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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1309

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The unhealthy state of our economy at present greatly burdens the society. The effect of our economic problems spans across almost all sectors, including the studentry.

As tuition and school fees continue to increase in both private and public and private schools, more students find themselves struggling to meet the scheduled dates of payment since failure to do such would mean being disallowed by the school administrators from taking the mid-term or final examinations.

To aid the students in their plight, this bill declares unlawful for any school, public or private, to disallow any student from taking any mid-term or final exam due to non-payment of tuition fees.

Furthermore, this bill seeks to prescribe a reasonable compromise between the competing needs of students and the school administration.



MANNY VILLAR

15 JUN 20 04:20

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Senate Bill No. 1309

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**AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING
STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MIDTERM OR
FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Unlawful Practice.- It is hereby declared unlawful for any school, public or private, to disallow any student from taking any midterm or final examination due to non-payment of tuition fees not exceeding one installment under the established terms of payment prescribed by the school concerned and approved by the Department of Education.

SECTION 2. Rights of Schools.- Students permitted to take mid-term or final examinations notwithstanding, the school authorities have the following rights:

- a. The school authorities concerned are entitled to withhold the release of the grades of such students until the unpaid tuition, plus interest charges, are fully paid;
- b. A student with an unpaid tuition fee, may not be admitted by the school authorities concerned at the next succeeding semester classes or at the

next succeeding opening of a new academic year, as the case may be, until the prior delinquencies are fully paid;

- c. The school authorities concerned cannot be compelled to issue clearance to students with financial obligations to their schools, which remain due and unpaid.

SECTION 3. Obligation of Students- The students and/or their parents, unless waived by the school authorities concerned shall be obligated to pay an interest for the unpaid tuition fees, an amount equivalent to not more than 14% per annum, computed from the date of the examination taken until the tuition due and unpaid, are fully liquidated.

SECTION 4. Implementing Guidelines.- The Department of Education shall promulgate the implementing guidelines necessary to enforce the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 5. Penalty Imposed.- Violations of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by the suspension and/or cancellation of the permits of the offending schools and fine of not less than P20,000.00 but not more than P50,000.00.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,