



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8476

BY REPRESENTATIVES ACIDRE, FRESNEDI, DIONISIO, CO, TINIO, ROMULO, TEODORO, CUA, DIMAGUILA, MONTES, ORETA, GARCIA (D.), TERENG, PADIERNOS, ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ROMUALDEZ (A.J.), ATAYDE, AGARAO, ZUBIRI, CRUZ (R.), SUANSING (M.A.), YAP (C.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), TAN (K.M.), FLORES, DE LIMA, SALCEDA, VILLANUEVA, OLIVAREZ, RIDON, DY (F.), MARCOS, LIBANAN, RODRIGUEZ (R.), ESCUDERO, ALANO, AGYAO, CORVERA, GARCIA (K.H.), SAGARBARRIA, LUMAYAG, GATCHALIAN, DAZA, DIOKNO, CENDAÑA, LOPEZ, BAUTISTA (J.M.), AMANTE, CALDERON, AMATONG, SAN FERNANDO, SALVADOR, VERGARA, ELAGO, ROMAN, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, MADRONA, RECTO, BRIONES, TEVES, ROQUE, ABALOS, YAP (A.), LORIA, SANTOS (M.A.S.), BELTRAN, HERNANDEZ (F.), ESPINA, CELESTE, CAGAS, CENIZA, DALOG, POE, TOLENTINO, BENITEZ (J.M.), CRUZ (A.), GOMEZ, PANTO, ODUCAO, MOMO, BARONDA, ZAMORA (M.C.), ARENAS, MENDOZA, YU (J.K.), LAGDAMEO (M.Y.M.), TIENG, LABADLABAD, GONZALES (A.), TAN (J.), ONGCHUAN, ESPARES, HERNANDEZ (C.A.), UY (R.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, GONZALES (A.M.), CHAN (J.F.N.J.), PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, GARIN AND UY (D.C.)

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:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 3 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10931, or the
2 "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act," is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:
4

5 "SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

6
7 X X X

8
9 (I) **POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENT**
10 REFERS TO A STUDENT WHO BELONGS TO A HOUSEHOLD
11 RANKED AS "POOR" BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
12 WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT BASED ON PROOF OF
13 INCOME AS PRESENTED TO THE UNIFAST BOARD, AND
14 WHO CONSISTENTLY MEETS THE ACADEMIC RETENTION

1 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONCERNED HEI OR TVI FOR A
2 REGULAR UNIT LOAD;

3
4 x x x

5
6 (L) *PROOF OF INCOME* REFERS TO ANY DOCUMENTATION
7 USED TO VERIFY, AUTHENTICATE, OR ASSESS THE
8 ANNUAL INCOME OF A PERSON OR HOUSEHOLD;

9
10 (M) *PROPORTIONAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION* REFERS TO
11 A BUDGETARY ALLOCATION WHICH SHALL SUBSIDIZE THE
12 FULL COST OF TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES IN THE
13 FORM OF PORTABLE VOUCHERS FOR POOR AND
14 ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS;

15
16 x x x

17
18 (Y) *VOUCHER SYSTEM* REFERS TO A SYSTEM THAT
19 GRANTS PORTABLE VOUCHERS TO POOR AND
20 ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE
21 START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR TO ALLOW THEM TO
22 STUDY OR TRANSFER TO PRIVATE HEIs OR PRIVATE TVIs
23 IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE THERE ARE
24 EXISTING SUCs, LUCs, AND PUBLIC TVIs, SUBJECT TO THE
25 GUIDELINES AND AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY GRANT TO BE
26 DETERMINED BY THE UNIFAST BOARD, SUBJECT TO THE
27 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS."

28
29 **SEC. 2.** Subsections (i) and (j) of Section 3 of RA 10931 are hereby
30 renumbered as Section 3 (j) and (k), respectively.

31
32 **SEC. 3.** Subsections (k) to (u) of Section 3 of RA 10931 are hereby
33 amended and to be renumbered as Section 3 (n) to (x).

34
35 **SEC. 4.** Section 7 of R.A. No. 10931 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36
37 "SEC. 7. *TES for Filipino Students.* – To support the cost of tertiary
38 education or any part or portion thereof, a TES is hereby established IN
39 ALL SUCs, LUCs, PRIVATE HEIs AND TVIs for all Filipino students who
40 [shall] enroll in THE FIRST undergraduate post-secondary TERTIARY
41 EDUCATION program[s] [of SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs] OF
42 THEIR CHOICE. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST Board
43 and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the
44 RESPECTIVE budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided*, That
45 prioritization shall be given to [students in the following order: (a)
46 students who are part of households included in the *Listahanan* 2.0,
47 ranked according to the estimated per capita household income, and (b)]
48 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM HOUSEHOLDS UNDER
49 THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) WHO
50 SHALL BE GUARANTEED THE TES UPON QUALIFYING FOR
51 ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED HIGHER
52 EDUCATION INSTITUTION: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT SUBJECT

1 TO AVAILABLE FUNDS, THE REMAINING TES SLOTS SHALL BE
2 AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RANKING OF APPLICANTS
3 BASED ON THEIR PER CAPITA HOUSEHOLD INCOME USING THE
4 COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS) MANDATED
5 UNDER R.A. NO. 11315, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMMUNITY-
6 BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT", OR SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS
7 AS PROOF OF INCOME: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT students WHO
8 ARE not part of the [Listahanan 2.0], CBMS ranked according to
9 estimated per capita household income based on [submitted
10 documentation of] THE proof of income to be determined by the
11 UniFAST Board SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TES: *Provided, further*,
12 That such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and
13 municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus AND PUBLIC TVI:
14 *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT FILIPINO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
15 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PRIVATE HEIs IN CITIES AND
16 MUNICIPALITIES WHERE A SUC OR LUC EXISTS, BUT DOES NOT
17 OFFER COMPARABLE OR EQUIVALENT DEGREE PROGRAMS,
18 SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TES.

19
20 TO SUPPORT THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION OR
21 ANY PART OR PORTION THEREOF, [T]he TES may, among
22 others, [and to support the cost of tertiary education or any part or
23 portion thereof,] cover the following:

24
25 (a) FULL [T]uition and other school fees (TOSF) in private
26 HEIs, and private or LGU-operated TVIs, which shall be equivalent
27 to the tuition and other school fees of the nearest SUC or state-run
28 TVI in their respective areas: *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH TOSF
29 SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT BY THE
30 GOVERNMENT PER STUDENT UNDER THE FREE HIGHER
31 EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SUCs AND LUCs: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*,
32 THAT IN CASES WHERE THE TOSF EXCEED THIS
33 AVERAGE AMOUNT, THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL
34 ADMINISTER GUIDELINES IN SETTING THE AMOUNT OF THE TES;

35
36 (b) [An] AllowanceS for books, SCHOOL supplies,
37 transportation TO AND FROM SCHOOL, and miscellaneous
38 personal expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the
39 documented rental or purchase of a [personal computer or
40 laptop] DESKTOP OR PORTABLE COMPUTER, WHEN
41 APPLICABLE [and other education-related expenses];

42
43 (c) An allowance for room and board costs TO BE incurred
44 by the student, WHEN APPLICABLE;

45
46 (d) For a student with a disability, an allowance for expenses
47 related to the student's disability, including special services,
48 personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies that
49 are reasonably incurred; and

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

9 x x x

10
11 ALL TES BENEFICIARIES SHALL CONTINUE TO
12 RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS OR SUBSIDY UNTIL THEY
13 COMPLETE THEIR POST-SECONDARY TECHNICAL-
14 VOCATIONAL COURSE OR HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREE
15 PROGRAM: *PROVIDED*, THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THE
16 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
17 THE RULES OF THE HEIs AND TVIs.”
18

19 **SEC. 5.** A new Section 7-A is hereby inserted after Section 7 of R.A. No. 10931,
20 to read as follows:
21

22 “SEC. 7-A. *VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND*
23 *ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE*
24 *HEIs AND TVIs.* – THERE SHALL BE A PROPORTIONAL
25 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT POOR AND
26 ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS THROUGH A
27 PORTABLE VOUCHER SYSTEM TO BE ADMINISTERED
28 BY THE UNIFAST BOARD THAT SHALL ALLOW
29 BENEFICIARIES TO STUDY IN PRIVATE HEIs AND
30 PRIVATE TVIs IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE
31 THERE ARE EXISTING SUCs, LUCs, AND PUBLIC TVIs.
32

33 THE ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS UNDER THE
34 VOUCHER SYSTEM SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE
35 UNIFAST BOARD, BASED ON REASONABLE
36 ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS, NOT
37 LATER THAN THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AS
38 DETERMINED BY THE CHED, AND, IN THE CASE OF
39 TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL STUDENTS, NOT LATER
40 THAN THE PERIOD DESIGNATED BY THE TESDA, AND
41 PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SPECIFIC TRAINING
42 PROGRAM OR COURSE.
43

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

1
2 FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WITHIN SIXTY (60)
3 DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE
4 UNIFAST BOARD SHALL COMMISSION A STUDY TO
5 DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE COST OF TUITION AND
6 MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR PRIVATE HEIs AND TVIs IN
7 THE COUNTRY, WHICH SHALL BE THE NOMINAL VALUE
8 OF THE VOUCHER UNDER THE SYSTEM. THE AMOUNT
9 OF TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES SHALL BE
10 REVIEWED EVERY THREE (3) YEARS TO ALLOW FOR
11 ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INFLATION."
12

13 **SEC. 6.** A new Section 9 shall be inserted, to read as follows, with the
14 succeeding provisions renumbered accordingly:
15

16 "SEC. 9. *STRENGTHENING THE VALIDATION AND*
17 *VERIFICATION FUNCTIONS OF CHED REGIONAL OFFICES*
18 *TO IMPLEMENT THE UAQTE AND STUFAPS PROGRAMS.* –
19 EACH CHEDRO SHALL STRENGTHEN ITS VALIDATION AND
20 VERIFICATION FUNCTIONS TO REVIEW, VALIDATE, AND
21 VERIFY THE DOCUMENTARY SUBMISSIONS FROM HEIs OR
22 STUDENTS TO ENSURE THEIR ADHERENCE TO EXISTING
23 LAWS TO EXISTING LAWS, ORDERS, AND RULES AND
24 REGULATIONS OF THE RELEVANT STUDENT FINANCIAL
25 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (STUFAPS) AND THE UNIVERSAL
26 ACCESS TO QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
27 ADMINISTERED BY THE CHED.
28

29 FOR THIS PURPOSE, CHED MAY DETERMINE THE
30 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS
31 FUNCTION, SUBJECT TO EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF
32 THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM),
33 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS LAWS
34 AND PERTINENT LAW, RULES, RULES AND REGULATIONS."
35

36 **SEC. 7.** A new Section 10 shall be inserted, to read as follows, with the
37 succeeding provisions, renumbered accordingly:
38

39 "SEC. 10. *UAQTE GRIEVANCE MECHANISM.* – A
40 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL EACH BE ESTABLISHED
41 WITHIN BOTH THE CHED AND THE TESDA, WHICH SHALL
42 ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE AND UPDATED INFORMATION
43 ABOUT THE GRIEVANCE MECHANISM AND ITS PROCESS
44 ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE STUDENTS, HEIs, AND TVIs.
45

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

1 THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN THE
2 TESDA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE IN INVESTIGATING AND
3 RESOLVING DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS
4 AND TVIs IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
5 ACT. THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE
6 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNIFAST.”
7

8 **SEC. 8.** Sections 9 to 14 of R.A. No. 10931 are hereby renumbered as
9 Sections 11 to 16.
10

11 **SEC. 9.** Section 15 of R.A. No. 10931 is hereby amended and
12 renumbered as Section 17, to read as follows:
13

14 “SEC. [15] 17. *Appropriations.* – The amounts
15 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, specifically
16 Sections 4, 5, 7, [and] 8, AND [9] 11 shall be included in the
17 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and shall be
18 appropriated under THE SUCs, CHED and TESDA in
19 accordance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That an
20 amount equivalent to not more than three percent (3%) of the
21 TES and student loan program for tertiary education provided
22 under this Act may be used as administrative cost under the
23 UniFAST.”
24

25 **SEC. 10.** Sections 16 and 17 of R.A. No. 10931 are hereby renumbered
26 accordingly.
27

28 **SEC. 11.** Section 18 of R.A. No. 10931 is hereby amended and renumbered as
29 Section 20, to read as follows:
30

31 “SEC. [18] 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*
32 – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
33 UniFAST Board, in consultation with the CHED, the TESDA,
34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DSWD, DEPARTMENT
35 OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT and other relevant
36 stakeholders in higher and technical-VOCATIONAL
37 education, shall promulgate the REVISED implementing rules
38 and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and
39 effective implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure
40 of the Board to promulgate the said rules and regulations shall
41 not prevent or delay the effectivity and implementation of this
42 Act [in accordance with Section 21 hereof].”
43

44 **SEC. 12.** Sections 19 and 20 of R.A. No. 10931 are hereby renumbered
45 accordingly.
46

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

Approved,