Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1469

Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

RESOLUTION
URGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS THRU THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES, LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES, TO WAIVE THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF REGULATORY FEES IMPOSED UPON PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OPERATING WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 4(1) provides that the State recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions;

WHEREAS, Local Government Units (LGUs), as empowered by statute and the Constitution, impose upon private higher education institutions (HEIs) and technical-vocational education institutions (TVEIs), as business enterprises, several regulatory fees in the exercise of police power in order to promote the general welfare within their respective territorial jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the private education sector has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the government imposes strict restrictions on face-to-face classes, and private HEIs are forced to migrate to distance learning modalities;

WHEREAS, a survey among private education institutions revealed that 24.46% of the HEI-respondents projected a decrease in enrollment of at least 50%; and a total of 73.91% of HEI-respondents expecting significant decreases;

WHEREAS, in the same survey, 44.48% of the TVEI-respondents projected a decrease in enrollment of at least 50%; and a total of 76.12% of the TVEI-respondents expecting significant decreases;

WHEREAS, the mounting financial burden due to dropouts, mass exodus of students to local and state universities and colleges, and insufficient flow of income, coupled with the continuous payment of operating expenditures, which include government-imposed fees, threatens to force private HEIs and TVEIs to retrench faculty and administrative personnel, or ultimately close their operations;
WHEREAS, in this time of financial difficulties, and economic uncertainties, the waiver of assessment and collection of regulatory fees levied by LGUs, will grant reprieve to private HEIs and TVEIs, and allow them to sustain operations so as not to impede or halt the education of their students;

WHEREAS, the range of which fees shall be subject of the proposed waiver shall be left to the judicious discretion of the different LGUs based on the financial standing of the LGUs among other considerations;

WHEREAS, the waiver of the assessment and collection of regulatory fees shall be for a period of at least one year, beginning January 2021, or until such time deemed appropriate by the LGUs, considering primarily the prevailing circumstances, enrollment normalization, and the directives of the government as to the resumption of face-to-face classes;

WHEREAS, it is therefore with cogency, that this concern be settled immediately to mitigate further losses of private HEIs and TVEIs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives urges Local Government Units, thru the League of Provinces, League of Cities, and League of Municipalities, to waive the assessment and collection of regulatory fees imposed upon private higher education institutions and technical-vocational education institutions operating within their respective jurisdiction.

Adopted,

MARK D. GO