

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8137

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**Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education is a landmark piece of legislation. However, certain realities have to be accommodated to fully attain the goals sought by the law. First is the limited number of Public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that could cater all higher education students. Presently, there are only 242 public HEIs (including SUCs, LUCs, and other special HEIs). Geographical considerations also deny the access of students to these public HEIs. In addition, the range of courses or degrees offered in each public HEI limits the options of the students who are in need of government subsidy. Any or a combination of any of these and other factors hinder students from enjoying the benefits of the law.

Last academic year 2018-2019, there were 1,519,512 students enrolled in these 242 public HEIs. Meanwhile the 1,721 private HEIs all over the country are serving only 1,693,030 students. Much of these HEIs can absorb the students, particularly those restrained by geographical considerations. This bill seeks to allow students opting to study in private HEIs to benefit from the coverage of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) through a voucher system.

Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph 3 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged. Expanding the coverage of the TES is compliant with this Constitutional mandate. Furthermore, Section 4, paragraph 1 of the same Article provides that the State recognizes the complementary roles of public and

private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions.

Good governance is characterized by the sharing of the responsibility of nation-building among all sectors of the society. As we continuously strive for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth, let us create synergy with the private sector in nurturing our youth and equipping them to become productive and globally competitive.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought,



MARK O. GO

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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY**  
**EDUCATION" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 7 of RA 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Section 7. TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY (TES) for Filipino Students.** - To support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, a TES is hereby established for all Filipino students who shall enroll in undergraduate-post-secondary programs of SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST Board and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided*, That prioritization shall be given to students in the following order: (a) students who are part of households included in the UPDATED Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to the estimated per capita household income; and (b) students not part of the Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to estimated per capita household income based on submitted documentation of proof of income to be determined by the UniFAST Board: *Provided, further*, That such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus.

THERE SHALL BE A PROPORTIONAL BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY ABLE STUDENTS, IN THE FORM OF A VOUCHER SYSTEM, WHO WILL OPT TO STUDY IN PRIVATE HEIs IN CITIES AND

MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs AND LUCs AND THE LISTAHANAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE PRIORITIZED, AND IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NO EXISTING SUCs OR LUCs.

“The TES may, among others, and to support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, cover the following:

(a) Tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and private or LGU-operated TVIs, which shall be equivalent to the tuition and other school fees of the nearest SUC or state-run TVI in their respective areas;

(b) [AH] Allowance for books, SCHOOL supplies, transportation TO AND FROM SCHOOL and ~~[miscellaneous personal expenses including a]~~ reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer or laptop WHEN APPLICABLE [and other education-related expenses];

(c) An allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student WHEN APPLICABLE;

(d) XXX

(e) XXX

ALL TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS/ OR SUBSIDY UNTIL THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR COURSE/DEGREE, PROVIDED THAT, THEY HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR GRADES AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE TO THE RULES OF THE HEIs.

XXX      XXX      XXX

**SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** - Republic Act No. 10931 otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act" is hereby amended. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved.*