



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4920



**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A.
Acidre**

AN ACT
PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TO
TRANSFER BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BY
SAFEGUARDING ACADEMIC RECORDS AND UNITS, AND
AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO
IMPLEMENT STANDARD NATIONWIDE UNIT TRANSFER
PROTOCOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every Filipino has the constitutional right to quality and accessible education. Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution affirms the State's duty to protect and promote this right at all levels. In addition, Article XIV, Section 5(2) guarantees academic freedom in higher education institutions, while Article III, Section 1 upholds equal protection under the law, and Section 7 recognizes the right to information. Taken together, these provisions safeguard students' access to their academic records and the fair recognition of the units they have already earned.

In practice, however, many students still struggle when transferring from one higher education institution (HEI) to another. Varying school policies, delays in the release of documents, and the refusal to credit completed units often result in additional expenses, extended years in school, and even student dropouts.

This bill addresses these challenges by protecting the rights of college students to a smooth and fair transfer process. It mandates the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to establish clear, standardized, and nationwide protocols for the transfer of academic records and units.

Through these reforms, the measure seeks to uphold constitutional rights, remove barriers to academic mobility, and create a higher education system that is more equitable, transparent, and student-centered.

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



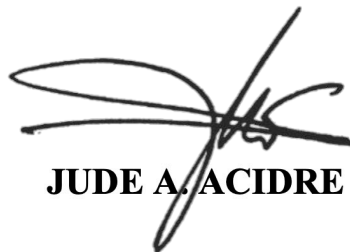
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



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

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “College Transfer Rights and Protection Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared the policy of the State to uphold the right of students to pursue higher education opportunities without undue impediments. The State recognizes the need to facilitate mobility among higher

education institutions (HEIs) by safeguarding academic records and ensuring fair and transparent credit transfer processes.

SEC. 3. *Coverage* - This Act shall apply to all students enrolled in public and private higher education institutions (HEIs) recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) who seek to transfer to another HEI within the Philippines.

SEC. 4. *Safeguarding of Academic Records and Units* – No higher education institution shall unreasonably delay or withhold the release of official transcripts, transfer credentials, or other academic records required for transfer, provided that the student has complied with reasonable institutional requirements consistent with CHED policies.

Students shall have the right to have their completed academic units evaluated fairly for credit transfer purposes under clear and consistent standards.

SEC. 5. *Standard Unit Transfer Protocols* – The protocols as follows:

- (a.) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall formulate and enforce standardized nationwide protocols for the evaluation and acceptance of academic units earned by transferring students.
- (b.) Such protocols shall include:
 - 1. Uniform criteria for the acceptance or accreditation of completed courses and units;
 - 2. Guidelines on maximum allowable residency or retention requirements for transferees;
 - 3. Timelines for the processing of transfer requests and credit evaluations to prevent undue delays.

- (c.) CHED shall ensure that these protocols are applied consistently across HEIs to protect the academic investments of students and promote mobility.

SEC. 6. *Role of the Commission on Higher Education* – CHED shall:

- a. Oversee and monitor the implementation of these protocols;
- b. Provide advisory support to HEIs to harmonize curricula and credit systems to facilitate transferability;
- c. Establish a mechanism for students to file complaints and seek redress in cases of unjust denial of credit transfer or withholding of records.

SEC. 7. *Information and Transparency* – HEIs shall publicly disclose their transfer credit policies on their official websites and student handbooks, including procedures, requirements, and timelines, consistent with CHED guidelines.

SEC. 8. *Funding* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of CHED under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual appropriations of CHED.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED, in consultation with public and private HEIs, student organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,