

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 2126



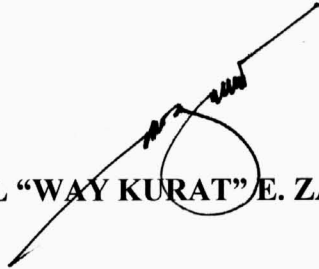
Introduced by Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" E. Zamora

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Institutions of higher learning are widely seen as instruments of change and prosperity in rural areas. The ability of the people to obtain quality tertiary education conveniently and at the least cost possible enables them to break free from the bondage of poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and other social maladies afflicting the far-flung provinces. In this regard, the State must endeavor to fulfill its duty of providing college education to its citizens and afford them the opportunity of improving their social status and quality of life.

This bill seeks the conversion of the Compostela Colleges (extension campus of the University of Southeastern Philippines) into the Compostela Valley State College. With a state subsidized college, the cost of obtaining a college degree will no longer prove to be so burdensome to aspiring students and their parents. With a seat of learning practically "in the neighborhood," so to speak, it is expected that the yearning for knowledge among the populace and its positive consequences, will be given a great boost. The State, in turn, will be fulfilling its constitutional mandate of promoting the right of the citizens to quality and affordable education.

Hence, the immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MANUEL "WAY KURAT" E. ZAMORA

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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE COMPOSTELA COLLEGES (EXTENSION CAMPUS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES) IN COMPOSTELA,
COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE INTO AN INDEPENDENT STATE
COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE COMPOSTELA VALLEY STATE
COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Compostela Colleges in the municipality of Compostela, Compostela Valley Province, is hereby converted into the Compostela Valley State College, hereinafter referred to as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall primarily provide higher professional, technical and special instructions for special purposes, and to promote research and extension services, advanced studies and progressive leadership in agriculture, education, forestry, engineering, arts and sciences and other fields as may be relevant.

SEC. 3. The College shall offer undergraduate courses in the fields of education, agriculture, forestry, engineering, arts and sciences, and other degree courses as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives. It shall also offer opportunity in short-term technical or vocational courses within its areas of specialization to meet the needs of the nation.

SEC. 4. The College shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the Corporation Law. The Administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the President of the College insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. The governing board of the College shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- a) Secretary of Education, chairman;
- b) President of the College, vice-chairman;

- c) Chairman of the Committee on Education of the Senate, member;
- d) Chairman of the Committee on Higher Education, House of Representatives, member;
- e) Representative of the National Economic and Development Authority, member;
- f) President of the faculty association of the College, member;
- g) President of the supreme student council of the college, member;

In addition, the Board may appoint as members, the following when deemed necessary:

- a) President of the alumni association of the College;
- b) President of the employees association of the College; and
- c) Two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization of the College chosen from among those qualified in Compostela Valley Province.

The president of the alumni association and of the employees association as well as the two (2) prominent citizens so appointed by the Board shall have the powers, authority and privileges as the regular members of the Board.

The Secretary of Education, the President of the College, the Education Committee Chairmen of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the representative of the National Economic Development Authority shall have an ex officio term of office, while the presidents of the faculty association and the supreme student council and, when deemed necessary, the presidents of the alumni association and the employees association, shall serve for one (1) year and when likewise necessary, the two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for four (4) years, respectively.

SEC. 6. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared state policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports.

SEC. 7. The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers for administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

- a) to enact laws and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- b) to receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the College in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- c) to import duty-free essential commodities, materials and equipment for educational or technological programs as an exception to existing laws, provided such commodities, materials and equipment are not available locally;

- d) to receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations or real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the College and subject to limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any. Such donations shall be exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;
- e) to fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as but not limited to matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other incomes generated by the College, constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. Any and all interests that accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the College. Any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, incomes generated by the College, may at the discretion of the Board, be disbursed to the professional growth and development, health, welfare and other similar benefits of the faculty members and personnel, for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed infrastructures and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act. If for any reason, the College shall not be able to pursue any project which funds have been appropriated for reasons beyond control and allocated under its program of expenditures, the board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which in its direction may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the College;
- f) to authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment. Purchases and other transaction entered into by the College through the Board shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- g) to confirm appointments of vice-presidents, deans, directors, heads of department, faculty members and other officials and employees of the College made by the President of the College;
- h) to fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees;
- i) to approve the curricular, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;
- j) to confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation, to award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of education, public service, arts, science, technology or in any field of specialization and to authorize the award of certificates for completion of non-degrees and non-traditional courses;

- k) to establish branches in other municipalities in the province if and when it becomes essential or necessary where there is no existing school offering similar programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to education opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;
- l) to establish Chairs in the College and provide fellowship for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students.

SEC. 8. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all members holding office at the time of the meeting: Provided, however, That those present are the Secretary of Education who is the Chairman of the Board, or the President of the College who acts as the presiding officer in the former's absence. The board shall convene regularly every two (2) months. The Chairman of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary.

The members of the Board shall not receive salary but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attendance in meeting of the Board or in other official business authorized by resolution of the Board subject to existing laws on honoraria and allowances.

SEC. 9. The College shall be headed by a President to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Board and shall hold office for a term of six (6) years without reappointment unless he/she reaches the age of retirement or earlier removed for cause or incapacitated to discharge the duties of the office.

In case of vacancy of the office of the President by reason of death, resignation, incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his office, or removal for cause, the Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge of the College pending the appointment of a successor. The President shall hold office for the unexpired term but in no case shall his/her term be more than six (6) years subject to the provision of the preceding paragraph.

The powers and duties of the President of the College, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the President of the College.

The salary of the President of the College shall be fixed by the Board and shall be comparable to that being received by the President of similar educational institution of like enrollment and standing.

SEC. 10. The President of the College, whose term may be terminated according to this Act, shall be entitled to full retirement benefits under existing laws.

SEC. 11. There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the College, as chairman, vice president(s), deans, directors and other officials of equal rank, whose duty is to implement the policies governing the

administration, management and development planning of the College as approved by the Board.

SEC. 12. There shall be an Academic Council with the President of the College as chairman and all members of the instructional staff with the rank of not lower than assistant professor as members. The Academic Council shall have the power to prescribe curricular offerings subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for admission to the Colleges as well as for graduation and conferring of degrees subject to review and/or approval by the Board through the President of the College. It shall also have disciplinary power through the President over the students within the limits prescribed by the rules of discipline as approved by the Board.

SEC. 13. There shall be a Secretary of the College who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the College. He shall be the Secretary of the Board and shall keep records of the College as may be determined by the Board.

SEC. 14. The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex officio treasurer of the College.

SEC. 15. Members of the faculty of the College shall be exempt from any civil service examination or regulation as requisite for appointment. No religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: Provided, however, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 16. No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, nationality, religion or political affiliation.

SEC. 17. The College shall enjoy academic freedom.

SEC. 18. On or before the fifteenth day of the second month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the Secretary of Education and to both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the College.

SEC. 19. All accounts and expenses of the College shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly authorized representative.

SEC. 20. Heads of bureaus and offices of the National Government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon request of the President of the College such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the College such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the College, and to detail employees for duty therein, when, in the judgment of the head 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 by them by the President of the College, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular service.

SEC. 21. It shall be the continuing policy of the College to accept the affiliation and/or integration within its operation of any existing national schools whose program can contribute largely and effectively to the attainment of its objectives: Provided, however, That in the case of integration, the Secretary of Education is hereby authorized to determine and approve the specific existing national schools that are to be integrated as part of the Compostela Valley State College. In this particular case, it is understood that all funds, properties, and other assets, as well as obligations of the integrated school shall be transferred to the College.

SEC. 22. All parcels of public land that shall be transferred or other lands to be acquired for the use of the Compostela Valley State College shall be titled under that name: Provided, That should the College cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land be no longer needed by the College, the same shall revert to the Province of Compostela Valley.

SEC. 23. The amounts necessary for the establishment of the College shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its operations and maintenance shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 24. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 25. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,