

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6577**

(In substitution of House Bills 5186 and 6262 and Privilege Speech 282)

Introduced by: SIGFRIDO R. TINGA, REPS. JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA,
RODOLFO G. BIAZON, RAYMOND V. PALATINO, MARIANO U. PIAMONTE and PRYDE
HENRY A. TEVES

AN ACT

GRANTING FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, COLLEGE ENTRANTS OR TRANSFEREES APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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 the "Free College Entrance Examination
2 Act."

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to expand and
4 further democratize access to quality education at the college level by instituting mechanisms
5 that protect the rights of underprivileged but bright and deserving high school graduates.

6 The exemption from the imposition of entrance examination fees is one such mechanism
7 that will ensure that underprivileged, but bright and deserving high school graduates, are given
8 adequate assistance and equal opportunity to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college
9 education.

10 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For Purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

11 a) *College Entrance Examinations* – shall refer to examinations required by higher
12 education institutions on graduating high school students or high school graduates as
13 one of the criteria for determining admission to a four-year or five-year college degree
14 program in the said educational institutions;

1 b) *Underprivileged Public High School Graduates* – shall refer to public high school
2 students who belong to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class and whose
3 parents live below the poverty line or belong to the poorest of the poor, as determined by
4 the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Household
5 Targeting System of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

6 c) *Higher Education Institution (HEI)* – shall refer to an educational institution that is legally
7 authorized to offer a program of education leading to the conferment of a degree.

8 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** All state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local colleges and
9 universities (LCUs) offering degree-granting programs are hereby required to provide free
10 college entrance examinations to graduating high school students, high school graduates,
11 college entrants and transferees who are applying for college admission.

12 All private colleges, universities or institutions of higher education or degree-granting
13 programs are hereby required to provide free entrance examinations to underprivileged public
14 high school students belonging to the top ten percent of the graduating class and who are
15 applying for college admission.

16 **SEC. 5. Qualification Requirements for Free College Entrance Examination Beneficiaries**
17 **in SUCs and LCUs.** To be eligible to take the free college entrance examination in an SUC or
18 LCU, an applicant must be a natural-born Filipino citizen and a graduating high school student
19 or high school graduate, college entrant or transferee and intends to enroll in any public HEI.

20 **SEC. 6. Qualification Requirements for Free College Entrance Examination Beneficiaries**
21 **in Private HEIs:** To be eligible to take the free college entrance examination in a private HEI,
22 an applicant must:

23 a) be a natural-born Filipino citizen;

24 b) be enrolled in or have graduated from a public high school; and

25 c) belong to the top ten percent of the graduating class as certified by the public school
26 and the Department of Education (DepED): *Provided*, however, that the applicant's
27 parents or guardians live below the poverty line as determined by the NEDA and the
28 DSWD.

29 **SEC. 7. Penalties.** Any HEI official or employee and other concerned individuals found guilty of
30 violating the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty of *prision correccional* or imprisonment
31 from six (6) months and one (1) day to six (6) years and a fine of Seven Hundred Fifty
32 Thousand Pesos (P750,000.00).

33 In addition, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may impose disciplinary
34 sanctions against any HEI official or employee violating the provisions of this Act pursuant to
35 Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization
36 Act of 1994.

FACT SHEET

Substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 5186 & 6262 & Privilege Speech No. 282

*(Approved by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education
on July 31, 2012)*

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, COLLEGE ENTRANTS OR TRANSFEREES APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS

*Introduced by: REPS. SIGFRIDO TINGA, JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA,
RODOLFO G. BIAZON, RAYMOND V. PALATINO, MARIANO U. PIAMONTE
AND PRYDE HENRY A. TEVES*

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION*

Committee Chairperson: REP. JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA

OBJECTIVE:

- To widen access to higher education by removing the first hindrance at the entry level, which is the prohibitive cost of entrance examinations

SALIENT FEATURES:

- Requires all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local colleges and universities (LCUs) to provide free college entrance examinations to graduating high school students, high school graduates, college entrants or transferees
- Requires all private higher education institutions (HEIs) to provide free college entrance examinations to underprivileged high school graduates belonging to the top ten percent of the graduating class
- Provides for the qualification requirements of beneficiaries of free college entrance exams
- Provides for penalties for violation of the provision of the law

RELATED LAW:

- Republic ACT 7722 Higher Education Act of 1994

1 SEC. 8. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The CHED, in coordination with the DepED,
2 Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the Coordinating Council of
3 Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and the Association of Local Colleges and
4 Universities (ALCU), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
5 implementation of this Act.

6 SEC. 9. **Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
7 the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall continue to be in full force and
8 effect.

9 SEC. 10. **Repealing Clause.** All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
10 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended,
11 repealed or modified accordingly.

12 SEC. 11. **Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
13 the Official Gazette.

Approved,