

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2476

INTRODUCED BY: HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

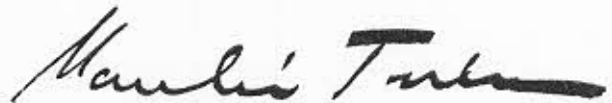
The alarming state of the economy aggravated by the instability of our country's political climate troubles the people in many ways. It may be one major problem that had greatly hampered the advancement of quality and accessible education.

As tuition and other school fees continue to increase both in public and private schools, it is very difficult for most students, especially their parents, to make good on their obligations to pay tuition fees on time. And this is disheartening since failure to do such would mean being prevented by the school administrators from taking the mid-term or final examinations.

The situation, indeed, runs counter to the pronouncements of the fundamental law which provides "that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education" and the State in recognition of the complementary roles of public and private institution in the educational system "shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions."

Hence, this bill hopes to help students in their request for knowledge by declaring it unlawful for any public or private school, to disallow any student from taking any periodic or final exam for mere failure to pay tuition fees on time, while providing for penalties for violation of such policy.

In view of the foregoing, consideration of this bill is urgently sought.



MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative, 1st District
City of Marikina

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING STUDENTS
WITH UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES TO TAKE PERIODIC OR FINAL
EXAMINATIONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared unlawful for any public or private school, to prevent or disallow its students from taking any periodic or final examination due to non-payment of tuition and other school fees.

SECTION 2. Rights and Obligations. (1) The school authorities have the following rights against students with financial obligations to their schools, which remain due and unsettled:

- a. To withhold the release of the grades of a student with delinquent account until the unpaid tuition fees are fully paid.
- b. To deny admission or enrolment of any student having unsettled tuition or other school fees at the next succeeding semester or at the next succeeding academic year, as the case may be, until the previous delinquencies are fully paid; and
- c. To refuse issuance of school clearance to students with unsettled account.

(2) Students are hereby accorded the right to take periodic or final examinations, notwithstanding existence of unpaid financial obligations in favor of the school.

SECTION 3. Implementing Guidelines. - The Commission on Higher Education shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 4. Penalty Imposed. - Violations of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by the suspension and/or cancellation of the permits of the offending schools and fine of not less than Php 20,000.00 but not more than Php 50,000.00.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.