



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5633

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFER, SALCEDA, DEL MAR, ROMERO, PANGANIBAN, BATOCABE, GARBIN, LANETE, LOYOLA, UMALI, TAN (A.), BELARO, ABAYON, VARGAS, FUENTEBELLA, SANTOS-RECTO, TAMBUNTING, BARBERS, YAP (A.), GERON, LACSON, GATCHALIAN, ANTONIO, ALEJANO, ESPINO, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, TAN (S.), VILLARIN, ROMUALDEZ, BOLILIA, SALON, LEE, LAZATIN, CORTUNA, VILLANUEVA, CASTELO, REVILLA, ELAGO, CUA, TUPAS, NOGRALES (K.A.), NOGRALES (J.J.), GO (M.), OLIVAREZ, VELASCO, HERRERA-DY, ROQUE (H.), LOBREGAT, TINIO, CASTRO (F.L.), SAMBAR, ESCUDERO, ABU, ESPINA, LEACHON, AMANTE, DIMAPORO (M.K.), YU, DUAVIT, SALO, ANTONINO, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, TUGNA, ARCILLAS, DELOSO-MONTALLA, GARIN (R.), SUANSING (E.), ACOSTA, AMATONG, LIMKAICHONG, BRAVO (A.), NAVA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, SAVELLANO, PANOTES, VIOLAGO, BULUT-BEGTANG, MONTORO, DURANO, CATAMCO, COJUANGCO, SAGARBARRIA, ORTEGA (P.), DIMAPORO (A.), NOEL, MARQUEZ, YAP (M.), DY, ANDAYA, GONZALES (A.D.), RODRIGUEZ (I.), ORTEGA (V.N.), ALVAREZ (M.), BRAVO (M.V.), ESTRELLA, GASATAYA, AUMENTADO, HERNANDEZ, LOPEZ (M.L.), CO, CHIPECO, SY-ALVARADO, CUEVA, CUARESMA, NIETO, DE VENECIA, ACHARON, BELMONTE (R.), PINEDA, AGGABAO, TEJADA, MACEDA, JAVIER, DALIPE, PLAZA, ROCAMORA, MARIÑO, BERTIZ, BERNOS, MARCOLETA, SIAO, VILLAFUERTE, LOPEZ (B.), CAMPOS, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, COLLANTES, SARMIENTO (E.M.), ARAGONES, MADRONA, DEL ROSARIO, MATUGAS, CRISOLOGO, MANGAOANG, BORDADO, RODRIGUEZ (M.), SUANSING (H.), FORTUN, GARIN (S.), BAGATSING, GONZALES (A.P.), CERILLES, LABADLABAD, UYBARRETA, VELASCO-CATERA, PICHAY, ZUBIRI, ACOSTA-ALBA, ROMAN, KHO, BAGUILAT, ROMUALDO, DE VERA,

CANAMA, FLORES, CORTES, CALDERON, PACQUIAO, ALMONTE, FERRIOL-PASCUAL, BILLONES, PALMA, CAYETANO, GONZAGA, ABELLANOSA, ZARATE, CASILAO, UNICO, RELAMPAGOS, BROSAS AND ONG (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 227

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

*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  
2 Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (d) Ensure the optimized utilization of government resources in  
4 education; and

5 (e) Recognize the complementary roles of public and private  
6 institutions in tertiary educational system.

7 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

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

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

15 (c) *Higher Education Institution (HEI)* refers to an education  
16 institution that offers bachelor's degree or graduate courses as may be  
17 authorized and recognized by the CHED;

18 (d) *K to 12 Program* refers to the basic education program  
19 implemented by the Department of Education under Republic Act No. 10533,  
20 otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013";

21 (e) *Local universities and colleges (LUCs)* refer to educational  
22 institutions established by local government units offering post-secondary  
23 courses which may include four (4)- to five (5)-year courses authorized by the  
24 CHED;

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

1 (g) *Other school fees* refer to miscellaneous fees charged by higher  
2 education institutions and technical-vocational institutions which are collected  
3 and earmarked for specified purposes pursuant to existing laws, rules and  
4 regulations, except fees collected and held in trust by higher education  
5 institutions which will be utilized by the students and other parties, and fees  
6 intended to cover the cost of providing services to the students. Other school  
7 fees and miscellaneous fees are used interchangeably in this Act;

8 (h) *Private higher education institution* refers to a higher education  
9 institution authorized to operate by the CHED, not owned and controlled by  
10 the government or its instrumentalities;

11 (i) *Private technical-vocational institution* refers to post-secondary  
12 technical-vocational institution run by the private sector offering programs  
13 registered with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
14 (TESDA);

15 (j) *Qualified student* refers to any student who possesses all the  
16 qualifications set forth in this Act;

17 (k) *State-run technical-vocational institution* refers to  
18 technical-vocational institutions operated by the TESDA;

19 (l) *State universities and colleges (SUCs)* refer to public HEIs  
20 established by national laws which are financed and maintained by the  
21 national government and are governed by their respective independent boards  
22 of trustees or regents;

23 (m) *Student loan program for tertiary education* refers to a loan  
24 program established under this Act, which shall be allocated and administered  
25 by the UniFAST Board created under Republic Act No. 10687, otherwise  
26 known as the "Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary  
27 Education Student (UniFAST) Act" and which may be availed of by any  
28 Filipino citizen belonging from the first up to eighth income deciles, as  
29 determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), taking up any

1 undergraduate degree program in private HEI or LUC recognized by the  
2 CHED, and any Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)  
3 programs in technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) registered under the  
4 TESDA;

5 (n) *Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* refers to  
6 the education process designed at post-secondary and lower tertiary levels,  
7 officially recognized as nondegree programs aimed at preparing technicians,  
8 para-professionals and other categories of middle-level workers by providing  
9 them with a broad range of general education, theoretical, scientific and  
10 technological studies, and related job skills training;

11 (o) *Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs)* refer to learning  
12 institutions offering post-secondary technical-vocational education;

13 (p) *Tertiary education* refers to the stage of education following the  
14 secondary cycle which covers post-secondary nondegree diploma, TVET, and  
15 higher education programs, including graduate education;

16 (q) *Tertiary education subsidy (TES)* refers to a subsidy which shall  
17 be used to support qualified financially disadvantaged students belonging to  
18 the first up to the fifth income decile, as determined by the PSA, in  
19 shouldering costs related to pursuing tertiary education. It may cover the  
20 allowance for books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous personal  
21 expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or  
22 purchase of a personal computer or laptop, as determined by the UniFAST  
23 Board where the student is enrolled and an allowance for room and board costs  
24 incurred by the student, as determined by the HEI where the student is  
25 enrolled, among others;

26 (r) *Tuition fees* refer to fees or school charges for the subjects or  
27 course enrolled in by a tertiary or higher education student as well as a student  
28 pursuing a technical-vocational course, as indicated in the prospectuses of

1 SUCs and private HEIs, which may either be on a term or yearly basis, or per  
2 unit/s;

3 (s) *Undergraduate courses* refer to any program leading to a degree  
4 as may be authorized and recognized by the CHED; and

5 (t) *Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary  
6 Education (UniFAST)* refers to the harmonized, state-run and administered  
7 system of higher education and technical-vocational scholarships, grants-in-  
8 aid, student loans, and other modalities of student financial assistance program  
9 under Republic Act No. 10687.

10 SEC. 4. *Free Higher Education in State Universities and Colleges.* –  
11 All Filipino citizens who are either currently enrolled at the time of the  
12 effectivity of this Act, or shall enroll at any time thereafter, in courses in  
13 pursuance of a bachelor's degree or any comparable undergraduate degree in  
14 any SUC, shall be exempt from paying tuition and other school fees for units  
15 enrolled in, unless they are disqualified under the provisions of this Act or by  
16 any other provision of law: *Provided,* That they pass the entrance examination  
17 and other admission and retention requirements of the SUCs where they intend  
18 to enroll in: *Provided, further,* That fees collected and held in trust by HEIs  
19 which will be utilized by the students and other parties, and fees intended to  
20 cover the cost of providing services to the students are not included under the  
21 provisions of this Act.

22 SEC. 5. *Free Technical-Vocational Education and Training in  
23 Post-Secondary Technical-Vocational Institutions.* – All qualified students  
24 currently enrolled at the time of the effectivity of this Act, or shall enroll any  
25 time thereafter, in any post-secondary TVET leading to nondegree certificate  
26 or diploma programs offered by any state-run TVI under the TESDA shall be  
27 exempt from paying tuition and other school fees.

28 The amount required to implement the free tuition and other school fees  
29 in state-run TVIs shall be determined by the governing board of the TESDA

1 based on the expected total cost of attendance, in relation to the projected  
 2 number of enrollees for each course. The cost of attendance in state-run TVIs  
 3 shall become the primary factor in computing for the annual proposed budget  
 4 of the TESDA and shall in turn serve as the baseline during the preparation of  
 5 the annual National Expenditure Program (NEP) by the Department of Budget  
 6 and Management (DBM).

7 The qualified student under Sections 4 and 5 of this Act shall be free  
 8 from payment of tuition and other school fees: *Provided*, That nothing in this  
 9 Act shall cause or authorize the reduction or removal of any benefit which the  
 10 national or local government may have granted to the students, teachers and  
 11 other school personnel of these SUCs and TVIs prior to the enactment of this  
 12 Act.

13 *SEC. 6. Prohibited Act.* – Upon effectivity of this Act, it shall be  
 14 unlawful for any person, SUC and TVI to collect tuition and other school fees  
 15 from qualified students. In its stead, the amount required to implement the  
 16 free tuition and other school fees in SUCs shall be determined by the  
 17 respective governing boards of SUCs based on the expected total cost of  
 18 attendance, in relation to the projected number of enrollees for each academic  
 19 year. The cost of attendance in SUCs shall become the primary factor in  
 20 computing for the annual proposed budget of SUCs and shall in turn serve as  
 21 the baseline during the preparation of the annual NEP by the DBM.

22 *SEC. 7. Tertiary Education Subsidy for Financially Disadvantaged*  
 23 *Students.* – A tertiary education subsidy (TES) for financially disadvantaged  
 24 students is hereby established, the appropriate amount for which shall be  
 25 administered by the UniFAST Board and to be included in the budgets of the  
 26 CHED and the TESDA. The TES shall be used to support qualified financially  
 27 disadvantaged students belonging to the first up to the fifth income deciles, as  
 28 determined by the PSA, in shouldering costs related to pursuing tertiary  
 29 education. The TES may cover the following:

1 (a) An allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and  
 2 miscellaneous personal expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the  
 3 documented rental or purchase of a personal computer or laptop, and other  
 4 education-related expenses as determined by the UniFAST Board;

5 (b) An allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student, as  
 6 determined by the HEI where the student is enrolled;

7 (c) For a student with a disability, an allowance determined by the  
 8 HEI where the student is enrolled in for expenses related to the student's  
 9 disability, including special services, personal assistance, transportation,  
 10 equipment, and supplies that are reasonably incurred; and

11 (d) For a student in a program requiring professional license or  
 12 certification, the one (1)-time cost of obtaining the first professional  
 13 credentials or qualifications, which may include the following: application  
 14 fees, notarial fees, review classes fees, insurance premium fees and  
 15 documentation fees.

16 *SEC. 8. Student Loan Program for Tertiary Education.* – The Student  
 17 Loan Program for Tertiary Education is hereby established and shall be  
 18 allocated and administered by the UniFAST Board and the appropriate amount  
 19 shall be included in the budgets of the CHED and the TESDA. Any Filipino  
 20 citizen belonging to the first up to eighth income deciles, as determined by the  
 21 PSA, taking up any undergraduate degree program in a private HEI or LUC  
 22 recognized by the CHED, and any TVET program in private TVIs registered  
 23 under the TESDA may avail of the loan program through the UniFAST:  
 24 *Provided*, That the UniFAST may offer short-term or long-term loans:  
 25 *Provided, further*, That those who availed of the loan during their  
 26 undergraduate degree may still avail of another cycle of student loan for their  
 27 pursuit of graduate studies, including medicine and law: *Provided*,  
 28 *furthermore*, That they have fully paid the previously availed loan: *Provided*,  
 29 *finally*, That those who did not avail of the loan program during their

1 undergraduate studies may avail of it to pursue graduate studies including  
2 medicine and law.

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

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

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

18 SEC. 9. *Quality Standards for SUC Budgets and Student Loan*  
19 *Programs.* – The CHED and the TESDA shall consider cost-norms and  
20 ensure quality standards such as per capita investments and faculty-to-student  
21 ratio in the review and consequent endorsement of the budget of the SUCs and  
22 state-run TVIs, respectively. The detailed design of the TES and student loan  
23 programs shall also be subject to similar quality indicators defined by the  
24 UniFAST Board.

25 SEC. 10. *Limitations in SUCs/State-Run TVIs.* – The right of any  
26 higher education student to avail of free higher education in SUCs shall be  
27 limited by the admission and retention policies of SUCs. Students who have  
28 completed a bachelor's degree and who will enroll or are enrolled in a course

1 leading to a second bachelor's degree are excluded from the coverage of this  
2 Act.

3 The right of any technical-vocational student to avail of the free TVET  
4 in state-run TVIs shall terminate if the student fails in any course enrolled in  
5 during the course of the program. Students who have obtained a bachelor's  
6 degree, as well as those who have received a certificate or diploma for a  
7 technical-vocational course equivalent to at least National Certificate III and  
8 above, are excluded from the coverage of this Act.

9 Students excluded from the coverage of this Act shall be charged the  
10 tuition and other school fees, as determined by the respective boards of the  
11 SUCs, and in the case of the TVIs, to be determined by the TESDA.

12 SEC. 11. *Financial Management, Reporting and Performance*  
13 *Evaluation; Financial Management and Accountability.* – All public funds  
14 allocated to the government Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs)  
15 for Tertiary Education shall be managed according to standard government  
16 accounting and auditing rules and regulations. In addition, specialized  
17 processes and procedures shall be developed to enhance transparency and  
18 accountability suitable to the program or project for which the fund has been  
19 provided.

20 SEC. 12. *Accounting and Reporting of UniFAST StuFAP Funds.* – A  
21 separate book of accounts shall be kept by each implementing agency for the  
22 UniFAST StuFAP Funds. It shall follow standard government rules and  
23 regulations for accounting. Implementing agencies of the StuFAP Funds,  
24 however, may adopt additional measures to ensure its safety, particularly in  
25 authorizing payments and processing of disbursements from the funds:  
26 *Provided,* That such additional measures shall facilitate a convenient and  
27 efficient means of delivering financial assistance to the beneficiaries.

28 A mid-year and annual report shall be prepared by all implementing  
29 agencies. The report shall have two (2) parts: a financial statement and a

1 report of operations showing the accomplishments of the fund. These reports  
2 shall be submitted to Congress and the DBM to inform and aid in decision  
3 making and shall be made available to other interested parties for valid and  
4 acceptable reasons. The list of beneficiaries and the amount of financial  
5 assistance received shall be made available upon request.

6 SEC. 13. *Responsibility of National Government Agencies*  
7 *Implementing StuFAPs.* – The agencies and instrumentalities implementing  
8 StuFAPs are required to submit reports, make their selection process  
9 transparent to the public, and comply with the requirements that the Board  
10 may impose to ensure that these programs are in line with the national policy  
11 framework on student financial assistance.

12 SEC. 14. *Performance Monitoring and Impact Assessment.* – The  
13 UniFAST shall be evaluated rigorously by the Board in terms of its impact on  
14 desired results and its progress towards achieving them shall be monitored  
15 regularly. The Board shall clearly define those results and their target values.  
16 Impact evaluation shall be measured against, among others:

- 17 (a) Education outcomes such as enrollment in level IV-accredited
- 18 HEIs, as may be stipulated in the rules and regulations to be issued to
- 19 implement this Act, and the number of graduates (by type of study program);
- 20 (b) Economic indicators such as income and employment of
- 21 beneficiaries after graduation; and
- 22 (c) Indicators for contributions to community service and public
- 23 good.

24 Performance and progress shall, in addition, be measured with regard  
25 to: (1) number of students covered by scholarships, grants-in-aid, student  
26 loans, or other modalities of StuFAP; (2) type of study program; (3) level  
27 of HEI enrolled in; and (4) initial economic status. Tracer studies and survey  
28 data for experimental and quasi-experimental analyses shall be undertaken to  
29 produce credible impact evaluation studies, as may be determined by the

1 Board: *Provided*, That major programs of the Board are to be evaluated within  
2 five (5) years from the date of its implementation.

3 SEC. 15. *Expansion of the UniFAST Board.* – The UniFAST Board  
4 shall be expanded to include the following:

- 5 (a) President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and
- 6 Colleges as Member;
- 7 (b) President of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational
- 8 Associations as Member;
- 9 (c) President of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) as
- 10 a nonvoting Member;
- 11 (d) President of the Social Security System (SSS) as a nonvoting
- 12 Member; and
- 13 (e) President of the Land Bank of the Philippines as a nonvoting
- 14 Member.

15 SEC. 16. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the  
16 initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's  
17 appropriation of the CHED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the  
18 continued implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary  
19 Education shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under  
20 the budget of the SUCs, the CHED and the TESDA.

21 An amount equivalent to not more than three percent (3%) of the  
22 program funds provided under this Act may be used as administrative cost  
23 under the UniFAST.

24 SEC. 17. *Other Sources of Funds.* – The national government is  
25 hereby authorized to prioritize funding this measure in negotiating and  
26 utilizing long-term deeply concessional official development assistance  
27 (ODA). Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, collections, and  
28 other forms of assistance from local and foreign donors or other public or  
29 private entities, and other private domestic and international sources may be

1 tapped and facilitated by the UniFAST Board to support the programs under  
2 this Act, subject to the regular auditing guidelines and procedures: *Provided*,  
3 That in case of donations from foreign sources, acceptance thereof shall be  
4 subject to existing government rules and regulations.

5 SEC. 18. *Non-impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be  
6 construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made  
7 available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing  
8 laws.

9 SEC. 19. *Penalties.* – A violation of the prohibited act under Section  
10 6 of this Act shall be meted a penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6)  
11 months but not more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than twenty  
12 thousand pesos (P20,000.00) but not more than one hundred thousand pesos  
13 (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court. In case of a university,  
14 college or any other juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed on the  
15 president, treasurer or the officer or person responsible for the violation.

16 SEC. 20. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Universal*  
17 *Access to Tertiary Education.* – There is hereby created a Joint Congressional  
18 Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of  
19 this Act.

20 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each  
21 from the Senate and from the House of Representatives, and shall include the  
22 following: Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and  
23 Culture; Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical  
24 Education; Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance; Chairperson of  
25 the House Committee on Appropriations; and three (3) members each to be  
26 chosen from the membership of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and  
27 Culture and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education by the  
28 Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively, with at least one (1)  
29 member each from the minority in the House of Representatives and in the

1 Senate. Funding for the expenses of the Committee shall be taken from the  
2 appropriations of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

3 SEC. 21. *Transitory Provisions.* – The CHED and the TESDA,  
4 through the UniFAST Board shall formulate the appropriate strategies and  
5 mechanisms needed to ensure the smooth and swift implementation of the  
6 provisions of this Act. For this purpose, a transition period of not less than  
7 three (3) months shall provide for adjustments covering capacity-building,  
8 infrastructure development planning, financial planning and the hiring and  
9 proper compensation of new teaching and nonteaching personnel.

10 SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)  
11 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the  
12 CHED, the TESDA, and other relevant stakeholders in higher and technical  
13 education, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary  
14 to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

15 SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part of this Act be  
16 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof not  
17 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

18 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential  
19 decrees, implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with  
20 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

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