

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9671



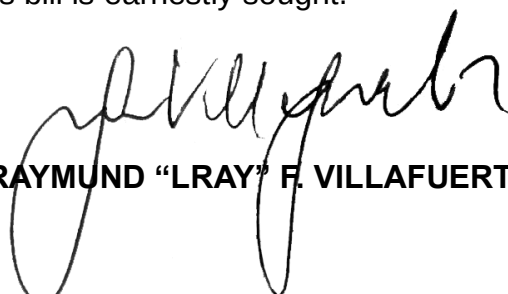
Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", BY
PROVIDING FOR RELIEF FROM CERTAIN INELIGIBILITIES TO FREE TERTIARY
EDUCATION AND FREE TVET BENEFICIARIES AFFECTED BY NATIONAL OR
LOCAL EMERGENCIES

This proposed measure seeks to withhold the imposition of ineligibilities outlined in Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act". With the ongoing and already prolonged battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to ensure that quality education remains accessible for all. Many households are suffering from joblessness and lack of the necessary tools to participate in distance learning.

This bill, in particular, proposes that certain ineligibilities provided in Section 6 of the law will not be imposed on students based upon proof that the ground/s arose due to a condition or circumstance, such as, but not limited to, financial distress, lack of proper and adequate remote learning resources, mental health issues, contracting a disease or disability, etc., experienced in relation to a national or local emergency lasting for three months or more. These ineligibilities are: (1) for free higher education beneficiaries, failure to complete their undergraduate degree within a year after the period prescribed in their program; and (2) for free TVET beneficiaries, failure to pass in any course of their program.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9671

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", BY
PROVIDING FOR RELIEF FROM CERTAIN INELIGIBILITIES TO FREE TERTIARY
EDUCATION AND FREE TVET BENEFICIARIES AFFECTED BY NATIONAL OR
LOCAL EMERGENCIES

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

Section 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6. Exceptions to Free Tertiary Education. – The following students are ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education:

(a) In SUCs and LUCs:

(1) Students who have already attained a bachelor's degree or comparable undergraduate degree from any HEI, whether public or private;

(2) Students who fail to comply with the admission and retention policies of the SUC or LUC;

(3) Students who fail to complete their bachelor's degree or comparable undergraduate degree within a year after the period prescribed in their program; and

(b) In State-Run TVIs:

(1) Students who have obtained a bachelor's degree, as well as those who have received a certificate or diploma for a technical-vocational course equivalent to at least National Certificate III and above;

(2) Students who fail in any course enrolled in during the course of the program.

Students ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education shall be charged the tuition and other school fees, as determined by the respective boards

of the SUCs and LUCs, and in the case of the state-run TVIs, to be determined by the TESDA[.] **PROVIDED, THAT FOR A NATIONAL OR LOCAL EMERGENCY LASTING FOR THREE (3) MONTHS OR MORE, INELIGIBILITY SHALL NOT BE IMPOSED ON AFFECTED STUDENTS FALLING UNDER (A)(3), AND (B)(2) BASED UPON PROOF THAT THE GROUND/S AROSE DUE TO A CONDITION OR CIRCUMSTANCE EXPERIENCED IN RELATION TO THE SAID NATIONAL OR LOCAL EMERGENCY, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FINANCIAL DISTRESS, LACK OF PROPER AND ADEQUATE REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, CONTRACTING A DISEASE OR DISABILITY, ETC.**

Section 2. *Retroactivity Clause for Students affected by the COVID19 Public Health Emergency.* – The relief granted by this Act shall retroactively apply to students affected by the State of Public Health Emergency declared by the President of the Philippines In connection with the Coronavirus Disease (GOVID-19) pandemic. The CHED and TESDA shall ensure and monitor the compliance of public or private HBs/TVIs on the retroactive application of this temporary relief.

Section 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,