

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9031



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 collective championing of the Comprehensive Free Public Education Bill by the youth and students themselves, supported by legislators.

This proposed amendment seeks to uphold the public character of our state-run higher education institutions, and gradually address the structural ills of the Philippine education system.

Introduction of a nationalist, scientific, and mass-oriented higher education curriculum

This amendment also establishes a new higher education curriculum responsive to the needs and the goals of the nation. The curriculum shall:

- o Foster patriotism and nationalism by instilling in every student the firm resolve never to allow our people to be dominated and controlled by foreign powers or domestic tyrants, and focusing on developing a self-reliant and independent national economy, with particular emphasis on agrarian reform, and the development of the nation's agriculture and national industries;

- o Inculcate a scientific worldview that heightens the social consciousness of all Filipino students towards total human liberation, as well as foster a culture of learning that nurtures learning directed towards understanding and solving the basic problems of Philippine society;

- o Serve to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to serve the Filipino nation. The new curriculum shall also encourage study programs that respond to community needs. Students should not only learn through formal learning instruction and textbooks, but also through immersion into the larger society that exists beyond their classrooms.

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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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE FREE PUBLIC TERTIARY EDUCATION
THROUGH FORMULATION OF NATIONALIST, SCIENTIFIC AND MASS-ORIENTED
CURRICULUM, 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:

1 **SECTION 1.** Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to
2 Quality Tertiary Education", is amended to read as follows:

3
4 "Section 8. Student Loan Program for Tertiary Education. - To support further the
5 cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, a student loan program
6 for tertiary education is hereby likewise established for all Filipino students who
7 shall enroll in SUC, LUC, private HEI and TVET program in all TVIs registered
8 under the TESDA. The Loan program shall be administered by the UniFAST
9 Board and the amount necessary to fund the program shall be included in the
10 budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: Provided, That the UniFAST may offer
11 short-term or long-term loans: Provided, further, That those who availed of the
12 loan during their undergraduate degree may still avail of another cycle of student
13 loan for their pursuit of graduate studies, including medicine and law after they
14 have fully paid the previously availed loan: Provided, furthermore, That those
15 who did not avail of the loan program during their undergraduate studies may
16 avail of it to pursue graduate studies including medicine and law: Provided,
17 finally, That those who did not avail of the loan program during their
18 undergraduate studies may avail of the loan program for their review expenses
19 for licensure examinations administered by the Professional Regulation
20 Commission (PRC).

21
22 Repayment shall be effected by the incorporating a portion of the loan amount or
23 a percentage thereof in the employee's monthly Social Security System (SSS) or
24 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) contribution, as the case may be
25 based on a reasonable schedule of repayment and interest rates. As may be
26 formulated by the UniFAST Board.

1
2 Payment of the loan amount will commence once the beneficiary secures any
3 gainful employment with compensation, remuneration or earnings that reaches
4 the Compulsory Repayment Threshold (CRT). For purposes of this Act, the CRT
5 shall be set and reviewed by the UniFAST Board, and adjusted when necessary.
6

7 The UniFAST Board, in consultation with relevant agencies, shall formulate loan
8 payment guidelines for loan beneficiaries whose earnings are not covered by the
9 GSIS or the SSS programs, including those of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs),
10 emigrants, and self-employed persons and professionals (SEPs).
11

12 **SECTION 9. FORMULATION OF A NATIONALIST, SCIENTIFIC, AND MASS-**
13 **ORIENTED HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM. — ALONG WITH THE**
14 **INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION,**
15 **THE CHED SHALL FORMULATE A NEW HIGHER EDUCATION**
16 **CURRICULUM THAT IS:**
17

18 (1) NATIONALIST – THE NEW HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM SHALL
19 BE CRAFTED BASED ON THE NEEDS AND THE GOALS OF THE NATION.
20 THE CURRICULUM SHALL FOSTER PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM, AND
21 SHALL INSTILL IN EVERY STUDENT THE FIRM RESOLVE NEVER TO
22 ALLOW OUR PEOPLE TO BE DOMINATED AND CONTROLLED BY
23 FOREIGN POWERS OR DOMESTIC TYRANTS. TERTIARY-LEVEL
24 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SHALL ALSO FOCUS ON DEVELOPING
25 A SELF-RELIANT AND INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMY, WITH
26 PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AGRARIAN REFORM, AND THE
27 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL
28 INDUSTRIES;
29

30 (2) SCIENTIFIC – THE NEW HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM SHALL
31 INCULCATE A SCIENTIFIC WORLDVIEW THAT HEIGHTENS THE SOCIAL
32 CONSCIOUSNESS OF ALL FILIPINO STUDENTS TOWARDS TOTAL HUMAN
33 LIBERATION. PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL SERVE TO FOSTER A
34 CULTURE OF LEARNING DIRECTED TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING AND
35 SOLVING THE BASIC PROBLEMS OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY;
36

37 (3) MASS-ORIENTED – THE NEW HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM
38 SHALL INCULCATE THE VALUE OF FREE EDUCATION AND THE
39 IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS.
40 IT SHALL SERVE TO EQUIP STUDENTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND
41 SKILLS NEEDED TO SERVE THE FILIPINO NATION. THE NEW
42 CURRICULUM SHALL ALSO ENCOURAGE STUDY PROGRAMS THAT
43 RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT ONLY
44 LEARN THROUGH FORMAL LEARNING INSTRUCTION AND TEXTBOOKS,
45 BUT ALSO THROUGH IMMERSION INTO THE LARGER SOCIETY THAT
46 EXISTS BEYOND THEIR CLASSROOMS.

47 Section [9] 10. Requirements for SUCs and LUCs. - SUCs and LUCs are hereby
48 mandated to:
49

50 (a) Establish a learner information system in accordance with the guidelines to be

1 developed by the CHED in order to facilitate the tracking of students and their
2 performance;

3
4 (b) Submit relevant information as determined by the CHED on school quality
5 and performance; and
6

7 (c) Formulate and submit to the CHED and to the Joint Congressional Oversight
8 Committee on Universal Access to Tertiary Education created under Section 17
9 of this Act, a detailed SUC development plan updated every ten (10) years which
10 shall included plans for facilities and infrastructure development and expansion.
11

12 Section [10] 11...

13
14 Section [11] 12..."

15
16 **SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
18 remain valid or subsisting.
19

20 **SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.*** — Republic Act No. 10931 is hereby amended
21 accordingly. All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or
22 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
23

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

Adopted,