

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 30**



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Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill proposes adjustments in the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) program so that it may be able to achieve its objective by introducing necessary reforms. It also seeks to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable households benefit from the program by guaranteeing access to students from households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

TES was established under Republic Act No. 10931, or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act. The objective was to give financial assistance to deserving Filipinos from the poorest families. The TES was supposed to prioritize students from households in Listahanan 2.0, ranked by income, to be followed by those not on the said list but have their income documents validated. This prioritization was however not used in cities and municipalities where there are no existing campus of a state or local university or college, as provided for in the said law.

However, the implementation of the program has not been faithful to its goals. According to the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2), the share of TES grantees from 4Ps and Listahanan households has dropped from 74.24% in academic year (AY) 2018-2019 to only 30.74% in AY 2022-2023. Furthermore, students in private institutions where there are no state or local university campuses have increased from 25.76% to 69.26%. This large increase in their share should be reviewed, as students there are deemed qualified regardless of financial capacity.

The reform provisions contained in this proposed measure that: (1) proposes to cover the full cost of tuition and other school fees based on certain conditions; (2) provides policies in determining allowances and subsidies under TES; and (3) establishes implementation, monitoring and quality assurance mechanisms, are all geared towards improving the program to make it more responsive in addressing the needs of beneficiaries. These reform provisions together with the provision to guaranty students under the 4Ps are envisioned to make the TES as one of the anchor programs in the general goal of improving the quality of education in our country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**JAIME R. FRESNEDI**  
*Representative*

Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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**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**

*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 for all Filipino students who shall enroll in undergraduate-post-secondary programs of SUCs, LUCs private HEIs and all TVIs. The TES shall be administered by the UniFAST Board and the amount necessary to fund the TES shall be included in the budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided, That* [prioritization shall be given to students in the following order: (a) students who are part of households included in the Listahanan 2.0, ranked according to the estimated per capita household income; and (b) students 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] **SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS FROM HOUSEHOLDS UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM WHO HAVE COMPLETED SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL BE GUARANTEED TES: *Provided, further, That*** [such] **SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDS, THE REMAINING TES SLOTS SHALL BE AWARDED BASED ON** [prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus.] **THE RANKING OF APPLICANTS BASED ON THEIR PER**

**BASED ON THEIR PER CAPITA INCOME HOUSEHOLD USING THE MOST UPDATED LISTAHANAN AND/OR SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS AS PROOF OF INCOME.**

The TES may, among others, and to support the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, cover the following:

- (a) [Tuition] **FULL 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;]: **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH FEES SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AVERAGE AMOUNT SPENT BY THE GOVERNMENT PER STUDENT UNDER THE FREE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SUCS AND LUCS; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN CASES WHERE SUCH FEES SHALL EXCEED THIS AVERAGE AMOUNT, THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER GUIDELINES IN SETTING THE AMOUNT OF THE TES;**
- (b) x x x
- (c) x x x
- (d) x x x
- (e) x x x.”

SEC. 2. A new section, named Section 7-A, shall be inserted to read as follows:

**“SECTION 7-A. FIXING AMOUNTS UNDER THE TES. – IN DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS OF ALLOWANCES AND SUBSIDIES UNDER TES FOR PUBLIC STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, THE UNIFAST SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

- (A) TES IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IS FOR ALLOWANCES OF STUDENTS AND DOES NOT COVER TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES AS THESE ARE ALREADY COVERED BY THE FREE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND**
- (B) TES IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IS FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY AND ALLOWANCES OF QUALIFIED POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS: PROVIDED, THAT A HIGHER UPPER LIMIT OF THE TES AMOUNT SHALL BE APPLIED FOR STUDENTS THAT WILL ENROLL IN PRIORITY COURSES JOINTLY IDENTIFIED BY CHED AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT (DEPDEV).**

**DESERVING STUDENTS: PROVIDED, THAT A HIGHER UPPER LIMIT OF THE TES AMOUNT SHALL BE APPLIED FOR STUDENTS THAT WILL ENROLL IN PRIORITY COURSES JOINTLY IDENTIFIED BY CHED AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA).**

**PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE AMOUNTS HEREIN SHALL BE REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED EVERY TWO (2) YEARS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGES IN THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND INFLATION.”**

**“SECTION 7-B. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCES OF THE TES. – THE UNIFAST SHALL:**

- (A) IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND VALIDATION TO ENSURE THAT TEST ALLOWANCES ARE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 7, AND IMPOSE SANCTIONS, INCLUDING DISQUALIFICATION, FOR NON-COMPLIANCE;**
- (B) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DBM AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA), DEVELOP AN EFFICIENT DISBURSEMENT SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE DISBURSEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COST, TO ENSURE TES GRANTEES RECEIVE THEIR SUBSIDIES NOT LATER THAN THE END OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEMESTER FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING FOR THE TES, AS WELL AS TO FUND THE PROVISION OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES, AND MAY UTILIZE THE PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (PHILSYS) TO FACILITATE THE VALIDATION OF ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES;**
- (C) COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM THAT INFORMS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE 4PS OF THEIR AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE TES; AND**
- (D) MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE TES PROGRAM EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS, INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF AN ONLINE INFORMATION SYSTEM TO ASSESS THE PROGRESS OF TES GRANTEES WHILE THEY ARE IN THE HEI, AND TRACER**

**SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEIS TO ASSESS AND ENHANCE THE PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TES, AND UTILIZE THE PHILSYS NUMBERS OF TES GRANTEES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION PURPOSES.**

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEIS SHALL UTILIZE THE PHILSYS NUMBERS OF TES GRANTEES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION PURPOSES AND LIKEWISE PROVIDE LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES TO TES BENEFICIARIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CAREER COUNSELLING, BRIDGING PROGRAMS, AND TUTORIALS.**

**THE CHED, IN COORDINATION WITH UNIFAST, SHALL ESTABLISH A REGULAR QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS FOR HEIS ENROLLING TES GRANTEES. THIS SHALL INCLUDE PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS OF BOTH INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND PROGRAM QUALITY, WITH A FOCUS ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS, GRADUATE OUTCOMES, AND COMPLIANCE WITH CHED POLICIES. HEIS FAILING TO MEET THE MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS SHALL BE RE-EVALUATED AND MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM ENROLLING NEW TES GRANTEES UNTIL COMPLIANCE IS ACHIEVED.**

*SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The UniFAST Board, in consultation with the CHED, DepEd, DSWD, TESDA, and other stakeholders in higher and technical education, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

*SEC. 4. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

*SEC. 5. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force and effect.

*SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.* – All Acts, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders and Administrative Orders, Rules and Regulations and other such issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

*SEC. 7. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*