

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1709**



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Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ilocos Norte

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***EXPLANATORY NOTE***

This bill seeks to allow disadvantaged students enrolled in short courses in technical-vocational institutions to take the scheduled periodic and final examinations without requiring a permit by amending Republic Act (RA) No. 11984, otherwise known as the "No Permit, No Exam Prohibition Act". Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states that:

\*Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all..

Education is a basic right of all citizens that is enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. Recognizing the importance of education, young Filipinos strive hard to learn and attain higher education for their personal growth to have better career and chance in life. Due to the financial challenges that higher education entails, disadvantaged students are constrained to take faster and shorter courses offered by technical-vocational institutions to acquire technical knowledge and skills necessary to land a job and provide for their families.

The State, understanding the economic challenges that Filipino families face, enacted RA 11984, which mandates all public and private educational institutions to accommodate and allow the disadvantaged students that were unable to pay tuition and other fees to take the scheduled periodic and final examinations without requiring a permit.

However, the current coverage of RA 11984 only includes students

enrolled in the long-term courses exceeding one (1) year in technical-vocational institutions, which greatly affects the disadvantaged students that are capable of taking shorter courses only due to financial constraints. With the challenge of meeting the needs of the family, many students opt to take short-term courses offered by technical-vocational institutions since the same is cheaper and provides faster route to employment.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority reported in its 2022 Technical-Vocational Education Training (TVET) Statistics Annual Report that there were 1,231,284 graduates out of the 1,260,244 enrollees, for a 97.70% completion rate. It showed that millions of Filipino students enroll in technical-vocational courses, whether short-term or long-term courses, to become skilled in their chosen sector and be employed immediately thereafter. Hence, it is necessary to amend RA 1 1984 to become more inclusive to all students enrolled in all courses offered by technical-vocational institutions.

Further, amending RA 11984 to include the short-term technical-vocational courses will greatly benefit the disadvantaged students since most of the enrollees in these courses are often the disadvantaged students who immediately seek employment to provide a better life for their families.

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



**ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**

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**AN ACT**  
**ALLOWING DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SHORT**  
**COURSES IN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO TAKE**  
**THE SCHEDULED PERIODIC AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS**  
**WITHOUT REQUIRING A PERMIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE**  
**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11984, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NO**  
**PERMIT, NO EXAM PROHIBITION ACT"**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 1 1984 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 3. Coverage.** This Act shall cover all public and private basic (K to 12) institutions, higher education institutions, and technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) ~~[*:- Provided, That in the case of TVIs, this Act shall only cover long term courses exceeding one (1) year*:-~~."

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,