



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2642

Introduced by Representative WALFREDO "ARMAN" R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY, EQUITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education remains the most dependable ladder out of poverty. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority 2023 Labor Force Survey, workers with a bachelor's degree earn on average 103 percent more than those whose schooling ends at senior high school. Yet for many capable Filipinos, the cumulative weight of tuition, mandatory fees, and daily subsistence costs still keeps college out of reach.

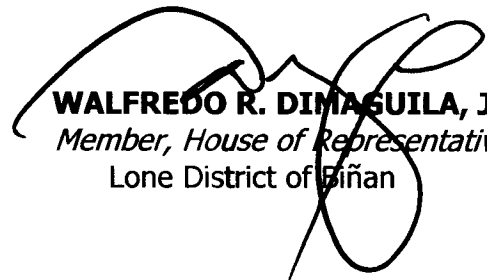
Republic Act No. 10931, known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, created the Tertiary Education Subsidy, or TES, to bridge this divide. Seven years into implementation, however, audit findings continue to reveal delayed stipend releases and an inequitable distribution scheme that leaves Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, or 4Ps, graduates and other learners from the poorest households waiting in line even when funds are already appropriated.

Guided by the companion bill filed by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV, this measure refines the TES so that assistance reaches students who need it when they need it and in amounts that genuinely defray the hidden costs of pursuing a degree. It sharpens equity by automatically admitting all qualified 4Ps graduates into the TES roster and by ranking all other applicants strictly according to verified per capita

household income. It promotes efficiency by migrating disbursement to an integrated digital platform linked to PhilSys and supported by a public dashboard that highlights any release pending beyond thirty days. It strengthens accountability by requiring semester level utilization reports, enforcing five year outcome evaluations, and imposing definitive sanctions on institutions that misuse or withhold funds.

Enactment of this bill promises tangible gains. Low income students will see out of pocket expenses fall from day one. Subsidy schedules will become predictable, allowing tuition, boarding, and licensure costs to remain current. Grantees can be expected to record lower first year attrition and higher on time graduation. Policymakers, auditors, and the public will have real time data to trace every peso committed to student aid.

As principal author I recall how a delayed allowance or an undisclosed fee once threatened to derail my own college journey and those of many classmates. By reinforcing the TES with clearer rules, streamlined delivery, and rigorous oversight, this measure aims to convert every peso of public investment into diplomas, inclusive growth, and a workforce equipped for the demands of a modern economy. Closing administrative gaps and sharpening the program's pro poor focus will ensure that quality tertiary education remains not merely a statutory promise but a tangible reality for all Filipino youth.



WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.
Member, House of Representatives
Lone District of Biñan



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2642

Introduced by Representative WALFREDO "ARMAN" R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION
ACT", TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY, EQUITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF
THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

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

- 1 Section 1. Section Section 3(h) of Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to
2 Quality Tertiary Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 3 "SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:
- 4 ...
- 5 (h) *Other school fees* refer to fees charged by HEIs and technical-vocational
6 institutions which cover other necessary costs supportive of instruction,
7 specifically the following: library fees, computer fees, laboratory fees, school ID
8 fees, athletic fees, admission fees, development fees, guidance fees, handbook
9 fees, entrance fees, registration fees, medical and dental fees, cultural fees,
10 **INTERNSHIP AND RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (RLE) FEES**

11 **REQUIRED BY THE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING THOSE FOR NURSING**
12 **AND OTHER ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS**, and other similar or related fees;

13 Sec. 2. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary
14 Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 "SECTION 7. TES for Filipino Students. - To support the cost of tertiary education or
16 any part or portion thereof, a Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) is hereby established
17 for all Filipino students who shall enroll in undergraduate post-secondary programs of
18 SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST
19 Board and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the budgets of
20 the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided*, That [prioritization shall be given to students in
21 the following order: (a) students who are part of households included in the
22 Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to the estimated per capita household income, and
23 (b) students not part of the Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to estimated per capita
24 household income based on submitted documentation of proof of income to be
25 determined by the UniFAST Board] **ALL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**
26 **STUDENTS FROM QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES OF THE THE**
27 **PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS), AS PROVIDED UNDER**
28 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, SHALL BE GUARANTEED TES GRANTEES, UPON**
29 **SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND ACCEPTANCE**
30 **INTO A CHED-RECOGNIZED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR A**
31 **TESDA-RECOGNIZED TVI: *Provided, further*, That [such prioritization shall not**
32 **apply to Filipino students in cities and municipality with no existing SUC op LUC**
33 **campus] **SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABLE FUNDS, THE REMAINING TES SLOTS****
34 **SHALL BE AWARDED BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED, AS DETERMINED BY THE**
35 **HOUSEHOLD PER CAPITA INCOME OF APPLICANTS, TO BE ASSESSED BY**
36 **THE RESPECTIVE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OR TVIS, IN**
37 **ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES TO BE ISSUED BY THE UNIFAST BOARD:**
38 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT TES GRANTEES SHALL BE GUARANTEED**
39 **CONTINUED SUPPORT UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THEIR**
40 **UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR TVET PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO THE**

41 **MAINTENANCE OF SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC OR TRAINING**
42 **PERFORMANCE, AND COMPLIANCE WITH INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES.**

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

45 (a) **FULL [T]tuition and other school fees (TOSF)** in private HEIs, and private or LGU-
46 operated TVIs, which shall be equivalent to the tuition and other school fees of the
47 nearest SUC or state-run TVI in their respective areas: **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH**
48 **TOSF SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT BY GOVERNMENT**
49 **PER STUDENT UNDER THE FREE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SUCS**
50 **AND LUCS; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN CASES WHERE THE TOSF**
51 **EXCEED THIS AVERAGE AMOUNT, THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL**
52 **ADMINISTER GUIDELINES IN SETTING THE AMOUNT OF THE TES;**

53 (b) An allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal
54 expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of
55 a personal computer or laptop, and other education-related expenses;

56 (c) An allowance for room and board cost incurred by the student;

57 (d) For a student with a disability, an allowance for expenses related to the student's
58 disability, including special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment,
59 and supplies that are reasonably incurred; [and]

60 (e) **INTERNSHIP AND RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (RLE) FEES THAT**
61 **ARE REQUIRED BY THE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING THOSE FOR NURSING**
62 **AND OTHER ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS; AND**

63 (F) For a student in a program requiring professional license or certification, the one
64 (1)-time cost of obtaining the first professional credentials or qualifications, which may
65 include the following: application fees, notarial fees, review classes fees, insurance
66 premium fees and documentation fees: Provided, That the amount of subsidy shall be
67 based on the guidelines set forth by the UniFAST Board and on the annual budgetary
68 appropriation for this purpose."

69 Sec. 2. A new Section 7-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

70 **"SECTION 7-A. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY**
71 **ASSURANCE OF THE TES. - THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL:**

72 **(A) IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND VALIDATION TO**
73 **ENSURE THAT TES ALLOWANCES ARE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
74 **THE PURPOSES PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 7, AND IMPOSE SANCTIONS,**
75 **INCLUDING DISQUALIFICATION NON-COMPLIANCE;**

76 **(B) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DBM AND COMMISSION ON AUDIT**
77 **(COA), DEVELOP AN EFFICIENT DISBURSEMENT SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE**
78 **DISBURSEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COST, TO ENSURE TES**
79 **BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE THEIR SUBSIDIES DURING THE SEMESTER FOR**
80 **WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING THE TES AS WELL AS TO FUND THE**
81 **PROVISION OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES, AND MAY UTILIZE THE**
82 **PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (PHILSYS) TO FACILITATE THE**
83 **VALIDATION OF ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES;**

84 **(C) COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT**
85 **OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT**
86 **AGENCIES, TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM THAT INFORMS SENIOR HIGH**
87 **SCHOOL STUDENTS UNDER THE 4PS OF THEIR AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY**
88 **TO RECEIVE TES; AND,**

89 **(D) MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE TES PROGRAM EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS,**
90 **INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF AN ONLINE INFORMATION SYSTEM TO**
91 **MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF TES GRANTEES WHILE THEY ARE IN THE HEI,**
92 **AND TRACER SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEIS TO**
93 **ASSESS AND ENHANCE THE PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION,**
94 **AND UTILIZE THE PHILSYS NUMBERS OF TES GRANTEES FOR**
95 **MONITORING AND EVALUATION PURPOSES.**

96 **FURTHER, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEIS SHALL UTILIZE THE PHILSYS**
97 **NUMBERS OF TES GRANTEES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION**
98 **PURPOSES AND LIKEWISE PROVIDE LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES TO TES**

99 **BENEFICIARIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CAREER COUNSELING,**
100 **BRIDGING PROGRAMS, AND TUTORIALS.**

101 **THE CHED, IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNIFAST BOARD, SHALL**
102 **ESTABLISH A REGULAR QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS FOR HEIS**
103 **ENROLLING TES GRANTEES. THIS SHALL INCLUDE PERIODIC**
104 **ASSESSMENTS OF BOTH INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND PROGRAM**
105 **QUALITY, WITH A FOCUS ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS, GRADUATE**
106 **EMPLOYABILITY, AND OTHER RELEVANT OUTCOMES, AND COMPLIANCE**
107 **WITH CHED POLICIES. HEIS FAILING TO MEET THE MINIMUM QUALITY**
108 **STANDARDS SHALL BE REEVALUATED AND MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM**
109 **ENROLLING NEW TES GRANTEES UNTIL COMPLIANCE IS ACHIEVED.**

110 *Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the
111 effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board, in consultation with the CHED, DepEd,
112 DSWD, TESDA, and other stakeholders in higher and technical education, shall
113 promulgate the revised implementing rules and regulations of R.A. 10931 necessary
114 to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act: *Provided,* That the
115 failure of the Board to promulgate the said rules and regulations shall not prevent or
116 delay the effectivity and implementation of this Act.

117 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
118 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
119 remain in force and effect.

120 *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
121 letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is
122 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

123 *Sec. 7. Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
124 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,