

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9013



Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution states, "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, art, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

This is the guiding principle behind the crafting of the Comprehensive Free Public Education Bill. Thrust before Congress is a bill drafted collectively by youth and students in the Philippines to holistically address the worsening state of the Philippine public higher education system. This proposed bill not only seeks to make public education up to the tertiary level ultimately free and accessible to all, but also to uphold the public character of our government-run higher education institutions, and address the structural ills of the Philippine education system.

Current Higher Education Situation Highlights

Despite having Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, majority of Filipino students in tertiary education are in private schools. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of institutions that offer tertiary-level degrees are privately run, and the remaining is composed of SUCs, LUCs and other government schools.

Private higher education institutions in the country are now preparing to hike tuition and other school fees (TOSF) for Academic Year 2019-2020. Around 700 private schools, universities and colleges will submit applications for 6-8% TOSF increase to the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), which have traditionally approved the annual round of fee increases at the expense of students and families. Meanwhile, several State Universities and Colleges are circumventing the RA 10931 through being able to establish and collect Other School Fees due to vague provisions on the law.

If passed, this bill stands to benefit not only the students currently enrolled in SUCs and all other public universities and colleges covered by RA 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, but also millions of others who will be able to enter college without fearing the heavy costs. At a more fundamental level, the passage of this bill will also result in the reversal of decades of attacks on the right of every Filipino to education.

Believing that fundamental changes in education should address the basic ills that hound the system, we need to collectively strive for a type of education that is not only free, but also empowering and liberating.

In this light, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago
Representative, Kabataan Party-list

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE FREE PUBLIC TERTIARY
EDUCATION THROUGH NO COLLECTION OF ALL OTHER SCHOOL FEES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3(h) of Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education", is amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

xxx

xxx

xxx

(h) Other school fees refers to fees charges by HEIs and technical-vocational institutions which cover other necessary costs supportive of instructions, specifically the following: library fees, computer fees, laboratory fees, school ID fees , athletic fees, admission fees, development fees, guidance fees, handbook fees, entrance fees, registration fees, medical and dental fees, cultural fees and other similar or related fees] **ALL OTHER SCHOOL FEES.**"

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SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid or subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* — Republic Act No. 10931 is hereby amended accordingly. All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,