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Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 644



Introduced by Honorable MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Bacolod City College in the City of Bacolod, Province of Negros Occidental, into a Polytechnic State College to be known as the Bacolod City Polytechnic State College.

Created by virtue of City Ordinance No. 175 series of 1997, the Bacolod City College was established amid strong clamor for quality and affordable tertiary education of the poor but deserving students of Bacolod City. Only in its second year, the college today caters to the training and schooling needs of around two thousand: (2,000) students who come from poor or downtrodden families of the city. It offers three curricular programs, namely: 4-year Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology major In Electronics Technology and Civil Technology; 4-year Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majors in Entrepreneurship and Information System Management; and 2-year Certificate in Computer Secretarial.

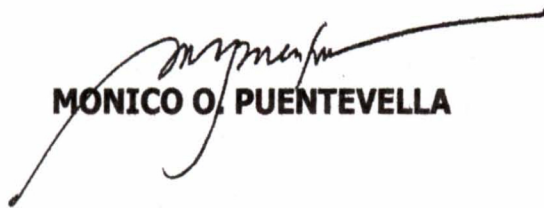
It is sad to note, however, that despite its growing student population and its lofty thrusts, the Bacolod City College does not have a site or building of its own. In fact, its presently utilizes the facilities of Bacolod City National High School alternately with the latter, a condition not conducive towards a healthy environment for imparting technical know how and skills.

The proposed conversion of the Bacolod City College into a polytechnic state college does not however entirely hinges on the dire necessity to solve the foregoing predicament. Foremost, it is being submitted as a response to the multifarious challenges posed by the punishing pace of growth and development in the city and the region as a whole, where sugar, fishing, tourism and small and medium industries abound.

As the capital and main gateway to Negros Occidental in the Visayas, Bacolod City is fast evolving into one of the country's premier cities that have so much to offer visitors of any type. Characterized today by an unprecedented boom in infrastructure and construction, Bacolod is a haven for investments and business opportunities. With an annual income of more than P80 million and the home to some 450,000 Bacolenos, it has gradually developed into a sprawling business center with the growth of several new livelihood and entrepreneurial concerns. Bacolod City is at the threshold of an economic transformation, an actuality that is bolstered by numerous proposals from both foreign and local investors to establish industrial factories, food processing plants, livestock raising, hotels, restaurants, golf courses, fishery and other agro-industrial undertakings.

The conversion of the Bacolod City College into a Polytechnic State College will serve to empower the city in meeting new manpower requirements, and supply its neighboring towns and provinces, and the rest of the country, with technically educated world class work force.

Thus, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BACOLOD CITY COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD,
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A POLYTECHNIC STATE
COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE BACOLOD CITY POLYTECHNIC STATE
COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

Section 1. The Bacolod City College located in the City of Bacolod, Province of Negros Occidental, is hereby converted into a Polytechnic State College to be known as the Bacolod City Polytechnic State College, hereinafter referred to as the "Polytechnic State College."

Section 2. In addition to its present curricular offerings, the Polytechnic State College shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the field of applied and natural science, agriculture, fisheries or aqua-culture, forestry, eco-tourism, veterinary science, tropical medicine, environmental protection, engineering and other programs that may prove relevant to the locality, or as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary.

It shall also offer opportunity for short-term/vocational courses, promote research, advanced studies and progressive leadership within its area of specialization to meet the needs of the Province and Region.

Section 3. The Polytechnic State College shall under be under the regulation, supervision, and control of the Board of Trustees similar to the state or chartered colleges.

Section 4. The Polytechnic State College shall be headed by a President to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation

I by the Board of Trustees and" shall receive compensation comparable to those being received by Presidents of similar educational institutions of like enrollment and standing, subject to pertinent budgetary and compensation laws.

Section 5. In order not to disrupt the present administrative operations of the Polytechnic State College and for purposes of continuity, harmony and foresight in the developmental implementation of the Polytechnic State College, on-going programs, projects and activities, the incumbent school administrator, if qualified, shall be the officer in charge of the Polytechnic State College pending the appointment of the president thereof in accordance with the provision of the immediately preceding section. The teachers, instructors and other school personnel shall be absorbed into the new upgraded positions that may be created in accordance with the needs of the curricular offerings of the Polytechnic State College. They shall receive compensation and privileges equal to their counterparts in existing polytechnic colleges under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Section 6. The powers and duties of the President of the Polytechnic State College in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, should be those usually pertaining to the Office of a State College or University President.

Section 7. The governing body of the Polytechnic State College shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education as Chairman of the Board, the President of the Polytechnic State College as Vice Chairman, the Regional Director of DECS, NEDA and two (2) prominent Citizens of Bacolod City who shall be appointed by the Board and chosen from among a list of at least five (5) persons qualified from the city, recommended by the search committee constituted by the Polytechnic State College president in consultation with the chairman of CHED based on normal standards and qualifications for the position, as Members.

When the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education is unable to perform his duties as Chairman of the Board due to illness, absence or other cause, or in case of a vacancy in the Office, the Commissioner who is assigned in the Western Visayan Region shall temporarily perform the function of the Chairman of the said Board. The Chairman may assign an official to represent him with full authority in the Board.

Section 8. The Polytechnic State College shall have an Academic council consisting of the Faculty with the rank of professors. The Council shall have the power to prescribe the curricula and rules of discipline with the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for admission to the Polytechnic State College as well as for graduation and offering of degrees, to qualified candidates of either regular programs or Honoris Causa subject to review by the Board. The Council alone, through the Office of the President of the Polytechnic State College or its duly

authorized committee shall have disciplinary power over the students within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline.

Section 9. The Polytechnic State College shall not deny admission of students by reason of sex, ethnic consideration, religious belief or political affiliation.

Section 10. Consistent with Section 5 of this Act, the body of instructors and professors of the Polytechnic State College shall come from the faculty of the Bacolod City College. The incumbent personnel shall be given priority to occupy the new staffing pattern commensurate to their qualifications and should some of them be found to be educationally deficient for the new positions for the new positions, they should be given a maximum of four (4) years moratorium within which to upgrade their educational qualifications to fully qualify for the said positions.

Section 11. No member of the faculty of the Polytechnic State College shall attempt directly or indirectly under penalty of dismissal by the Board to influence students or any persons in the State Polytechnic College towards any ideology, political or otherwise, which preaches the overthrow of the government through violence or subversion.

Section 12. There shall be a Secretary of the Polytechnic State College who shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the president with such qualifications as may be determined by the Board.

Section 13. The Administrative and Academic Staff of the Polytechnic State College shall be structured and organized in keeping with existing structure of other Polytechnic State Colleges and Universities regulations or applicable laws.

Section 14. The treasurer of the Republic of the Philippines shall be the Ex-Officio Treasurer of the Polytechnic State College, and all accounts and expenses, therefore, shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly authorized representative.

Section 15. The Polytechnic State College is hereby given a new site, through purchase or otherwise, with such size and at such location in the city, and with such facilities and structures that is consonant and commensurate with its academic offerings and thrusts.

Section 16. Heads of Bureaus and Offices of the National Government are hereby authorized to lend or transfer upon request of the President of the Polytechnic State College apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the Polytechnic State College, and to detail employees for duties therein when in the judgment of the bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to the public service. Employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

Section 17. All assets, fixed and movable, personnel and records of the Bacolod City College as well as liabilities and obligations, are hereby transferred to the Polytechnic State College, PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the positions, rights and security of tenure of the personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the absorption by the Polytechnic State College are not impaired; PROVIDED FURTHER, that the incumbents of the positions shall be upgraded according to levels allowed by existing laws or remain in the same status as provided in Sections 5 and 10 respectively in this Act. All parcel of land belonging to the government occupied by the Bacolod City College, if there be any, are hereby declared to be the property of the Polytechnic State College and shall be titled under its name; PROVIDED FINALLY, that should the Polytechnic State College ceases to exist or such parcel of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the Polytechnic State College, the same shall revert back to the respective municipalities where they are located.

Section 18. It is hereby provided that the amount of ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P 100,000,000.00) be appropriated to the Polytechnic State College in addition to the present appropriations of the former Bacolod City College in order that its noble mission and objectives can be satisfactorily met. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the BACOLOD CITY POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 19. The Commission on Higher Education is hereby directed to implement the provisions of this Act; provided, that the conversion and recognizance process shall be completed within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

Section 20. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 21. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of the Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 22. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,