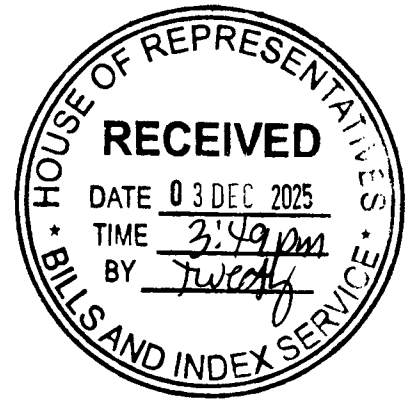


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6609



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY (TES),
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION
ACT"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In line with the mandate to "[e]stablish 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" (Section 2 (3), Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution), this bill seeks to amend Republic Act (R.A.) 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act", by giving proportional budgetary allocation to poor and academically competent students who opt to study in private institutions even if there are existing public institutions in their areas.

R.A. 10931 promotes universal access to quality tertiary education by providing free tuition and other school fees in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), and State-Run Technical-Vocational Institutions (SRTVIs), establishing the Tertiary Education Subsidy and Student Loan Program.

This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the TES in order to widen access to tertiary education, producing a more educated and skilled population. As global industries become more knowledge-based, the Philippines must ensure that more Filipinos, especially those from low-income backgrounds, can obtain degrees that match emerging job markets.

TES beneficiaries with good scholastic records, who comply with residency requirements of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Technical and Vocational Institutions (TVIs), will continue to receive the benefits under the law until they complete post-secondary technical-vocational course or higher education degree program.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to
Quality Tertiary Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 7. TES for Filipino Students. - To support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, a TES is hereby established IN ALL SUCS, LUCS, PRIVATE HEIS AND TVIS for all Filipino students who [shall] enroll in THE undergraduate-post-secondary TERTIARY EDUCATION OR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL TRAINING program[s] [of SUCs, LUCs private HEIs and all TVIs] OF THEIR CHOICE. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST Board and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the RESPECTIVE budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: Provided, That prioritization shall be given to QUALIFIED students in the following order: (a) students ENROLLED IN SUCS, LUCS AND PUBLIC TVIS who are part of households included in the UPDATED OR MOST RECENT Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to the estimated per capita household income; [and] (b) students ENROLLED IN SUCS, LUCS AND PUBLIC TVIS WHO ARE 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.]; (C) STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN PRIVATE HEIS AND TVIS IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE NO ESTABLISHED SUC, LUC, OR PUBLIC TVI; AND (D) STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN PRIVATE HEIS AND TVIS IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE ESTABLISHED SUCS, LUCS, OR PUBLIC TVIS: PROVIDED, THAT THE CHED, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED AND IN ACCORDANCE

WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF SUBSIDIES TO BE GRANTED, AND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TES BENEFICIARIES.

"TO SUPPORT THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION OR ANY PART OR PORTION THEREOF, [T]he 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) All 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] DESKTOP OR PORTABLE COMPUTERS and other education-related expenses, IF APPLICABLE;

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

"(d) x x x

"(e) x x x

"ALL TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS OR SUBSIDY UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE UNDERGRADUATE, POST-SECONDARY TERTIARY EDUCATION OR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS: PROVIDED, THAT THE TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE RETENTION AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE HEIS AND TVIS."

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,