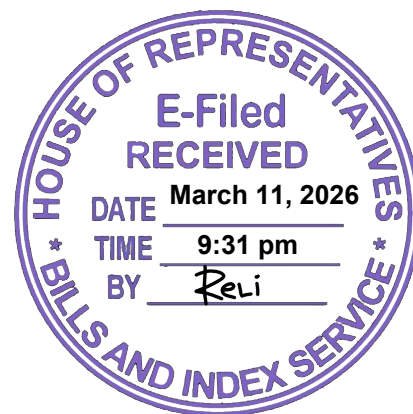


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 166

Submitted by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education
and Appropriations on **March 11, 2026**

Re: House Bill No. **8476**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 30, 40, 212, 683, 1970, 1994, 2642, 2824, 2990, 3453, 3467, 4270, 5488, 5563, 5650, 5914, 5934, 6029, 6250, 6501, 6548, 6609, 6733, 6825, 6829, 7160, 7329, and House Resolution No. 61

Sponsors: Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, and Jaime R. Fresnedi

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 30, introduced by Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi, entitled:

“AN ACT
REFORMING THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY
TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

House Bill No. 40, introduced by Rep. Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 212, introduced by Reps. Renee Louise M. Co and Antonio L. Tinio,
entitled:

“AN ACT

PROMOTING COMPREHENSIVE FREE PUBLIC TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR QUALITY, ADEQUATE, AND ACCESSIBLE UNIVERSITY SERVICES – HOUSING, HEALTH SERVICES, AND STUDENT MEALS – AND QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD SERVICES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 683, introduced by Rep. Roman T. Romulo, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 1970, introduced by Rep. Marcelino “Marcy” R. Teodoro, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 1994, introduced by Rep. Midy N. Cua, entitled:

“AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM (HELP) TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (DBP) AND THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 2642, introduced by Rep. Walfredo “Arman” R. Dimaguila, Jr., entitled:

“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 SYSTEM PROGRAM”;

House Bill No. 2824, introduced by Rep. Iris Marie Demesa Montes, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 2990, introduced by Rep. Antolin A. Oreta III, entitled:

“AN ACT
PRIORITIZING THE GRANT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY TO
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM HOUSEHOLDS UNDER
THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM WHO QUALIFY
FOR ADMISSION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY
TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 3453, introduced by Reps. Dante S. Garcia and Kenneth Paolo Tereng,
entitled:

“AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION
SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 3467, introduced by Rep. Jan “Atty. JP” Padiernos, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 4270, introduced by Reps. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian
K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 5488, introduced by Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL

VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 5563, introduced by Rep. Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
ENHANCING THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY
EDUCATION ACT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10931”;

House Bill No. 5650, introduced by Rep. Iris Marie Demesa Montes, entitled:

“AN ACT
ENHANCING THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY
EDUCATION ACT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10931”;

House Bill No. 5914, introduced by Rep. Antolin A. Oreta III, entitled:

“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 SYSTEM PROGRAM”;

House Bill No. 5934, introduced by Rep. Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6029, introduced by Rep. Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY,
AMENDING SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY
EDUCATION ACT”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 6250, introduced by Rep. Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6501, introduced by Rep. Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6548, introduced by Rep. Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6609, introduced by Rep. Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, entitled:

“AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6733, introduced by Rep. Jonathan Keith T. Flores, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 6825, introduced by Rep. Leila M. De Lima, entitled:

“AN ACT
ENHANCING THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931”;

House Bill No. 6829, introduced by Rep. Adrian E. Salceda, entitled:

“AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION
ACT,” BY REMOVING THE DISQUALIFICATION OF DEGREE
HOLDERS AND PRIOR TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL GRADUATES
FROM FREE TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
IN STATE-RUN TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND BY
STRENGTHENING THE FUNDING BASIS FOR FREE TECHNICAL
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION”;

House Bill No. 7160, introduced by Rep. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, entitled:

“AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION
SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”;

House Bill No. 7329, introduced by Rep. Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND
ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-
VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT;

and House Resolution No. 61, introduced by Rep. Terry L. Ridon, entitled:

“HOUSE RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 10931 OR THE
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FREE HIGHER EDUCATION LAW”;

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. **8476**, entitled:

“AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION
SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 30, 40, 212, 683, 1970, 1994, 2642, 2824, 2990, 3453, 3467, 4270, 5488, 5563, 5650, 5914, 5934, 6029, 6250,

6501, 6548, 6609, 6733, 6825, 6829, 7160, 7329, and House Resolution No. 61 and with Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Renee Louise M. Co, Antonio L. Tinio, Roman T. Romulo, Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Midy N. Cua, Walfredo "Arman" R. Dimaguila. Jr., Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Antolin A. Oreta III, Dante S. Garcia, Kenneth Paolo Tereng, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Leila M. De Lima, Adrian E. Salceda, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Eric L. Olivarez, Terry L. Ridon, Marcelino C. Libanan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Bernadette G. Escudero, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Caroline B. Agyao, M.D., Dale B. Corvera, Karen Hope F. Garcia, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Isidro D. Lumayag, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Nikko Raul S.J. Daza, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Maria Cristina Talavera Lopez, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Loreto S. Amante, Patricia C. Calderon, Adrian Michael A. Amatong, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Mario "Kokoy" O. Salvador, Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Antonino B. Roman III, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jesus F. Madrona, Ryan S. Recto, Nicanor M. Briones, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Laarni Lavin Roque, Jc M. Abalos, Arthur C. Yap, Carlos Andes Loria, Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina, Jr., Arthur F. Celeste, John Tracy F. Cagas, Leonel "Jhong" D. Ceniza, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Brian Poe, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino, Javier Miguel L. Benitez, Agatha "Agay" A. Cruz, Richard I. Gomez, DPA, Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, Nathaniel M. Oducado, Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Irwin C. Tieng, Irene G. Labadlabad, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Joseph S. Tan, Edwin Ongchuan, Felimon M. Espares, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Roberto "Pinpin" T. Uy, Jr., Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Alyssa Michaela "Mica" M. Gonzales, Jan Franz Norbert Joselito A. Chan, Marilyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Janette L. Garin, and De Carlo L. Uy as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
Chairperson

Committee on Appropriations


JUDE A. ACIDRE
Chairperson

Committee on Higher and Technical Education

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8476

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 30, 40, 212, 683, 1970, 1994, 2642, 2824, 2990, 3453, 3467, 4270, 5488, 5563, 5650, 5914, 5934, 6029, 6250, 6501, 6548, 6609, 6733, 6825, 6829, 7160, 7329, and House Resolution No. 61)

Introduced by Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Renee Louise M. Co, Antonio L. Tinio, Roman T. Romulo, Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro, Midy N. Cua, Walfredo "Arman" R. Dimaguila. Jr., Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Antolin A. Oreta III, Dante S. Garcia, Kenneth Paolo Tereng, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Leila M. De Lima, Adrian E. Salceda, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Eric L. Olivarez, Terry L. Ridon, Marcelino C. Libanan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Bernadette G. Escudero, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Caroline B. Agyao, M.D., Dale B. Corvera, Karen Hope F. Garcia, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Isidro D. Lumayag, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Nikko Raul S.J. Daza, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Maria Cristina Talavera Lopez, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Loreto S. Amante, Patricia C. Calderon, Adrian Michael A. Amatong, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Mario "Kokoy" O. Salvador, Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara, Sarah Jane I. Elago, and Antonino B. Roman III, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jesus F. Madrona, Ryan S. Recto, Nicanor M. Briones, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Laarni Lavin Roque, Jc M. Abalos, Arthur C. Yap, Carlos Andes Loria, Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Gerardo "Gerryboy" J. Espina, Jr., Arthur F. Celeste, John Tracy F. Cagas, Leonel "Jhong" D. Ceniza, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Brian Poe, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Aniela Bianca D. Tolentino, Javier Miguel L. Benitez, Agatha "Agay" A. Cruz, Richard I. Gomez, DPA, Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, Nathaniel M. Oducado, Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Irwin C. Tieng, Irene G. Labadlabad, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Joseph S. Tan, Edwin Ongchuan, Felimon M. Espares, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Roberto "Pinpin" T. Uy, Jr., Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Alyssa Michaela "Mica" M. Gonzales, Jan Franz Norbert Joselito A. Chan, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Janette L. Garin, and De Carlo L. Uy

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10931, or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

xxx

(I) *POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENT* REFERS TO A STUDENT WHO BELONGS TO A HOUSEHOLD RANKED AS “POOR” BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT BASED ON PROOF OF INCOME AS PRESENTED TO THE UNIFAST BOARD, AND WHO CONSISTENTLY MEETS THE ACADEMIC RETENTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONCERNED HEI OR TVI FOR A REGULAR UNIT LOAD;

xxx

(L) *PROOF OF INCOME* REFERS TO ANY DOCUMENTATION USED TO VERIFY, AUTHENTICATE, OR ASSESS THE ANNUAL INCOME OF A PERSON OR HOUSEHOLD;

(M) *PROPORTIONAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION* REFERS TO A BUDGETARY ALLOCATION WHICH SHALL SUBSIDIZE THE FULL COST OF TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES IN THE FORM OF PORTABLE VOUCHERS FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS;

xxx

(Y) *VOUCHER SYSTEM* REFERS TO A SYSTEM THAT GRANTS PORTABLE VOUCHERS TO POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR TO ALLOW THEM TO STUDY OR TRANSFER TO PRIVATE HEIs OR PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs, AND PUBLIC TVIs, SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES AND AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY GRANT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE UnIFAST BOARD, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS”.

SEC. 2. Subsections (i) and (j) of Section 3 of RA 10931 are hereby renumbered as Section 3 (j) and (k), respectively.

SEC. 3. Subsections (k) to (u) of Section 3 of RA 10931 are hereby amended and to be renumbered as Section 3 (n) to (x).

1 **SEC. 4.** Section 7 of RA 10931 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2

3 "SEC.7. *TES for Filipino Students.* - To support the cost of tertiary
4 education or any part or portion thereof, a TES is hereby established IN
5 ALL SUCs, LUCs, PRIVATE HEIs AND TVIs for all Filipino students who
6 [shall] enroll in THE FIRST undergraduate-post-secondary TERTIARY
7 EDUCATION program[s] [of SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs] OF
8 THEIR CHOICE. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST Board
9 and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the
10 RESPECTIVE budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided*, That
11 prioritization shall be given to [students in the following order: (a)
12 students who are part of households included in the *Listahanan 2.0*,
13 ranked according to the estimated per capita household income, and (b)]
14 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM HOUSEHOLDS UNDER
15 THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) WHO
16 SHALL BE GUARANTEED THE TES UPON QUALIFYING FOR
17 ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED HIGHER
18 EDUCATION INSTITUTION: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT SUBJECT
19 TO AVAILABLE FUNDS, THE REMAINING TES SLOTS SHALL BE
20 AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RANKING OF APPLICANTS
21 BASED ON THEIR PER CAPITA HOUSEHOLD INCOME USING THE
22 COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS) MANDATED
23 UNDER RA 11315, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMMUNITY-
24 BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT", OR SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS
25 AS PROOF OF INCOME: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT students WHO
26 ARE not part of the [*Listahanan 2.0*], CBMS ranked according to
27 estimated per capita household income based on [submitted
28 documentation of] THE proof of income to be determined by the
29 UniFAST Board SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TES: *Provided, further*,
30 That such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and
31 municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus AND PUBLIC TVI:
32 *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT FILIPINO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
33 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE HEIs IN CITIES AND
34 MUNICIPALITIES WHERE A SUC OR LUC EXISTS, BUT DOES NOT
35 OFFER COMPARABLE OR EQUIVALENT DEGREE PROGRAMS,
36 SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TES."
37

38 TO SUPPORT THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION OR
39 ANY PART OR PORTION THEREOF, [T]he TES may, among
40 others, [and to support the cost of tertiary education or any part or
41 portion thereof,] cover the following:
42

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

ADMINISTER GUIDELINES IN SETTING THE AMOUNT OF THE
TES;

(b) [An] AllowanceS 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 COMPUTER, WHEN APPLICABLE [and other education-related expenses];

(c) An allowance for room and board costs TO BE incurred by the student, WHEN APPLICABLE;

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

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

xxx

"ALL TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS OR SUBSIDY UNTIL THEY COMPLETE THEIR POST-SECONDARY TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSE OR HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAM: *PROVIDED*, THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE HEIs AND TVIs."

SEC. 5. A new Section 7-A is hereby inserted after Section 7 of RA 10931, to read as follows:

"SEC. 7-A. VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HEIs AND TVIs. - THERE SHALL BE A PROPORTIONAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS THROUGH A PORTABLE VOUCHER SYSTEM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNIFAST BOARD THAT SHALL ALLOW BENEFICIARIES TO STUDY IN PRIVATE HEIs AND PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs, AND PUBLIC TVIs.

THE ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS UNDER THE VOUCHER SYSTEM SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE

UNIFAST BOARD, BASED ON REASONABLE ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS, NOT LATER THAN THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS DETERMINED BY THE CHED, AND, IN THE CASE OF TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL STUDENTS, NOT LATER THAN THE PERIOD DESIGNATED BY THE TESDA, AND PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SPECIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM OR COURSE.

STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HEIs AND PRIVATE TVIs WHO ARE TES GRANTEES CAN NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR THE VOUCHER SYSTEM. ALL VOUCHERS ISSUED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS WHO OPT TO STUDY IN PRIVATE HEIs AND PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs AND PUBLIC TVIs.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL COMMISSION A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE COST OF TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR PRIVATE HEIs AND TVIs IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH SHALL BE THE NOMINAL VALUE OF THE VOUCHER UNDER THE SYSTEM. THE AMOUNT OF TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE (3) YEARS TO ALLOW FOR ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INFLATION.”

SEC. 6. A new Section 9 shall be inserted, to read as follows, with the succeeding provisions renumbered accordingly:

“SEC. 9. STRENGTHENING THE VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION FUNCTIONS OF CHED REGIONAL OFFICES TO IMPLEMENT THE UAQTE AND STUFAPS PROGRAMS. - EACH CHEDRO SHALL STRENGTHEN ITS VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION FUNCTIONS TO REVIEW, VALIDATE, AND VERIFY THE DOCUMENTARY SUBMISSIONS FROM HEIs OR STUDENTS TO ENSURE THEIR ADHERENCE TO EXISTING LAWS TO EXISTING LAWS, ORDERS, AND RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE RELEVANT STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (STUFAPS) AND THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE CHED.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, CHED MAY DETERMINE THE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION, SUBJECT TO EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS LAWS AND PERTINENT LAW, RULES, RULES AND REGULATIONS.”

SEC. 7. A new Section 10 shall be inserted, to read as follows, with the succeeding provisions, renumbered accordingly:

“SEC. 10. UAQTE GRIEVANCE MECHANISM. - A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL EACH BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN BOTH THE CHED AND THE TESDA, WHICH SHALL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE AND UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRIEVANCE MECHANISM AND ITS PROCESS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE STUDENTS, HEIs, AND TVIs.

THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN THE CHED SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS AND HEIs IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNIFAST.

THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN THE TESDA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE IN INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS AND TVIs IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNIFAST.”

SEC. 8. Sections 9 to 14 of RA 10931 are hereby renumbered as Sections 11 to 16.

SEC. 9. Section 15 of RA 10931 is hereby amended and renumbered as Section 17, to read as follows:

“Section [15] 17. Appropriations. - The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, specifically Section 4, 5, 7, [and] 8, AND [9] 11 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and shall be appropriated under THE SUCs, CHED, and TESDA in accordance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That an amount equivalent to not more than three percent (3%) of the TES and student loan program for tertiary education provided under this Act may be used as administrative cost under the UniFAST.”

SEC. 10. Sections 16 and 17 of RA 10931 are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 11. Section 18 of RA 10931 is hereby amended and renumbered as Section 20, to read as follows:

“SEC. [18] 20. Implementing Rules and Regulations.
— Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board, in consultation with the CHED, the TESDA, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DSWD, DEPARTMENT

1 OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT and other relevant
2 stakeholders in higher and technical-VOCATIONAL
3 education, shall promulgate the REVISED implementing rules
4 and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and
5 effective implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure
6 of the Board to promulgate the said rules and regulations shall
7 not prevent or delay the effectivity and implementation of this
8 Act [in accordance with Section 21 hereof].”
9

10 **SEC. 12.** Sections 19 and 20 of RA 10931 are hereby renumbered
11 accordingly.
12

13 **SEC. 13.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its COMPLETE
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
15

16 *Approved*,

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 8476

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 30, 40, 212, 683, 1970, 1994, 2642, 2824, 2990, 3453, 3467, 4270, 5488, 5563, 5650, 5914, 5934, 6029, 6250, 6501, 6548, 6609, 6733, 6825, 6829, 7160, 7329, and House Resolution No. 61)

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES JUDE A. ACIDRE, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, ERNESTO M. DIONISIO, JR., RENEE LOUISE M. CO, ANTONIO L. TINIO, ROMAN T. ROMULO, MARCELINO “MARCY” R. TEODORO, MIDY N. CUA, WALFREDO “ARMAN” R. DIMAGUILA, JR., IRIS MARIE DEMESA MONTES, ANTOLIN A. ORETA III, DANTE S. GARCIA KENNETH PAOLO TERENG, JAN “ATTY JP” PADIERNOS, YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ, ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ, JUAN CARLOS “ARJO” C. ATAYDE, BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR., AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI, RICARDO S. CRUZ, JR., MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING, CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP, EULOGIO “LEO” R. RODRIGUEZ, KEITH MICAH “ATTY MIKE” D.L. TAN, JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES, LEILA M. DE LIMA, ADRIAN E. SALCEDA, EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA, ERIC L. OLIVAREZ, TERRY L. RIDON, MARCELINO C. LIBANAN, RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, BERNADETTE G. ESCUDERO, USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO, CAROLINE B. AGYAO, M.D., DALE B. CORVERA, KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA, MA. ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA, ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG, KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, NIKKO RAUL S. J. DAZA, JOSE MANUEL TADEO “CHEL” I. DIOKNO, PERCIVAL “PERCI” CENDAÑA, MARIA CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ, JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA, LORETO S. AMANTE, PATRICIA C. CALDERON, ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG, ELIJAH RUMBEOA SAN FERNANDO, MARIO “KOKOY” O. SALVADOR, JULIUS CESAR “JAY” V. VERGARA, SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, AND ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA, RYAN S. RECTO, NICANOR M. BRIONES, JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR., LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE, JC M. ABALOS, ARTHUR C. YAP, CARLOS ANDES LORIA, MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS, FERDINAND “B1” L. BELTRAN, FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ, GERARDO “GERRYBOY” J. ESPINA, JR., ARTHUR F. CELESTE, JOHN TRACY F. CAGAS, LEONEL “JHONG” D. CENIZA, MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR., BRIAN POE, MA. CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ, ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO, JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ, AGATHA “AGAY” A. CRUZ, RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA, AUGUSTINA DOMINIQUE “DITSE TINA” C. PANCHO, NATHANIEL M. ODUKADO, ROMEO S. MOMO, SR., JULIENNE “JAM” L. BARONDA, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, MARIA CARMEN S.

ZAMORA, MARIA RACHEL J. ARENAS, RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA, JOSEPH KIM C. YU, MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO, IRWIN C. TIENG, IRENE G. LABADLABAD, ALEXANDRIA "QUEENIE" GONZALES, JOSEPH S. TAN, EDWIN ONGCHUAN, FELIMON M. ESPARES, CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ, ROBERTO "PINPIN" T. UY, JR., SITTIE AMINAH Q. DIMAPORO, MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M. GONZALES, JAN FRANZ NORBERT JOSELITO A. CHAN, MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, JANETTE L. GARIN, AND DE CARLO L. UY

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (PRIMARY)**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. JUDE A. ACIDRE**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (SECONDARY)**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING**

OBJECTIVE:

- To widen access to quality tertiary education, especially of poor but academically qualified students and senior high school graduates from households under the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Defines the terms “poor and academically qualified students”, “proof of income”, “proportional budgetary allocation”, and “voucher system”
- Establishes a Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) in all state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), private higher education institutions (HEIs) and technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) for all Filipino students who enroll in the first undergraduate, postsecondary tertiary education program of their choice
- Directs the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board to administer the TES and to prioritize senior high school graduates from households under the 4Ps who shall be guaranteed the TES upon qualifying for admission in a Commission on Higher Education (CHED)-recognized HEI: subject to available funds, the remaining TES slots shall be awarded in accordance with the ranking of applicants based on their per capita income using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) mandated under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise Known as the “Community-Based Monitoring System Act”, or submitted documents as proof of income provided that students who are not part of the CBMS ranked according to estimated per capita household income based on the proof of income to be determined by the UniFAST Board
- States that such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus and public TVI and also to Filipino students enrolled in undergraduate programs in private HEIs in cities and municipalities

where a SUC or exists, but does not offer comparable or equivalent programs shall be eligible to the TES

- Provides for a proportional budgetary allocation for poor, but academically qualified students of private HEIs and TVIs in areas where there are existing SUCs, LUCs, and public TVIs
- Declares that the eligibility of students under the voucher system shall be determined by the UniFAST Board based on reasonable economic and academic year, as determined by the CHED, and, in the case of technical-vocational students, not later than the period designated by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and prior to the start of the specific training program or course
- Stipulates that students of private HEIs and private TVIs who are TES grantees can no longer qualify as beneficiaries of the voucher system and all vouchers issued under this Act shall be used exclusively for the purpose of assisting poor and academically qualified students who opt to study in private HEIs and private TVIs in cities and municipalities where there are existing SUCs, LUCs, and public TVIs
- Directs the UniFAST Board to commission a study within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, to determine the appropriate cost of tuition and miscellaneous fees for private HEIs and TVIs in the country, which shall be the nominal value of the voucher under the system, and the amount of tuition and miscellaneous fees shall be reviewed every three (3) years to allow for adjustments due to inflation
- Requires the CHED Regional Offices to establish a validation and verification unit with sufficient personnel to review, validate, and verify the documentary submissions from HEIs or students to ensure their adherence to existing laws, orders, and rules and regulations of the existing student financial assistance programs and the universal access to quality higher education programs administered by the CHED
- Establishes a Grievance Committee within both the CHED and the TESDA, which shall ensure that grievance mechanism and its processes are accessible to students, HEIs, and TVIs and shall be responsible for investigating and resolving disputes and complaints in relation to the implementation of the provisions of this Act

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 7722 (Higher Education Act of 1994)
- Republic Act No. 7796 (TESDA Act of 1994)
- Republic Act No. 10687 (UniFAST Act)
- Republic Act No. 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act)