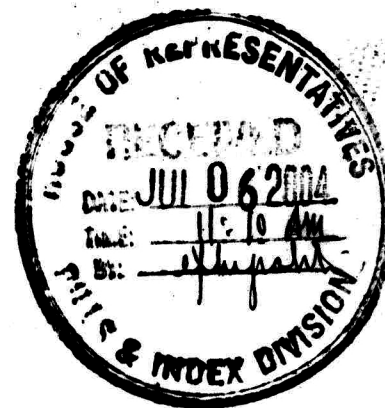


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



13th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1127

Introduced by Representative Renato J. Unico, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seek to convert the Camarines Norte Sate College located in the Municipality of Daet, province of Camarines Norte, into a state university to be known as the Camarines Norte State University.

By the virtue of the Republic Act No. 7352, the Camarines Norte State College was established out of the merging of Camarines Norte National High School, Camarines Norte School of Agriculture, Jose Panganiban School of Arts and Trades and Mercedes School of Fisheries into a State College and offering additional courses on Liberal Arts, Commerce, Education, Engineering, Secretarial courses and other related fields.

However, because of limited courses being offered by the State College thousands of students opted to enroll to Metro Manila schools which is 352 kilometers away or in Naga and Legaspi Cities which entailed additional expenses from their parents.

Anent this predicament, it is deemed necessary to convert the above-mentioned State College into a State University to allow the institution to be more responsive to the scholastic requirements of our youths, consonant to the state policy of giving educational accessibility to all concern.

As a State University, the educational institution will have more resources to improve its existing facilities as well as build new ones. It will also be capable of hiring competent faculty members for the benefit of its enrollees.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage if this bill is urgently sought.


HON. RENATO J. UNICO, JR

Republic of the Philippines
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House Bill No. **1127**

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE CAMARINES NORTE STATE COLLEGE IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DAET, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, INTO A
STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS CAMARINES NORTE STATE
UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. Conversion. The Camarines Norte State College with its main campus in Daet, Camarines Norte and its component campuses in Brgy. San Roque, Municipality of Mercedes; Brgy. Talobatib, Municipality of Labo; Brgy. Poblacion, Municipality of Jose Panagniban; and Brgy. II, Municipality of Daet created as a state college pursuant to RA 7352 is hereby converted into a State University to be known as Camarines Norte State University.

SECTION 2. Mandate. (a) The University shall provide advanced instruction and training in the arts, philosophy, science and technology, education, agriculture, and other related fields, undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

(b) The University shall offer undergraduate, graduate, post graduate degree programs and short-term technical courses within its areas of specialization according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its goals and objectives, particularly to meet the needs of the province and the region.

(c) It may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school to complement its College of Education.

SECTION 3. Governing Board. The governance of the University shall be vested in the Board of Regents which shall be composed of the following:

1. Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairman;
2. President of the University, Vice-Chairman;
3. Chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts, and Culture of the Senate, member;
4. Chairman of the Committee on Education and Culture of the House of Representatives, member;
5. Regional Director of the National Economic Development authority (NEDA) of the Bicol Region, member;
6. President of the Faculty Association of the University, member;
7. President of the Student Council of the University, member;
8. President of the Alumni Association of the University, member;
9. Two (2) private sector representatives who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization chosen from among five (5) qualified persons in the province, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, in consultation with the chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position, members.

SECTION 4. Terms of Office. (a) The term of office of the President of the Faculty Association, President of the Alumni Association, and President of the Student Council as members of the Board shall be co-terminus with their respective terms of office in their organizations;

(b) The two private sector representative shall serve as regents for a term of two (2) years.

SECTION 5. General Powers of the Board. The Board of Regents shall be the policy-determining body of the University and, as such, shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, culture, science and technology, as well as the standards and thrusts of the Commission on Higher Education under Republic Act No. 7722.

SECTION 6. Specific Powers of the Board. In addition to the general powers and the exercise of all powers vested on the Board of Directors of a corporation under the Corporation Law, the Board of Regents shall have the following specific powers and duties:

(a) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and functions of the University;

(b) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any. Provided, however, that such gifts or donations shall be exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;

(c) to fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as but not limited to, matriculation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors;

c.1. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank and all interests that shall accrue therefrom part of the same funds for the use of the University;

c.2. Any provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University and may be distributed by the Board for instruction, research, extension, or other programs/projects of the University; Provided, that all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which they are collected.

c.3. If, for the reason beyond control, the University shall not be able to pursue any projects for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved programs of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of the said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University.

(d) To adept and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;

(e) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment and other facilities and the purchases and other transactions entered into by the University through the Board shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;

(f) To appoint upon recommendation of the President of the University, vice-presidents, deans, directors, and heads of departments, and the appointments of faculty members and other officials of the University;

(g) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees subject to the provisions of the revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper, to grant them, as its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

(h) To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;

(i) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

(j) To award honorary decrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture, public administration, education or any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University and to authorize the award of certification of completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;

(k) To establish and absorb tertiary institution within the Province of Camarines Norte as branches, centers, stations, etc. in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to education opportunities mandated by the Constitution;

(l) To establish research and extension centers of the University where such will promote the development of the latter;

(m) To establish chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

(n) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the president and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

(o) To authorize an external management audit of the institution, to be financed by the CHED and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of audit results and recommendation;

(p) To collaborate with other governing Boards of state universities and colleges within the province of Camarines Norte, under the supervision of CHED and in consultation with the DBM, the restructuring of said colleges and universities to become more efficient, relevant, productive, and competitive;

(q) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the same;

(r) To develop consortia and other forms of linkages with local government units, institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in furtherance of the purpose and objectives of the University;

(s) To develop academic arrangements for institution capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts/specialist as consultants, or visiting or exchange professors, scholars, researchers, as the case may be;

(t) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual system, open learning, community laboratory, etc. For the promotion of greater access to higher education;

(u) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision making and transparency within the University;

(v) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, management of non-academic services such as health, food building, grounds or property maintenance and similar such other activities; and

(w) To extend the President of the University beyond the age of retirement but not later than the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been unanimously rated as outstanding and upon unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

SECTION 7. Meeting and Quorum. (a) Regular meetings of the Board of Regents shall be held at least once every quarter; Provided, however, That the Chairman of the Board of Regents may, upon notice three days prior to the meeting, call a special meeting whenever necessary.

(b) A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all members holding office at the time of the meeting; Provided, however, That the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) who is the Chairman of the Board and the President of the University are among those present in the meeting; and

(c) In the absence of the Chairman of the CHED, a Commissioner of the CHED duly designated by the CHED Chairman shall represent him in the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member; Provided, however, That in the said meeting, the President of the University as Vice-Chairman shall be the presiding officer.

SECTION 8. Administration: University President. (a) The administration of the University shall be vested in the President of the University who shall (1) be appointed by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee, (2) hold office for a full term of (4) years subject to reappointment provided for in Republic Act No. 8292;

(b) The President of the University shall be assisted by a vice-president for academic affairs who shall be appointed by the Board upon the formers recommendation without prejudice to the appointment of more than one vice-president when so warranted;

(c) The President shall render full-time service and shall receive a salary in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System comparable to that being received by the presidents of similar institutions of like standing;

(d) In case of vacancy in the office of the President, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity to perform the functions of his office, the Board of Regents shall designate an officer-in-charge of the University who shall serve until a new president is appointed by the Board;

(e) In addition those specifically provided in this Act, the powers and duties of the President of the University shall be those usually pertaining to the office of university presidents and those designated by the Board of Regents.

SECTION 9. Administrative Council. There shall be an administrative council consisting of the President of the University as chairman, the vice-presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duty is to implement the policies governing the administration, management and development of the University, as approved by the Board.

SECTION 10. Academic Council. There shall be an academic council consisting of the President of the University as Chairman and all members of the instructional staff with the rank of not lower than assistant professors, as members, who shall have the power to prescribe curricular offerings subject to the approval of the Board, fix the requirements for admission to the University as well as for graduation and the conferring of degrees, subject to the review and/or approval of the Board through the President of the University, have disciplinary power over the students, and formulate academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

SECTION 11. Board and University Secretary. The Board of Regents shall appoint a Secretary of the Board and the university whose duty is to keep all records of the Board and all the proceedings of its meetings, and to communicate to each member the notice of meetings of the Board.

SECTION 12. University Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex-officio treasurer of the University.

SECTION 13. Principles and Policies of the University. (a) no religious option or affirmation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members and personnel of the University; Provided, however, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sector;

(b) The University shall provide a scholarship program to assist poor but deserving students to qualify for admission to the University;

(c) Academic freedom shall be enjoyed in the University;

(d) No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of sex, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

(e) Members of the faculty of the University at the tertiary level shall be exempt from the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) as a requisite for appointment, without prejudice to the right of the Board to impose other professional examination requirements intended to maintain high academic standard;

(f) The provisions of Republic Act No. 8393 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall for as an integral apart of this Act and together shall serve as the governing charter of the University.

(g) All other powers, functions and responsibilities, and limitations to state universities and/or the officials under existing law shall be deemed granted or imposed upon the University and/or its officials whenever appropriate.

SECTION 14. Transitory and other Provisions. (a) All assets, fixed and movable, personnel and records of Camarines Norte State College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, are hereby transmitted to the University; provided, however, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to its conversion to university status are not impaired; Provided, further, That the incumbent of the position shall remain under the same status until otherwise provided for by the Board of Regents.

(b) In order to ensure the smooth transition from college to university status, the incumbent President of Camarines Norte State College, if qualified, shall serve as the first President of the University subject to the provision of Section 8 on the University President.

(c) The heads of bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University, and to detail employees for duty therein when, in 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; Provided, however, That employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

(d) The University may accept the affiliation and/or integration within its operation of any existing national school within the province whose programs can contribute largely and effectively to the attainment of its objectives, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); Provided, however, That the funds, properties and other assets, as well as obligations of the integrated school shall be transferred to the University.

(e) Within the period of one-hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

1. Submit a five (5) year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED, for appropriate recommendation to the Department of Budget and Management;
2. Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education;
3. Accordingly set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including appointment, designation of key officials of the University;
4. Set up in motion the establishment of at least four (4) separate degree granting units, one of which is in the arts and sciences, and another in the graduate level; and
5. At the instance of the University President, formulate guidelines to ensure a smooth, efficient, and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 15. Appropriations. (a) The Board of Regents of the University shall prepare its programs to operationalize the Camarines Norte State University, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Camarines Norte State University.

(b) Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Camarines Norte State University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 16. Repealing Claus. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.