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2 Republic of the Philippines  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4 Quezon City, Metro Manila

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6  
7 FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
8 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
9

10 House Bill No. 2584  
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15  
16 Introduced by **AKBAYAN Rep. Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel**  
17

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19  
20 EXPLANATORY NOTE  
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23 The right to education is an entitlement guaranteed to all Filipinos under Article XIV of the 1987  
24 Constitution and enshrined in several international human rights agreements, such as the  
25 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,  
26 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, among others. These  
27 instruments attest to the importance of education to an individual, a recognition that one's full  
28 and meaningful participation in society and one's empowerment greatly rely on one's education.  
29

30 Yet the full enjoyment and exercise of the right to education is curtailed when other rights and  
31 freedoms are not recognized, protected and promoted within or inside educational institutions.  
32 Discriminatory policies, restrictions in organizing, the failure to deliver adequate welfare services  
33 to students, lack of representation, and the imposition of stiff fees or unjust disciplinary actions  
34 impair the exercise of the right to education, and, in the long run, threatens the capacity of an  
35 individual to enjoy a life of dignity.  
36

37 To date, violations on the rights and freedoms of students guaranteed by the Constitution and  
38 existing laws remain rampant. School authorities deny the right of students to organize by  
39 imposing arbitrary and unjust policies on student organizing. The right to self-determination,  
40 which accords students the right to establish student governments or councils and choose their  
41 own officers, is violated through the refusal of schools to allow the creation of independent  
42 student councils or governments or through their interference in student council or government  
43 elections. The exercise of civil and political rights is also curtailed by policies that prohibit the  
44 participation and active involvement of students in larger political issues.  
45

46 The suppression of the rights and welfare of students is furthered by the policy environment that  
47 currently governs the education sector. Due to the deregulation of the education sector, the State  
48 is gradually relinquishing its regulatory role to encourage private participation in the provision of

1 education. By 2005, the number of private higher education institutions (PHEIs) reached 1, 363,  
2 while state universities and colleges (SUCs) numbered 424 (or 175, if satellite campuses are  
3 excluded).

4  
5 The effect is that the enforcement and application of policies, especially those involving the rights  
6 and welfare of students, have become skewed, with the State's education agencies claiming that  
7 they have no power over PHEIs that have been granted deregulated status already. On the other  
8 hand, SUCs have more policy handles in enforcing students' rights and welfare. Thus, while  
9 violations to students' rights and welfare happen both in PHEIs and SUCs, the possibility of  
10 education agencies being pressured to act on complaints involving SUCs is higher than in cases  
11 involving PHEIs.

12  
13 There is, therefore, a need to correct this anomaly. Students' rights and welfare are part of the  
14 State's human rights commitment, and thus must be uniformly recognized, protected and  
15 promoted. The State's education agencies, namely, the Department of Education (DEP ED),  
16 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development  
17 Authority (TESDA), should also be given the mandate to ensure that students are able to enjoy  
18 and exercise their rights and freedoms.

19  
20 Legislative action is necessary to introduce the following reforms and to strengthen students'  
21 rights and welfare: the recognition and promotion in campuses of rights and freedoms enshrined  
22 in the Constitution and affirmed by various international human rights instruments; regulation of  
23 tuition and other school fee increases by introducing minimum standards in consultation;  
24 penalization of students' rights violation, and; strengthening the capacity and power of education  
25 agencies in ensuring that students' rights and welfare are protected and promoted.

26  
27 In view of the foregoing, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly sought.  
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31 Hon. Ana Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel  
32 Representative, AKBAYAN Party-list  
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20 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY  
21 ON STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND WELFARE  
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25 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress  
26 assembled:

27  
28 SECTION 1. *Short title.* - This Act shall be known as the Students' Rights and Welfare  
29 Act of 2007.

30  
31 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State:

32  
33 (a) In accordance with several international human rights agreements, including the  
34 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, International Convention on Economic  
35 and Social Rights, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, International Convention on the  
36 Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against  
37 Women, declares its commitment to protect and promote the rights and welfare of Filipino  
38 students;

39  
40 (b) Recognizes that education is a right and as such it can only be exercised and enjoyed  
41 fully in a climate where the rights and welfare of students and young Filipinos are promoted and  
42 protected;

43  
44 (c) Acknowledges that education is an important institution in ensuring that all Filipinos  
45 are able to participate fully in nation-building and the society and in inculcating patriotism and  
46 nationalism, critical and creative thinking, and values necessary to promote civil liberties, human  
47 rights and fundamental freedoms;  
48

1 (d) Affirms that students have the right to meaningful participation in decision-making  
2 processes inside and outside educational institutions, especially in the crafting and formulation of  
3 policies affecting students, and the promotion of this right is an integral part of the nation's  
4 democratic processes;

5  
6 (e) Affirms that the fundamental right to expression of students, and such right shall be  
7 unabridged and autonomous from the influences of educational institutions;

8  
9 (f) Affirms the students' right to organize, which encompasses the right to establish  
10 student organizations, student unions, and student councils and governments.

11  
12 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** As used in this Act the following shall mean:

13  
14 (a) *Student* - any person enrolled in the secondary, post secondary tertiary, graduate and  
15 post graduate levels, including those enrolled in vocational and technical education.

16 (b) *School* - any private, public or government-run and funded academic educational  
17 institution offering any or all courses in the above-mentioned levels.

18 (c) *School campus* - the totality of all contiguous or proximate buildings, grounds, and  
19 other facilities designated by the school authorities as areas or facilities for the use of their  
20 students.

21 (d) *Governing Board* - the highest policy making body of the school such as: Board of  
22 Directors, Trustees or Regents.

23 (e) *Student Council or Government* - the body representing the whole student population  
24 in one school or school campus whose officers are annually elected at large by the whole student  
25 population pursuant to its charter or constitution. This definition shall include student councils or  
26 governments at the level of colleges, campuses, etc.

27 (f) *Council of Leaders* - the body composed of the heads of various student  
28 organizations chaired by the President or Chairperson of the Student Council or by any student  
29 duly elected by the student organizations.

30 (g) *Tuition* - the fee representing direct costs of instruction, training and other related  
31 activities, and the use of school facilities. The term other school fees refers to fees which cover  
32 other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including but not limited to medical and dental,  
33 athletic, library, laboratory, and NSTP fees.

34  
35 **SECTION 4. *Right against discrimination in educational institutions*** - No student shall be  
36 denied admission, expelled from an educational institution, punished with disciplinary action,  
37 including mandatory counseling, or denied welfare services, scholarships and other privileges on  
38 the basis of his/her physical handicap, socio-economic status, political and religious beliefs, sexual  
39 orientation, or membership in student organizations. Pregnant students, certified reformed drug  
40 abusers, and students with HIV/AIDS shall not be discriminated against.

41  
42 **SECTION 5. *Right to competent instruction and relevant quality education.*** - Every  
43 student shall have the right to competent instruction and quality education relevant to his/her  
44 personal and cultural development and that of the nation. To achieve this goal, schools and  
45 educational institutions are required to enforce a written evaluation of the performance of  
46 teachers by students at the end of the school term.

47

1           **SECTION 6. *Right to organize.*** – (a) The right of students to form, assist, or join  
2 organizations, alliance, or federations along their physical, intellectual, moral, cultural, civic,  
3 spiritual, and political interests shall not be abridged.  
4

5           (a) The Office of Student Affairs, in coordination with the student council or government,  
6 shall take charge in the accreditation of student organizations. The guidelines for accreditation of  
7 student organizations shall be formulated by the student council and the heads of all student  
8 organizations.  
9

10           (b) The Office of Student Affairs shall have the mandate to implement the guidelines and  
11 mediate in conflicts emerging from the accreditation process. Accreditation of student  
12 organizations shall be granted upon the submission of a formal letter of application for  
13 accreditation, constitution, list of activities, and list of officers. The Office of Student Affairs may  
14 impose sanctions on inactive organizations.  
15

16           (c) The Office of Student Affairs shall coordinate on and off campus activities of student  
17 organizations.  
18

19           (d) The school administration shall endeavor to provide, free of charge, a hall or building  
20 to house the offices of student organizations within the premises of the school. Furthermore,  
21 whenever possible, the school administration shall allow student organizations to use school  
22 facilities free of charge;  
23

24           (e) Acts that impair the right of students to organize are prohibited:  
25

- 26           1. Signing of waivers or similar documents that use membership to any organization as a  
27           basis for admission to or expulsion from schools, including the imposition of  
28           disciplinary actions;
- 29           2. Imposition of unreasonable requirements on student organizations seeking  
30           recognition;
- 31           3. Discriminatory policies in the assignment of school facilities and in granting other  
32           privileges to student organizations;
- 33           4. Excessive charges for the use of school facilities;
- 34           5. Excessive fees imposed by student organizations to members, and;
- 35           6. Imposition of unnecessary requirements for admission and continued membership to  
36           a student organization including, but not limited to, hazing or other acts prohibited  
37           under RA 8049, or the Anti-hazing law.  
38

39           **SECTION 7. *Right to establish a student council or government.*** – (a) There shall be one  
40 (1) university student council or government for each school, college, or university campus that  
41 shall be recognized by the schools, colleges and universities concerned. It shall have its own set of  
42 officers elected in annual popular elections.  
43

44           (b) There shall be a Constitution or Charter of the Student Council or Government crafted  
45 by the head or representatives of all student organizations in a school and ratified through a two-  
46 thirds (2/3) vote by the student body that shall lay down the organization, functions, and  
47 responsibilities of the student council or government. Representation for unorganized students  
48 shall be ensured for the crafting of the draft constitution or charter.

1  
2 (c) Every student council or government shall have the right to determine its policies and  
3 programs on student activities subject to the Student Council or Government charter or  
4 constitution and to school rules and regulations provided that the latter does not infringe on basic  
5 rights and freedoms of students;

6  
7 (d) There shall be an independent Commission on Elections (COMELEC) that shall  
8 oversee the honest, orderly, and peaceful conduct of election of officers of the student council or  
9 government. The COMELEC shall be chosen from a list of nominees provided by the heads of  
10 student organizations. The school must provide sufficient funds to the COMELEC to ensure that it  
11 is able to function.

12  
13 (e) There shall a fee to be collected from students to finance the operations of the student  
14 council or government, the amount of which shall be determined by the student council or  
15 government in consultation with the student body. The school administration shall facilitate the  
16 collection of the student council or government fee and shall turn over the collected amount to  
17 the student council or government within fifteen (15) days after the start of the semester or  
18 school period. The student council or government shall issue to the student body a financial  
19 report at the end of its term. To take effect, a proposal to increase the student council or  
20 government fee shall require a vote of simple majority by the student body.

21  
22 (f) No policy restricting the right of student councils or governments to join federations or  
23 alliances of student councils or governments shall be imposed by the school administration.

24  
25 **SECTION 8. *Right to publish a student newspaper and other similar publications.*** – (a) In  
26 accordance with RA 7079 or the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, students shall have the right to  
27 publish student newspaper and other similar publications.

28  
29 (b) The editorial staff of the student paper shall be comprised of students. No person who  
30 is not a member of the publication shall determine its content. The role of the faculty adviser in  
31 the student paper shall be limited to technical assistance.

32  
33 (c) The selection of the student Editor-in-Chief and the members of the editorial board  
34 shall be conducted annually through a fair and competitive examination to be administered by an  
35 impartial Board of Judges, which shall be comprised of professional journalists, representatives  
36 from the faculty, the student body.

37  
38 (d) Ethics in journalism shall be observed by the editorial staff. It shall be the  
39 responsibility of the editorial staff to ensure that the student paper is not used for purposes  
40 contrary to law.

41  
42 (e) Unless sooner removed for cause and with due process, the Editor-in-Chief and  
43 editorial staff shall be assured of security of tenure for the duration of his/her prescribed term;

44  
45 (f) The student publication shall be financially autonomous from the school  
46 administration. A fee for student publication shall be collected from students and shall be held in  
47 trust by the school administration. No policy shall be imposed by the school administration to  
48 hamper the access of the editorial board to the student publication fund, subject to existing

1 regulation in the disbursement of funds. The school administration shall also be prohibited from  
2 using the aforementioned fund. At the end of each term, the editorial board shall publish a  
3 financial statement.

4  
5 **SECTION 9.** *Right to adequate welfare services and academic facilities.* Denial of access to  
6 adequate welfare services and academic facilities shall be prohibited. These services and facilities  
7 shall include:

- 8  
9 (a) Free annual physical check-up to the students;  
10 (b) Legal assistance in cases involving the exercise and enjoyment of rights and freedoms  
11 stipulated in this Act;  
12 (c) Counseling;  
13 (d) Adequate laboratory, library, research, recreation and physical education facilities;  
14 (e) Communications system to ensure that students are promptly notified of letters and  
15 other relevant information, and;  
16 (f) Adequate, safe and clean housing facilities, such as dormitories, for students inside  
17 campuses. In case the school has no in-campus dormitories or housing facilities, the  
18 school administration and the student council or government shall be required to  
19 accredit out-of-campus dormitories. Students shall be encouraged to stay in the  
20 accredited dormitories.

21  
22 **SECTION 10.** *Representation in the school's highest policy-making body.* – There shall be  
23 a student representative in the highest policy-making body of the school. He or she shall be  
24 chosen through a selection process formulated and crafted by the student council and government  
25 and shall have the same rights as that of the regular members of the same body. Provided,  
26 however, that his or her privileges shall be limited to the actual expenses incurred in attending  
27 meetings of the aforementioned body. Provided, further, that the aforementioned student  
28 representative is prohibited from taking any other position in public offices or student council or  
29 government.

30  
31 **SECTION 11.** *Right to information.* – The right of students to information on matters  
32 affecting their welfare shall be recognized. Therefore, students shall have access to the school's  
33 official acts, transactions or decisions relating to students' rights and welfare subject only to  
34 reasonable regulations.

35  
36 **SECTION 12.** *Right to freedom of expression.* – (a) Students shall have the right to freely  
37 express their views and opinions. They shall have the right to peaceably assemble and petition the  
38 government and school authorities for the redress of their grievances. No school regulation shall  
39 be imposed violating or abridging the student's right to assembly.

40  
41 (b) Student shall have access to print and broadcast media in their information activities.  
42 They shall also have the right to print, circulate and/or mount leaflets, newsletters, posters, wall  
43 news, petitions and such other materials. School authorities shall ensure the provision of facilities  
44 such as bulletin boards for the mounting of the aforementioned materials.

45  
46 (c) School authorities are required to designate a certain area within school premises  
47 where students can express their grievances or organize activities.  
48

1           **SECTION 13. *Academic freedom.*** – Students' academic freedom shall consist of, but not  
2 limited to, the following:

- 3
- 4           (a) To conduct researches in connection with academic work, and to freely discuss and  
5           publish their findings and recommendations;
- 6
- 7           (b) To conduct inquiry within the campus in curricular and extra-curricular activities;
- 8
- 9           (c) To choose a field of study and to pursue the quest for truth; to express their opinion  
10           on any subject or public or general concern which directly or indirectly affects the  
11           students of the educational system;
- 12
- 13           (d) To invite off-campus speakers or resource persons to student-sponsored assemblies,  
14           fora, symposia, and other similar activities;
- 15
- 16           (e) To express contrary interpretations or dissenting opinions inside and outside the  
17           classroom;
- 18
- 19           (f) To participate in the drafting of a new curriculum and in the review or revision of the  
20           old;
- 21
- 22           (g) To participate in the drafting and/or revising of the student handbook which shall  
23           include the school rules and regulations, a copy of which shall be furnished the  
24           students upon admission to the school; and
- 25
- 26           (h) To be free from any form of indoctrination leading to imposed ideological hegemony.
- 27

28           **SECTION 14. *Right to due process.*** – The right to due process of students subjected to  
29 disciplinary proceedings shall be observed and respected.

30

31           (a) He shall have the right to defend himself, to be heard and to present evidence on his  
32           behalf before an impartial body.

33

34           (b) There shall be an independent Student Disciplinary Board to be composed of one (1)  
35           representative from the school administration, two (2) faculty members and two (2) students to  
36           conduct investigations into and decide on cases of student violations of disciplinary standards. The  
37           member from the administration shall serve for five years, the members from the faculty for three  
38           years, and the members from the student body for one year. The faculty and student  
39           representatives shall be endorsed by the student council or government. The Student Disciplinary  
40           Board shall formulate the guidelines for the imposition of the disciplinary proceedings.

41

42           (c) The blacklisting, expulsion, suspension and other such disciplinary sanctions that  
43           maybe taken against a student shall not be valid unless the following rights have been observed  
44           and accorded the student:

45

- 46           1.) The right to be informed in writing of the nature and cause of the accusation against  
47           him/her;

- 1           2.) The right to confront witness against him/her and to full access to the evidence in the
- 2           case:
- 3           3.) The right to defend himself/herself and to be defended by a representative or counsel
- 4           of his/her choice, adequate time being given to him/her for the preparation of his/her
- 5           defense:
- 6           4.) The right to a hearing before the Student Disciplinary Board;
- 7           5.) The right against self-incrimination; and
- 8           6.) The right to appeal adverse decision of the Student Disciplinary Board to the
- 9           governing board and ultimately to the appropriate education agencies.
- 10          7.) The right to confidentiality

11          (d) The decision in any disciplinary proceeding must be rendered on the basis of relevant  
12 and substantial evidence presented at the hearing, or at the least contained in the record and  
13 disclosed to the student affected. The deciding body should, in all controversial questions, render  
14 its decision in such a manner that the issues involved, and the reasons for any decision rendered  
15 are made clear to the student.

16  
17          (e) Subject to existing laws, a decision on a case or complaint filed before the Student  
18 Disciplinary Tribunal shall be resolved within three (3) months after the filing of such a case or  
19 complaint.

20  
21          (f) The Office of the Guidance Counselor of the respective schools in consultation with  
22 the Student Disciplinary Board shall publish on a periodic basis acts that are deemed violative of  
23 the school rules and regulations and the corresponding disciplinary sanctions. Provided, that such  
24 rules and regulations do not violate the rights guaranteed herein and under the Constitution.

25  
26          **SECTION 15.** *Right against illegal searches and seizures.* – except for the following  
27 instances, any form of unreasonable search and seizure shall be illegal:

- 28
- 29          a) Searches made at the point of ingress and egress by authorized personnel of the
- 30          school;
- 31          b) Searches and seizure of articles deemed illegal under existing laws falling in the plain
- 32          view of duly authorized personnel;
- 33          c) Searches and seizures of articles that are illegal, discovered inadvertently by duly
- 34          authorized personnel;
- 35          d) Searches made when the student is about to commit, is committing or has just
- 36          committed a crime or a serious infraction of the school's rules and regulations;
- 37          e) Searches made with a valid search warrant.
- 38

39          Articles seized in violation of the hereinabove provided rights shall not be used as  
40 evidence against the student in any disciplinary action that may be brought against him/her.

41  
42          **SECTION 16.** *Access to school records and issuance of official certificates.* - Every student  
43 shall have access to his/her own school records, the confidentiality of which the school shall  
44 maintain. He/She shall have the right to be issued official certificates, diplomas, transcripts of  
45 records, grades, transfer credentials and other similar documents within thirty (30) days from the  
46 filing of request and accomplishment of all pertinent requirements.

47

1           **SECTION 17. *Right to privacy.*** - The privacy of communication and correspondence of  
2 students shall remain inviolable.

3  
4           **SECTION 18. *Firearms ban.***- The carrying of firearms or explosives in schools or campuses  
5 shall be banned.

6  
7           **SECTION 19. *School fees and other tariffs.***-

8  
9           (a) All involuntary contributions shall be prohibited.

10  
11           (b) In releasing documents, academic records, and similar certifications, schools are  
12 prohibited from imposing fees beyond the actual cost of reproducing the documents.

13  
14           (c) Minimum standards in consultation shall be strictly observed in imposing tuition fee  
15 increases. To this end, no tuition or other school fee increase shall be allowed unless the following  
16 procedures are observed:

- 17  
18           1.) Posting of notice of increase in tuition or other school fees in conspicuous locations a  
19 year prior to the implementation of the proposed increase. The heads of student  
20 organizations and student council or government officers shall also be directly  
21 notified about the proposed increase.  
22           2.) At least one public meeting shall be held with students, heads of student organizations  
23 and student council or government officers to discuss the proposed increase. This shall  
24 be attended by the President of the school and at least one member of the Governing  
25 board. Parents of students shall be allowed to attend the public meetings.  
26           3.) All documents pertaining to the proposed increase shall be made available to the  
27 student council or government.  
28           4.) Prior to the final approval of the proposed increase, the student body shall be allowed  
29 to present their position to the Governing Board on the proposed increase.  
30

31           **SECTION 20. *Rules and Regulation.*** - the Department of Education, TESDA, Commission  
32 on Higher Education, and Commission on Human Rights, together with the representatives of  
33 national student organizations, representatives of school administrations and the National Youth  
34 Commission (NYC) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the  
35 provisions of this Act with ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.  
36

37           **SECTION 21. *Administrative sanctions.*** -The Department of Education, Commission on  
38 Higher Education, and TESDA are hereby vested with powers necessary to investigate and impose  
39 administrative penalties to ensure the enforcement of this Act. Any student, student council or  
40 government, or national organization of student councils, governments, or organizations, may file  
41 complaints before the aforementioned agencies.  
42

43           The appropriate education agency shall cause the suspension or revocation of the license  
44 or permit of any school, college or university found to be guilty of violating rights guaranteed  
45 under this Act. A fine not less than two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than  
46 five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed on any school, college or university  
47 found liable for violating this Act.  
48

1           Upon final judgment, the appropriate education agency may recommend to the  
2 Department of Justice the prosecution of any school, college or university before a regular Court  
3 for violating the provisions of this Act.  
4

5           If the offender is a student or a student organization, the school, college or university shall  
6 cause, depending on the gravity of the offense, the suspension or expulsion of the offending  
7 student and/or the suspension or revocation of the accreditation of the offending organization,  
8 including other administrative penalties, subject to the establishment of guidelines to be crafted  
9 by the school administration with the student council or government, student organizations and  
10 the student body.

11  
12           **SECTION 22. *Penal Provisions.* –**  
13

14           (a) Any person who shall willfully interfere with, restrain or coerce any student in the  
15 exercise and enjoyment of rights guaranteed by this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a  
16 fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred  
17 Thousand (P100,000.00) Pesos or by imprisonment for not less than one year but not more than  
18 five years, or both at the discretion of the Court.  
19

20           (b) If the offender is a juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the President,  
21 Treasurer, Secretary or any officer or person responsible for the violation. If the offender is a  
22 public officer or employee, the Court shall, in addition to the penalties above, order his or her  
23 dismissal from government service.  
24

25           (c) Refusal of any government official, including those working in state colleges and  
26 universities, whose duty includes investigating or acting on any complaint for a violation of this  
27 Act to perform his or her duty shall be considered as gross negligence on the part of such official  
28 who shall suffer the appropriate penalty under civil service laws, rules and regulations.  
29

30           (d) Any student whose rights have been violated as stipulated in this Act may file  
31 independent civil cases for damages against the offending persons, natural or juridical. He or she  
32 shall be exempt from filing fees.  
33

34           **SECTION 23. *Oversight.* –**  
35

36           (a) The Department of Education, TESDA and Commission on Higher Education shall  
37 monitor the implementation of this Act. They shall submit an annual report to the Office of the  
38 President and Congress. For this purpose, the aforementioned agencies may avail the support of  
39 national student organizations.

40           (b) An Oversight Committee is hereby created composed of two (2) members each from  
41 the Committee on Basic Education and two (2) members from the Committee on Higher  
42 Education of the Senate and House of Representatives, to be constituted and co-chaired by the  
43 head of the committees to evaluate and monitor the implementation of this Act. The Oversight  
44 Committee shall automatically consider the reports of the concerned government agencies,  
45 student organizations, and student councils and governments.  
46

1           **SECTION 24. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is held  
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue  
3 to be in full force and effect.

4  
5           **SECTION 24. *Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other  
6 issuances or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
7 modified accordingly.

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9           **SECTION 25. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
10 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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14       Approved.  
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