

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2472

Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 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.

Unfortunately, despite the said Constitutional mandate, it has been a common practice by most private schools to disallow students with delinquent tuition fees to take examinations. This practice does not only run counter to afore-stated policy, it also embarrasses the students whose only fault is being unable to provide for their education. This traumatizes the students and discourages them from continuing with their studies. As a result, it shuts their hopes and dreams. Thus, it is about time to put an end to this practice.

The ends sought by this Bill should not, however, mean that schools should be left without recourse in cases of delinquent tuition fees as the protection of schools is vital to ensure accessibility to quality education. As such, in addition to their existing rights, this Bill expressly and clearly sets forth the school's rights and recourse in cases of delinquent tuition fees.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested



MARK A. VILLAR

Representative, Lone District of Las Piñas City

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRIVATE SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING
STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MIDTERM OR
FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Unlawful Practice.- It is hereby declared unlawful for any private school to disallow any student from taking any midterm or final examination due to non-payment of tuition fees under the established terms of payment prescribed by the school concerned and approved by the Department of Education.

SECTION 2. Rights of Schools.- Students permitted to take mid-term or final examinations notwithstanding, in addition to the existing rights provided by law, the school authorities shall have the following rights:

a. A student with an unpaid tuition fee, may not be admitted by the private school authorities concerned at the next succeeding semester classes or at the next succeeding opening of a new academic year, as the case may be, until the prior delinquencies are fully paid; and

b. The private school authorities concerned cannot be compelled to issue clearance to students with financial obligations to their schools, which remain due and unpaid.