Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1352

Submitted by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on November 29, 2021
Re: House Bill No. 10555
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 647
Sponsors: Representatives Mark O. Go, Roman T. Romulo, and Joy Myra S. Tambunting

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Basic Education and Culture, to which was referred House Bill No. 647, introduced by Representative Joy Myra S. Tambunting, entitled:

"AN ACT
GRANTING FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, COLLEGE ENTRANTS OR TRANSFEREES APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS"

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 10555, entitled:

"AN ACT
MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WAIVE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION"

ROMAN T. ROMULO  
Chairperson  
Committee on Basic Education and Culture

Respectfully submitted:

MARK O. GO  
Chairperson  
Committee on Higher and Technical Education

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
QUEZON CITY
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10555
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 647)


AN ACT
MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WAIVE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Free College Entrance Examinations Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to expand and further democratize access to quality college education in private higher education institutions (PHEIs) by instituting mechanisms that promote the rights of the underprivileged and deserving high school graduates.

The exemption from the imposition of entrance examination fees is one such mechanism that shall ensure that underprivileged and deserving high school graduating student and high school graduates are given adequate assistance and equal opportunity to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college education.

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

a) College entrance examinations – refer to the examinations required and administered by higher education institutions on college entrants as one of the criteria for determining admission to a college degree program;
b) **Higher education institution** – refers to an educational institution recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and is legally authorized to offer a program of education leading to the conferment of a degree; and

c) **Underprivileged graduating high school students and graduates** – refer to graduating high school students or high school graduates entering college, whose parents live below the poverty line or belong to the poorest of the poor, as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Household Targeting System of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

**SEC. 4. Waiver of Fees.** - All PHEIs offering degree-granting programs at the undergraduate level are hereby mandated to waive college entrance examination fees to underprivileged graduating high school students and high school graduates belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class who are applying for college admission.

**SEC. 5. Qualification Requirements.** - A student shall become eligible as beneficiary under this Act when the following requirements are met:

a) Must be a natural-born Filipino citizen;

b) Must be a graduating high school student or a high school graduate belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class entering college and intends to enroll in any PHEI within the country; and

c) Must have parents or guardians living below the poverty line, as determined by the NEDA and the DSWD.

**SEC. 6. Sanctions.** - The CHED shall reprimand any PHEI official or employee and other concerned individuals violating Section 4 of this Act and impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to its powers under Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994,” for a repetition of the same offense.

**SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the Department of Education and the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines, issue the necessary rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 10555
(In substitution of House Bill No. 647)

AN ACT
MANDATING PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO WAIVE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FEES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE GRADUATING CLASS WHO ARE APPLYING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION


Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Committee Chairperson: REP. MARK O. GO

OBJECTIVES:

● To democratize access to quality higher education in private higher education institutions (PHEIs)

● To ensure that underprivileged, deserving graduating high school students and high school graduates are given adequate assistance and equal opportunity to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college education

KEY PROVISIONS:

● Mandates all PHEIs offering degree-granting programs at the undergraduate level to waive college entrance examination fees to underprivileged graduating high school students and high school graduates belonging to the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating class who are applying for college admission
States that the Commission on Higher Education shall reprimand any PHEI official or employee and other concerned individuals violating Section 4 of this Act and impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to its powers under Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994,” for a repetition of the same offense.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 7722 (Higher Education Act of 1994)
- Republic Act No. 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act)
- Republic Act No. 10687 (Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education or UniFAST Act)
- Republic Act No. 10648 (Iskolar ng Bayan Act of 2014)