

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Bill No. **6623**



Introduced by Representative **Carlo V. Lopez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poverty is the most serious problem being encountered by various sectors of our countrymen today. One such sector is education.

On account of economic difficulties besetting our country today, private schools are forced to increase schools fees which naturally will have to be borne by our poor parents.

Consequently, to make effective the policy to increase school fees, school authorities are compelled to disallow students with arrearages in school fees from taking mid-term or final examinations unless delinquencies are first settled.

To remedy the foregoing problem, this bill seeks to prescribed a reasonable compromise between the competing needs of students and the administration of the schools where such students are enrolled.


CARLO V. LOPEZ
2nd District, Manila

October 17, 2017

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AN ACT

PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MID-TERM OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.

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 school, public or private, to disallow any student from taking any mid-term or final examination due to non-payment of tuition fees subject to such terms of payment prescribed by the school concerned and approved by the Department of Education.

Sec 2. Rights of School – Students permitted to take mid-term or final examinations, notwithstanding their non-payment of school fees shall be subject, to the following:

The school authorities concerned are entitled to withhold the release of the grades of such students until the unpaid tuition fees, plus interest charges, are fully paid.

A student, with an unpaid tuition fee, may be admitted by the school authorities concerned at the next succeeding semester's classes or at the next succeeding opening of a new academic year, as the cause may be, until the prior delinquencies are fully paid.

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

Sec 3. Obligations of Students – The students and/or parents, unless waived by the school authorities concerned shall be obligated to pay an interest for the unpaid tuition fees, an amount equivalent to not more than fourteen percent (14%), per annum, computed from the date of the examination taken until the tuition fee due and unpaid, are fully liquidated.

Sec 4. Implementation Guidelines – The Department of Education shall promulgate the implementing guidelines necessary to enforce fully the objectives of this Act.

Sec 5. Penalty Imposed – Violations of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by suspension and/or cancellation of the permits of the offending schools and fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) but not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

Sec 6. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least 2 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.