



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3635

Introduced by Honorable Roger G. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a college of fisheries and agriculture in Maasin City, Southern Leyte, to be known as the Southern Leyte College of Fisheries and Agriculture.

The effort to improve the fisheries and agriculture sectors has scarcely progressed through the years despite the shift towards more diversified and intensively cultivated farms, highly specialized and technologically advanced fisheries and aquaculture industry which are sustainable and globally competitive.

In order to respond to this daunting situation, the education system, specifically relating to fisheries and aquaculture, and the agriculture sectors, must develop highly motivated, capable, progressive-minded but socially conscious and adequately trained professionals, scientists, technologists, managers, supervisors, researchers, farm practitioners, agricultural entrepreneurs and extension workers and specialists both in private and public fisheries and aquaculture, and agriculture sectors. There is a need for holistic, multi-disciplinary approach instead of the usual commodity specific approach emphasizing both forward and backward linkages in the development of the above sectors.

The College shall provide a well-balanced, general education and professional courses to train students in the scientific habit of thought, entrepreneurial skills and prepare them to become professionals with entry-level competencies both in technical fisheries and agriculture. It shall likewise develop research and extensions activities to enable the institution to translate its research finding into projects that can be utilized by the immediate community and the industry as well.

However, an integrated system of education must be evolved, sustained and developed through conscious, rational and deliberate efforts to achieve a balanced education rooted in the proper values to encourage and foster the development of a genuine nationalistic Filipino spirit.

Consistent with the constitutional mandate that the State must establish, maintain and support an educational system which offers a complete, adequate and quality education at all levels and guarantee access to this kind of education relevant to the needs of the people and society, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROGER G. MERCADO



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN LEYTE COLLEGE OF
FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE IN MAASIN CITY, SOUTHERN
LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

SECTION 1. ***Establishment.*** – There is hereby established, in Maasin City, Province of Southern Leyte, a state college to be known as the Southern Leyte College of Fisheries and Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the College, the same being organized as a corporation under that name.

SEC. 2. ***Purpose.*** – The College shall primarily function as a higher learning institution that will provide professional, technical and special instructions in the fields of fishery and agriculture.

SEC.3. ***Powers of the State College.*** – The College shall have the general powers of a corporation as set forth in the Corporation Law. The administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in a board of trustees.

SEC. 4. ***Board of Trustees.*** – The governing body of the College shall be the Board of Trustees of the College hereinafter referred to as the Board. It shall be composed of eleven (11) members, consisting of:

- a) The Secretary of Education as ex-officio Chairperson of the Board;
- b) The President of the College as Vice-Chairperson;
- c) The Chairperson or a member of the Committee on Education of the Senate;
- d) The Chairperson or a member of the Committee on Education of the House of Representatives;
- e) The President of the Alumni Association;
- f) The President of the Faculty Association;
- g) The Chairperson of the Student Council;

- h) The President of the Employee Association as ex-officio member;
- i) The Regional Director of the Department of Education;
- j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the local community who have distinguished themselves in the field of fisheries and agriculture. Such prominent citizens shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President of the College. Of the first two (2) appointed, the Board shall designate one to serve for three (3) years and the other for six (6) years

SEC. 5. ***Qualifications and Compensation.*** – No person shall be appointed to the Board unless he is a natural born citizen of the Philippines, a graduate from any reputable school and of good moral standing in the community. Except for the President of the College, the President of the Faculty Association and the President of the Employees Association, no person in the employ of the College or of other educational institutions in any capacity shall be eligible for membership in the Board.

The members shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in their actual attendance of

meetings of the Board or in connection with their official business authorized by resolution of the Board.

SEC.6. ***Quorum.*** – A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided*, however, That among those present is the Secretary of Education who is chairperson of the Board, or the President of the College who acts as presiding officer in the former's absence. The Board shall convene once every two (2) months and may hold as many special meetings as may be necessary.

SEC. 7. ***Powers of the Board.*** – The Board shall have the following powers;

- a) To enact rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- b) To approve the curricula and rules of discipline drawn by the College Academic Council as hereinafter provided;
- c) To receive and appropriate, to the ends specified by law, such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the College;
- d) To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation from the College;

- e) To authorize the President of the College to award certificates for completion of non-degree programs;
- f) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real or personal property of all kinds, and to administer the same for the benefit of the College;
- g) To appoint the vice-presidents, deans, directors, the secretary, the registrar, the heads of departments, faculty members, employees and staff; to fix their compensation; prescribe their hours of work and duties and obligations; grant leaves of absence in accordance with the rules that it may promulgate subject to the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission;
- h) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as but not limited to matriculation, graduation fees and laboratory fees as the Board may deem proper to impose. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the College, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized bank, and any and all interest that shall accrue therefrom shall be 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 for the professional growth and development, health and welfare and other similar benefits of the faculty members and personnel; for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment, buildings and other infrastructures; and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act;

- i) To provide fellowships to qualified faculty members and scholarships, grants-in-aid and part-time job opportunities to deserving students, especially the underprivileged; and
- j) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. ***The President.*** – a) The administration of the College shall be vested in the President. He shall be appointed by the Board for a term of six (6) years: *Provided*, That he shall be eligible for reappointment after the expiration of his term: *Provided*, further, That he shall serve only for two (2) consecutive terms.

The powers and duties of the President of the College shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the President of a college or university.

In case of permanent vacancy in the office of the President of the College by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity to perform the functions and duties of the office, the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall act as the president until a new president shall have been appointed.

b) Vice President. – The President of the College shall be assisted by two (2) Vice Presidents: one (1) vice president for academic affairs and one (1) vice president for planning and finance, both of whom shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the College.

SEC. 9. ***Faculty: Appointment of Deans.*** – The body of professors and instructors of each school shall constitute its faculty and, as head of each faculty, there shall be a dean to be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the College.

In the appointment of professors and instructors, no religious opinion or affiliation shall be made a matter of inquiry or examination: *Provided*, however, That no faculty member or employee in the College shall inculcate sectarian levels in any of his or her teaching or attempt, either directly or

indirectly, under penalty of dismissal by the Board, to influence the students and employees for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 10. ***Secretary of the College.*** – There shall be a Secretary of the College to be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the College. He shall also serve as secretary of the Board. It shall be his duty to keep the records of the College and the Board, and shall be compensated according to pertinent compensation laws.

SEC. 11. ***Treasurer.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex-officio treasurer of the College.

SEC. 12. ***College Academic Council.*** – There shall be a College Academic Council consisting of the President of the College and all the members of the faculty holding the rank of professor, associate professor, and assistant professor. The College Academic Council shall have the power to prescribe the curriculum and rules of discipline, subject to the approval of the Board. It shall also fix the requirements for admission as well as graduation. The College Academic Council has the authority to recommend the conferment of titles to deserving individuals. Through the President of the College or its duly authorized committee, the College Academic Council shall have disciplinary power over the students of the

College within the levels prescribed by the Rules of Discipline approved by the Board.

SEC. 13. *Admission.* – No student shall be denied admission in the College by reason of sex, ethnic consideration, religious belief or political affiliation.

SEC.14. *Academic Freedom.* – The College shall enjoy academic freedom.

SEC. 15. *Campus Site.* – The Board, in coordination with the Local Government Unit concerned, shall identify the campus site which shall have an area of not less than one hundred hectares (100 has.) for the exclusive use of the College for its academic and instructional programs, research and development activities and experimental and laboratory facilities.

SEC. 16. *Development Plan.* – The Board shall, within six (6) months following its creation, complete a ten-year development plan for the College which shall serve as the basis for its policy directions and decisions.

SEC. 17. *Reports.* – 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. 18. *Accounts.* – All accounts and expenses of the College shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly authorized representative.

SEC.19 *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the maintenance and continued operations of the Southern Leyte College of Fisheries and Agriculture shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or any other parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,