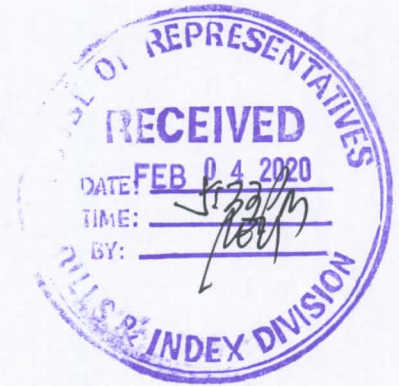




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 693

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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10687, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) ACT TO ENSURE THAT THE MANDATE OF THE LAW IS EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY CARRIED OUT**

**WHEREAS**, the Government determined that there is a need to organize, rationalize, and harmonize the various educational programs which seek to provide funding for quality education for Filipinos. The Government's goal is to increase the participation rate among all socioeconomic classes in Tertiary Education, especially the poor but academically able and highly motivated students.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Republic Act ("RA") No. 10687, existing publicly-funded national government programs for Scholarships, Grants-in-Aid, and Student Loans for Tertiary Education are unified and harmonized to improve their efficiency and to ensure that deserving Filipinos are given equitable access to educational opportunities.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RA No. 10687, Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education ("UniFAST") refers to the harmonized, state-run and administered system of Higher Education and technical-vocational Scholarships, Grants-in-Aid, Student Loans, and other modalities of StuFAP, in both public and private institutions.

**WHEREAS**, under the law, qualified students are entitled to receive Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) which may, among others, support the cost of tertiary education or any

portion thereof to cover the following: (a) tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and in private or LGU- operated TVIs, which shall be equivalent to the tuition and other school fees of the nearest SUC or State-run TVI in their respective area; (b) allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses, including a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of personal computer or laptop, and other education-related expenses; (c) allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student; (d) for a student with disability, allowance for expenses related to the student's disability, including special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies that are reasonably incurred; and (e) for a student in a program requiring professional license or certification, the one-time cost of obtaining the first professional credentials or qualifications, which may include the following application fees: notarial fees, review classes fees, insurance premium fees, and documentation fees.

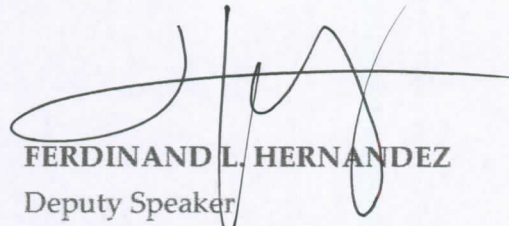
**WHEREAS**, there were previous reports that a plurality of student-beneficiaries from Region XII together with their parents, filed complaints with the CHED alleging that several schools failed or refused to release the full amount of subsidy they are entitled to receive under the law. The complainants claim that from the Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php60,000) subsidy granted to them, certain schools turned over and reimbursed only Twenty Thousand pesos (Php20,000).

**WHEREAS**, there are also reports that the allocation and distribution of the programs the UniFAST have been unequitable throughout Mindanao and that there is unreasonable delay in the distribution of benefits to the student-beneficiaries in violation of the mandate of the law to provide equitable access to educational opportunities and to increase the participation rate of Filipinos to quality education.

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to revisit and if necessary, revise the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the UniFAST Law to cure the existing problems in its implementation, avoid confusion among stakeholders, and prevent future challenges from arising.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to direct the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation to evaluate the implementation of Republic Act No. 10687 and to review and examine its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to ensure that the intent of the law is effectively and efficiently carried out.

*Adopted,*

  
**FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**  
Deputy Speaker  
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