

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4387



Introduced by REP. BENJAMIN DC. ABALOS, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The economic situation of a nation defines its citizen's quality of existence. This identification of symptoms gathers a wide range of implication as well as complications. Citing our educational system as one of the primary recipient of such effect, I see no wisdom in the continuous tuition fee hike of the private educational institutions.

Education must be made accessible to all. Our Constitution provides that "the state shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all". A typical family of average income proportions a great share of their budget for a quality education for their children and for which they believe that private schools can provide.

Tuition fee increases are not just annually, but in some private institutions, it becomes a mere practice to raise their tuition and miscellaneous fees per semester. These increases do not only pose a major problem for the parents and students but also a threat to the basic necessities of every Filipino family. Tuition fees are already sky high—another increase would be additional burden to the Filipino families.

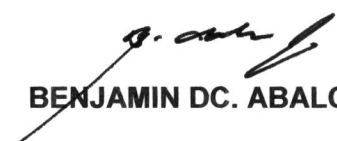
From the data gathered in the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in National Capital Region alone, which has the largest number of private higher Educational Institutions (HEI's) in the country with 224 schools, 111 of them demanded a 16.32% increase which means an additional 68.66 pesos increased per unit for the school year 1999-2000. The rapid rate of increases in tuition fee of this said institutions can be seen on the latest data report by CHED on the comparative average on tuition fee increase of private higher education institutions. As of 2004-2005 of the 244 schools in NCR, 83 increased their tuition fee by 10.83%, an additional P614.54 per unit on their existing rate.

The justification of the HEI's for this continuous tuition fee increases is based on the operation and maintenance expenses of the school and salary increases of the teaching and non-teaching personnel. Considering said justification, there should be a balance between the school and the student concerns. The increasing prices and high cost of living vis-à-vis the daily wage make the education affordable to few, making it a privilege rather than a right of every Filipino.

Under our Constitution, Sec. 4 of Article 14 mandates that, "the State recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions.

This propose measure seeks to require all private higher educational institutions to imposed fixed rate of allowable increase in their tuition and miscellaneous fees as determined and regulated by the Department of Education (DEPED) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

In the pursuance of quality education for all, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


BENJAMIN DC. ABALOS, JR

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF TUITION FEE INCREASES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 232 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EDUCATION
ACT OF 1982", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. Section 42 of Batas Pambansa Bilang 232 otherwise known as the "Education Act of 1982" is hereby amended to be read as follows:

Sec.42. Tuition and Other Fees. Each private school shall determine its rate of tuition and other school fees or charges, PROVIDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AND COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) SHALL SET AND IMPOSE THE FIXED RATE OF ALLOWABLE INCREASE ON TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES UPON WRITTEN PETITION BY A PRIVATE SCHOOL SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE DEPED AND CHED, AS THE CASE MAY BE, WITH PROPER CONSULTATION WITH THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS CONCERNED. PROVIDED FURTHER, NO INCREASES SHALL BE ALLOWED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL YEARS.

The rates and charges adopted by schools pursuant to this provision shall be collectible, and their application or use authorized, subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AND COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) [Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports].

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,