee increases.

This bill therefore seeks to institutionalize a mechanism to ward off the problem of lack of consultation, if at all there are such consultations made, by school administrations from the stakeholders. This will consequently democratize the system of participation and involvement of the stakeholders in the issue of school fee increases.

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

ROSELLER L. BARINAGA
Representative
2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

Congress of the Philippines)
Thirteenth Congress)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB NO. 1601

Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

AN ACT
TO REGULATE THE PRICES OF MATRICULATION, TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A SCHOOL FEE BOARD IN ALL SCHOOL LEVELS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "School Fees Regulation Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SEC. 3. *School Fee Board, establishment; composition.* There is hereby established, under this Act, a School Fee Board, which is herein referred to as the Board, in all school levels whether public or private academic institution. The said School Fee Boards shall be constituted of the following:

(a) The Chairperson of the Local School Board of the city or municipality where the particular school is geographically situated;

(b) City or District Superintendent of Schools who has territorial jurisdiction of subject school or his/her duly authorized representative;

(c) Chairperson of the Committee on Education of the City or Municipal *Sangguniang Panglunsod*;

(d) President of the Association of *Barangay* Chairpersons (ABC) of city or municipality where concerned school is geographically situated;

(e) President or Head of the concerned academic institution or his/her duly authorized representative;

(f) One (1) representative from the faculty or teaching personnel of concerned school who shall be appointed by concerned school faculty or teaching personnel;

(g) One (1) representative from the non-teaching personnel of concerned school who shall be appointed by concerned school non-teaching personnel;

(h) Two (2) representatives from the recognized community parents association of concerned school who shall be appointed by the community parents association of concerned school; and

(i) One (1) representative from the high school and/or college students of concerned school, whichever is applicable, who shall be appointed by the recognized supreme student council of concerned school.

SEC. 4. *Mandate*. For purposes of this Act, the School Fee Board is hereby mandated to:

(a) establish an integrated and comprehensive mechanism to regulate the prices of matriculation, tuition and other school fees to be charged and implemented every before the start of the fiscal academic year;

(b) monitor, study and evaluate the state of school fees that are being implemented in its area of jurisdiction;

(c) propose legislative actions for the regulation of school fees both in the local and national levels; and

(d) perform any other function which the Board may consider within its jurisdiction.

SEC. 5. *Scope and Coverage*. This Act shall cover all public and private academic institutions which offer primary, secondary and tertiary academic programs. Private review schools or centers are also hereby covered by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Freedom from Interference or Coercion.* Any member of the School Fee Board shall be free from any act of interference or coercion, at any time, to include, but not limited to, any of the following acts:

(a) Intimidating, forcing or preventing any member of the School Fee Board from defending his/her stance on the issue that concerns the regulation of matriculation and tuition fees;

(b) Preventing any member of the School Fee Board from joining or assisting student or parents' organizations or unions for purposes not contrary to law, in order to defend and protect their interest and to obtain redress of grievances through peaceful concerted efforts;

(c) Preventing any member of the School Fee Board from carrying out his/her duties and functions or to deny or make calculated harassment and interference with the intention of intimidating or preventing any member of the Board from performing his duties and functions;

(c) Performing acts calculated to diminish the independence and freedom of a social worker's union or organization to direct its own affairs.

SEC. 7. *Rules and Guidelines*. The Department of Education (Dep. Ed) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Penalty Clause*. Refusal on the part of the head of any public or private academic institution, including the State Colleges and Universities (SCUs) and other CHED-supervised institutions, to effect the intent and provisions of this Act shall be penalized by a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause*. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause*. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.