

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

'17 MAY 29 P 1:52

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

RECEIVED BY: _____

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1304 entitled:

AN ACT ACCELERATING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR A TUITION SUBSIDY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs), PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

and House Bill No. 5633, entitled:

AN ACT PROMOTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR FREE TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STRENGTHENING THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

after having met and discussed the subject matter in full and free conference, has agreed and does hereby recommend to their respective Houses that Senate Bill No. 1304, in consolidation with House Bill No. 5633, be approved in accordance with the attached copy of the bill as reconciled and approved by the conferees.

Approved,

**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**


ANN K. HOFER
Chairperson

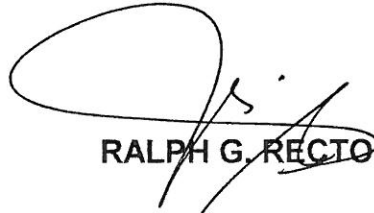
**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF
THE SENATE:**


FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO
Chairperson

Conference Committee Report on Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act



EVELINA G. ESCUDERO



RALPH G. RECTO



BEN P. EVARDONE



PAOLO BENIGNO "BAM" AQUINO IV



ANTONIO L. TINIO



WIN GATCHALIAN



JOEY SARTE SALCEDA



CELSO L. LOBREGAT



ARLENE B. ARCILLAS



REPUBLIC ACT NO. _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

AN ACT PROMOTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR FREE TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHING THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Universal Access to
2 Quality Tertiary Education Act”.

3
4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*– It is hereby declared that quality education is
5 an inalienable right of all Filipinos and it is the policy of the State to protect and
6 promote the rights of all students to quality education at all levels. Therefore, the State
7 shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

8 Likewise, the State hereby recognizes the complementary roles of public and
9 private higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions in the
10 educational system and the invaluable contribution that the private tertiary schools
11 have made and will make to education. For these intents, the State shall:

12 (a) Provide adequate funding and such other mechanisms to increase the
13 participation rate among all socioeconomic classes in tertiary education;

14 (b) Provide all Filipinos with equal opportunity to quality tertiary education in
15 both the private and public educational institutions;

16 (c) Give priority to students who are academically able and who come from
17 poor families;

18 (d) Ensure the optimized utilization of government resources in education;

19 (e) Provide adequate guidance and incentives in channelling young Filipinos in
20 their career choices and towards the proper development and utilization of human
21 resources; and

Handwritten initials

Handwritten signature

government resources

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

1 (f) Recognize the complementary roles of public and private institutions in
2 tertiary educational system.

3

4 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*— As used in this Act:

5 (a) *Cost of Tertiary Education* refers to (1) tuition and other school fees, (2)
6 Educational expenses and (3) the cost of living allowance;

7 (b) *Graduate courses* refer to higher education programs leading to a
8 certificate, diploma, master’s or doctorate degrees, as may be authorized and
9 recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

10 (c) *Higher education* refers to the stage of formal education, or its equivalent,
11 requiring completion of secondary education and covering programs of study leading
12 to bachelor and advanced degrees, including associate degrees;

13 (d) *Higher Education Institution (HEI)* refers to an education institution
14 authorized and recognized by CHED to offer bachelor’s degree or graduate courses;

15 (e) *Local universities and colleges (LUCs)* refer to CHED-accredited public
16 higher education institutions established by local government units (LGUs) through
17 an enabling ordinance, financially supported by the LGU concerned, and compliant
18 with the policies, standards and guidelines of CHED;

19 (f) *National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or*
20 *Listahanan 2.0* refers to the information management of the Department of Social
21 Welfare and Development (DSWD) that identifies who and where the poor are in the
22 country. The system makes available to national government agencies and other social
23 protection stakeholders a database of poor families as reference in identifying
24 potential beneficiaries of social protection programs;

25 (g) *Other education-related expenses* refer to expenses related to the education
26 of a student such as books, school supplies, uniforms, reproduction of materials,
27 electronic devices necessary for education and other fees such as for practical
28 teaching devices, student publication, yearbook, insurance, and student trust funds;

Handwritten vertical text: *sumang-ayus*

29 (h) *Other school fees* refer to fees charged by higher education institutions and
30 technical-vocational institutions which cover other necessary costs supportive of
31 instruction, specifically the following: library fees, computer fees, laboratory fees,
32 school ID fees, athletic fees, admission fees, development fees, guidance fees,
33 handbook fees, entrance fees, registration fees, medical and dental fees, cultural fees
34 and other similar or related fees;

1 (i) *Private higher education institution* refers to a higher education institution
2 not owned and controlled by the government or its instrumentalities;

3 (j) *Private technical-vocational institution* refers to post-secondary technical-
4 vocational institution run by the private sector offering programs registered with the
5 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);

6 (k) *Qualified student* refers to any student who possesses all the qualifications
7 under Sections 4 and 5 and none of the disqualifications under Sec. 6 hereof;

8 (l) *State-run technical-vocational institutions* refer to technical-vocational
9 institutions operated by the TESDA or LGUs: *Provided*, That in the latter case, the
10 same should be accredited by TESDA;

11 (m) *State universities and colleges (SUCs)* refer to public HEIs established by
12 national laws which are financed and maintained by the national government and are
13 governed by their respective independent boards of trustees or regents;

14 (n) *Student loan program for tertiary education* refers to a loan program
15 established under Section 8 of this Act;

16 (o) *Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* refers to the
17 education process designed at post-secondary and lower tertiary levels, officially
18 recognized as non-degree programs aimed at preparing technicians, para-professionals
19 and other categories of middle-level workers by providing them with a broad range of
20 general education, theoretical, scientific and technological studies, and related job
21 skills training;

22 (p) *Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs)* refer to learning institutions
23 offering post-secondary technical-vocational education and training;

24 (q) *Tertiary education* refers to the stage of education following the secondary
25 cycle which covers post-secondary non-degree diploma, TVET, and higher education
26 programs, including graduate education;

27 (r) *Tertiary education subsidy (TES)* refers to a subsidy established under
28 Section 7 of this Act;

29 (s) *Tuition fees* refer to fees or school charges for the subjects or course
30 enrolled in by a tertiary education student;

31 (t) *Undergraduate courses* refer to any program leading to a degree as may be
32 authorized and recognized by the CHED; and

33 (u) *Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education*
34 (*UniFAST*) refers to the harmonized, state-run and administered system of higher

gremak, gremak

1 education and technical-vocational scholarships, grants-in-aid, student loans, and
2 other modalities of student financial assistance program under Republic Act No.
3 10687.

4
5 SEC. 4. *Free Higher Education in State Universities and Colleges and Local*
6 *Universities and Colleges.* – All Filipino students who are either currently enrolled
7 at the time of the effectivity of this Act, or shall enroll at any time thereafter, in
8 courses in pursuance of a bachelor’s degree, certificate degree, or any comparable
9 undergraduate degree in any SUC and LUC shall be exempt from paying tuition and
10 other school fees for units enrolled in: *Provided,* That they pass the entrance
11 examination and other admission and retention requirements of the SUCs and LUCs:
12 *Provided further,* That all SUCs and LUCs shall create a mechanism to enable
13 students with the financial capacity to pay for their education in the SUC to
14 voluntarily opt out of the tuition and other school fees subsidy or make a contribution
15 to the school. SUCs and LUCs must report the tuition payments and contributions
16 collected from these students to CHED: *Provided finally,* that the amount required to
17 implement the free tuition and other school fees in SUCs and LUCs shall be
18 determined by the respective governing boards of SUCs and LUCs based on the
19 projected number of enrollees for each academic year, which shall be the primary
20 factor in computing the annual proposed budget of SUCs and, in the case of LUCs,
21 CHED for such purpose. This shall in turn serve as the baseline during the preparation
22 of the annual National Expenditure Program (NEP) by the Department of Budget and
23 Management (DBM).

24
25 SEC. 5. *Free Technical-Vocational Education and Training in Post-Secondary*
26 *Technical-Vocational Institutions).* –All Filipino students who are currently enrolled
27 at the time of the effectivity of this Act, or shall enroll at any time thereafter, in any
28 post-secondary TVET leading to nondegree certificate or diploma programs offered
29 by any state-run TVI under the TESDA shall be exempt from paying tuition and other
30 school fees: *Provided,* That all state-run TVIs shall create a mechanism to enable
31 students with the financial capacity to pay for their education in the TVI to voluntarily
32 opt out of the tuition and other school fees subsidy or make a contribution to the TVI.
33 TVIs must report the tuition payments and contributions collected from these
34 students.

overseas b. students

1 The amount required to implement the free tuition and other school fees in state-
2 run TVIs shall be determined by the governing board of the TESDA based on the
3 projected number of enrollees for each course, which shall be the primary factor in
4 computing for the annual proposed budget of the TESDA for such purpose. This shall
5 in turn serve as the baseline during the preparation of the annual NEP by the DBM.

6
7 SEC.6. *Exceptions to Free Tertiary Education.*—The following students are
8 ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education:

9
10 1) In SUCs and LUCs:

11 (a) Students who have already attained a bachelor's degree or comparable
12 undergraduate degree from any higher education institution, whether public or
13 private;

14 (b) Students who fail to comply with the admission and retention policies of the
15 SUC or LUC;

16 (c) Students who fail to complete their bachelor's degree or comparable
17 undergraduate degree within a year after the period prescribed in their program; and

18
19 2) In State-Run TVIs:

20 (a) Students who have obtained a bachelor's degree, as well as those who have
21 received a certificate or diploma for a technical-vocational course equivalent to at
22 least National Certificate III and above;

23 (b) Students who fail in any course enrolled in during the course of the program.

24 Students ineligible to avail of the free tertiary education shall be charged the
25 tuition and other school fees, as determined by the respective boards of the SUCs and
26 LUCs, and in the case of the state-run TVIs, to be determined by the TESDA.

27
28 SEC. 7. *Tertiary Education Subsidy for Filipino Students.*—To support the cost
29 of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, a Tertiary Education Subsidy
30 (TES) is hereby established for all Filipino students who shall enroll in undergraduate
31 post-secondary programs of SUCs, LUCs, private HEIs and all TVIs. The TES shall
32 be administered by the UniFAST Board and the amount necessary to fund the TES
33 shall be included in the budgets of the CHED and the TESDA: *Provided, That*
34 prioritization shall be given to students in the following order: (1) Students who are

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
281
282
283
284
285
286
287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415
416
417
418
419
420
421
422
423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548
549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556
557
558
559
560
561
562
563
564
565
566
567
568
569
570
571
572
573
574
575
576
577
578
579
580
581
582
583
584
585
586
587
588
589
590
591
592
593
594
595
596
597
598
599
600
601
602
603
604
605
606
607
608
609
610
611
612
613
614
615
616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625
626
627
628
629
630
631
632
633
634
635
636
637
638
639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712
713
714
715
716
717
718
719
720
721
722
723
724
725
726
727
728
729
730
731
732
733
734
735
736
737
738
739
740
741
742
743
744
745
746
747
748
749
750
751
752
753
754
755
756
757
758
759
760
761
762
763
764
765
766
767
768
769
770
771
772
773
774
775
776
777
778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827
828
829
830
831
832
833
834
835
836
837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895
896
897
898
899
900
901
902
903
904
905
906
907
908
909
910
911
912
913
914
915
916
917
918
919
920
921
922
923
924
925
926
927
928
929
930
931
932
933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963
964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994
995
996
997
998
999
1000

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

1 part of households included in the *Listahanan 2.0*, ranked according to the estimated
2 per capita household income, and (2) students not part of the *Listahanan 2.0*, ranked
3 according to estimated per capita household income based on submitted
4 documentation of proof of income to be determined by the UniFAST Board: *Provided*
5 *further*, That such prioritization shall not apply to Filipino students in cities and
6 municipalities with no existing SUC or LUC campus.

7
8 The TES may, among others, and to support the cost of tertiary education or any
9 part or portion thereof, cover the following:

10 (a) Tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and private or LGU-operated
11 TVIs, which shall be equivalent to the tuition and other school fees of the nearest
12 SUC or state-run TVI in their respective areas.

13 (b) An allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous
14 personal expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or
15 purchase of a personal computer or laptop, and other education-related expenses;

16 (c) An allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student;

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

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

26
27 SEC. 8. *Student Loan Program for Tertiary Education.* – To support further
28 the cost of tertiary education or any part or portion thereof, a student loan program for
29 tertiary education is hereby likewise established for all Filipino students who shall
30 enroll in a SUC, LUC, private HEI and TVET program in all TVIs registered under
31 the TESDA. The loan program shall be administered by the UniFAST Board and the
32 amount necessary to fund the program shall be included in the budgets of the CHED
33 and the TESDA: *Provided*, That the UniFAST may offer short-term or long-term
34 loans: *Provided further*, That those who availed of the loan during their

submit. muller

1 undergraduate degree may still avail of another cycle of student loan for their pursuit
2 of graduate studies, including medicine and law after they have fully paid the
3 previously availed loan: *Provided further*, That those who did not avail of the loan
4 program during their undergraduate studies may avail of it to pursue graduate studies
5 including medicine and law: *Provided finally*, that those who did not avail of the loan
6 program during their undergraduate studies may avail of the loan program for their
7 review expenses for licensure examinations administered by the Professional
8 Regulation Commission.

9 Repayment shall be effected by incorporating a portion of the loan amount or a
10 percentage thereof in the employee's monthly Social Security System (SSS) or
11 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) contribution, as the case may be, based
12 on a reasonable schedule of repayment and interest rates, as may be formulated by the
13 UniFAST Board.

14 Payment of the loan amount will commence once the beneficiary secures any
15 gainful employment with compensation, remuneration or earnings that reaches the
16 Compulsory Repayment Threshold (CRT). For purposes of this Act, the CRT shall
17 be set and reviewed by the UniFAST Board, and adjusted when necessary.

18 The UniFAST Board, in consultation with relevant agencies, shall formulate
19 loan repayment guidelines for loan beneficiaries whose earnings are not covered by
20 the GSIS or the SSS programs, including those of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs),
21 emigrants, and self-employed persons and professionals (SEPs).

22
23 **SEC. 9. Requirements for SUCs and LUCs.-** SUCs and LUCs are hereby
24 mandated to:

25 (a) Establish a learner information system in accordance with the guidelines to
26 be developed by CHED in order to facilitate the tracking of students and their
27 performance;

28 (b) Submit relevant information as determined by CHED on school quality and
29 performance; and

30 (c) Formulate and submit to CHED and to the Joint Congressional Oversight
31 Committee on Universal Access to Tertiary Education created under Section 17 of
32 this Act, a detailed SUC development plan updated every ten (10) years, which shall
33 include plans for facilities and infrastructure development and expansion.

34

4
annex, omitted

1 SEC. 10. *Quality Standards for SUC and LUC Budgets, TES and Student Loan*
2 *Programs.* –The CHED and the TESDA shall ensure quality standards in the review
3 and consequent endorsement of the budget of the SUCs, LUCs and state-run TVIs,
4 respectively. The detailed design of the TES and student loan programs shall also be
5 subject to similar quality indicators defined by the UniFAST Board.

6
7 SEC. 11. *Prohibited Act.*–Upon effectivity of this Act, it shall be unlawful for
8 any person, SUC, LUC and state-run TVI to collect tuition and other school fees from
9 qualified students; *Provided,* that this section shall not apply to collections from
10 students who voluntarily opt out of the tuition and other school fees subsidy or make a
11 contribution to the school.

12
13 SEC. 12. *Penalties.*–A violation of the prohibited act under Section 11 of this
14 Act shall be meted a penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not
15 more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00)
16 but not more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the
17 discretion of the court. In case of a university, college or any other juridical entity, the
18 penalty shall be imposed on the president, treasurer or the officer or person
19 responsible for the violation.

20
21 SEC. 13. *Expansion of the UniFAST Board.*– The UniFAST Board shall be
22 expanded to include the following:

- 23 (a) President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges
24 as Member;
- 25 (b) Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations
26 as Member;
- 27 (c) President of the Association of Local Colleges and Universities as Member;
- 28 (d) President of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) as a non-
29 voting Member;
- 30 (e) President of the Social Security System (SSS) as a non-voting Member.

31
32 The UniFAST Board is authorized to establish an enhanced organizational
33 structure, staff development and incentives and such other administrative measures
34 needed for the efficient discharge of tasks and commensurate to the level and scope of
35 its responsibilities. It may tap the expertise and management services of eligible

7
member. provided

1 service providers subject to the appropriate guidelines promulgated by the UniFAST
2 Board.

3

4 SEC. 14. *Reporting Requirements.*— All SUCs, LUCs and state-run TVIs shall
5 submit to CHED and TESDA, respectively, within five (5) days after the last day of
6 late registration for each semester, a report detailing the names of students eligible for
7 the free tuition and other school fees in their institutions.

8

9 SEC. 15. *Appropriations.* — The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions
10 of this Act, specifically Sections 4, 5, 7 and 8 shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriations Act (GAA) and shall be appropriated under SUCs, CHED and
12 TESDA in accordance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, that an amount
13 equivalent to not more than three percent (3%) of the TES and student loan program
14 for tertiary education provided under this Act may be used as administrative cost
15 under the UniFAST.

16

17 SEC. 16. *Other Sources of Funds.*—The national government is hereby
18 authorized to prioritize funding this measure in negotiating and utilizing long-term
19 deeply concessional official development assistance (ODA). Other sources of funds
20 such as grants, donations, collections, and other forms of assistance from local and
21 foreign donors or other public or private entities, and other private domestic and
22 international sources may be tapped and facilitated by the UniFAST Board to support
23 the programs under this Act, subject to the regular auditing guidelines and procedures:
24 *Provided*, That in case of donations from foreign sources, acceptance thereof shall be
25 subject to existing government rules and regulations.

26

27 SEC. 17. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Universal Access to*
28 *Tertiary Education.*— There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight
29 Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act.

30 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the
31 Senate and from the House of Representatives, and shall include the following:
32 Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Chairperson of
33 the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education; Chairperson of the Senate
34 Committee on Finance; Chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations; and

gremch. surub

1 three (3) members each to be chosen from the membership of the Senate Committee
2 on Education, Arts and Culture and the House Committee on Higher and Technical
3 Education by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively, with at least
4 one (1) member each from the minority in the House of Representatives and in the
5 Senate. Funding for the expenses of the Committee shall be taken from the
6 appropriations of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

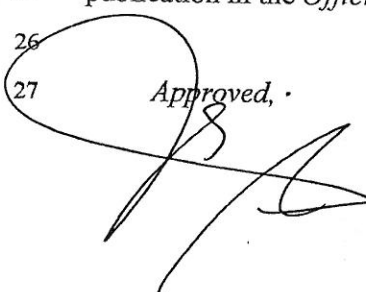
7
8 SEC. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
9 the effectivity of this Act, the UniFASTBoard, in consultation with the CHED, the
10 TESDA, and other relevant stakeholders in higher and technical education, shall
11 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient
12 and effective implementation of this Act: *Provided,* That the failure of the Board to
13 promulgate the said rules and regulations shall not prevent or delay the effectivity and
14 implementation of this Act in accordance with Section 21 hereof.

15
16 SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.*– Should any part of this Act be declared
17 unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby
18 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

19
20 SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*– All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
21 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
22 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23
24 SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 Approved, .



Approved



approved, signed