



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



Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session
4824

Introduced by Honorable Vicente "Varf" Belmonte, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Iligan City National School of Fisheries (ICNSF) into the Iligan City Polytechnic State College.

Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides, in part, that *"The State shall establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relative to the needs of the people and society."*

In recent years, providing access to quality education has been a principal objective of the government with the ultimate goal of attaining sustainable development. Education is essential to achieving human development as it provides people with opportunities and enables them to have a better future. Education greatly contributes to fostering peace, democracy and economic growth as well as improving health and reducing poverty.

Iligan City National School of Fisheries was formally established on May 4, 1973 by virtue of Republic Act No. 4625. In its more than forty years of existence, it has provided educational opportunities to the youth of Iligan City and nearby provinces and municipalities, thus, preparing them for gainful employment to meet the demands of the fisheries industry in the country. Recently, ICNSF has emerged as one of the top model schools for the Senior High School (SHS) curriculum of the "K-12 Program" of the Department of Education.

Converting the ICNSF into a Polytechnic State College will make Iligan City home to an educational institution that will be vital in helping further develop and strengthen the country's fisheries industry. Currently, the ICNSF is a public technical-vocational school with approximately eleven hectares of land area at Purok I, Barangay Buru-un, Iligan City. It is the only public secondary school with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

(TESDA) accredited courses in Aquaculture National Certificate (NC) Level II, Fish/Food Processing NC Level II, Bread and Pastry Production NC Level II and Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC Level II.

The conversion of ICNSF into a Polytechnic State College will widen its curriculum and address the need of the student population in Iligan City and neighboring provinces and municipalities for easier access to quality education.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



VICENTE "VARF" BELMONTE, JR.



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AN ACT

**CONVERTING THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL SCHOOL OF
FISHERIES (ICNSF) INTO THE ILIGAN CITY POLYTECHNIC
STATE COLLEGE (ICPSC) DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS
AND DUTIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Conversion.* – The present Iligan City National School
of Fisheries (ICNSF) in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte is hereby converted into
the Iligan City Polytechnic State College, hereinafter referred to as the
Polytechnic State College.

SEC 2. *Purpose.* – The Polytechnic State College shall primarily
offer professional and technical instructions and training in both the graduate
and undergraduate levels in the fields of fishery education, marine
transportation, tourism, trade and the arts. It shall also offer vocational and
technology courses in welding technology, vocational technology, fishery
technology, hotel and restaurant services, hotel and household services, baking
technology, electronic services and repair. The Polytechnic State College shall

1 continue to offer the Junior High School and Senior High School Program under
2 the technical-vocational curriculum of the K to 12 Program of the Department
3 of Education.

4 It shall serve as the center for development of the fisheries industry and
5 shall provide technological, professional and occupational training on the
6 utilization and development of appropriate technologies. It shall also undertake
7 research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in the area
8 of fishery education.

9 The Polytechnic State College shall offer undergraduate, graduate and
10 short-term technical courses within its area of specialization as the Board of
11 Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in order to
12 meet the needs of the city and the province.

13 SEC 3. ***Powers of the Polytechnic State College.*** – The Polytechnic
14 State College will have the structure and powers of a higher education
15 institution, geared towards the development of technical education and skills
16 development goals of the country, particularly in developing and strengthening
17 the country's fisheries industry.

18 The Polytechnic State College shall have the general powers of a
19 corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known
20 as the "*Corporation Code of the Philippines.*" The administration of the

1 Polytechnic State College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be
2 vested exclusively in its Board of Trustees.

3 SEC. 4. *The Governing Board; Manner of Appointment.* – a)
4 *Composition* –The governing body of the Polytechnic State College shall be the
5 Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of the
6 following:

- 7 1) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
8 chairperson;
- 9 2) President of the Polytechnic State College, vice-chairperson;
- 10 3) Regional Director of the National Economic and Development
11 Authority (NEDA) or a duly authorized representative, member;
- 12 4) Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology
13 (DOST) or a duly authorized representative, member;
- 14 5) President of the faculty association of the Polytechnic State
15 College, member;
- 16 6) President of the student council of the Polytechnic State College,
17 member;
- 18 7) President of the alumni association of the Polytechnic State
19 College, member;
- 20 8) Two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in
21 their professions or fields of specialization chosen from among a list of at least

1 five (5) qualified persons in Iligan City and Lanao del Norte, as recommended
2 by the search committee constituted by the President of the Polytechnic State
3 College in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED based on the normal
4 standards and qualifications for the position.

5 The two (2) private sector representatives shall be appointed by the Board
6 upon recommendation of the duly constituted search committee. The City
7 Government of Iligan shall be represented in the search committee.

8 b) *Term of Office* – The president of the faculty and alumni associations
9 and the student trustees shall sit in the Board until the expiration of their term of
10 office in such capacities.

11 The prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the
12 date of appointment.

13 SEC. 5. ***Powers and Duties of the Board of Trustees.*** – The Board
14 shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general
15 powers of administration and the exercise of all powers granted to the board of
16 directors of a corporation under existing laws:

17 a) To promulgate rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be
18 necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the Polytechnic State
19 College;

20 b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the
21 support of the Polytechnic State College in the manner it may determine, in its

1 discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Polytechnic State
2 College;

3 c) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal
4 properties of all kinds, to administer and dispose of the same when necessary
5 for the benefit of the Polytechnic State College, subject to limitations, directions
6 and instructions of the donor, if any.

7 Such donations shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall
8 be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the
9 computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions
10 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended: *Provided*, That
11 such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred or sold;

12 d) To fix tuition fees and other necessary school fees and charges
13 including matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees as the Board
14 may deem proper to impose after due consultations with the involved sectors.

15 Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other incomes
16 generated by the Polytechnic State College, shall constitute special trust funds
17 and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all
18 interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same fund for the use
19 of the Polytechnic State College.

20 Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary
21 notwithstanding, any income generated by the Polytechnic State College from

1 tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services
2 and land grants, shall be retained by the Polytechnic State College, and may be
3 disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension, or other programs
4 and projects of the Polytechnic State College: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees
5 shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which they are collected.

6 If for reasons beyond its control, the Polytechnic State College shall not
7 be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and
8 allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize
9 the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be
10 necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the
11 Polytechnic State College;

12 e) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and school
13 fees for greater access by poor but deserving students;

14 f) To authorize the construction or repair of the buildings, equipment
15 and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal
16 properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment. Purchases
17 and other transactions entered into by the Polytechnic State College through the
18 Board shall be exempted from all taxes and duties;

19 g) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the
20 Polytechnic State College, vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of
21 departments, faculty members and other officials and employees;

- 1 h) To fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members and
2 administrative officials and employees subject to the provisions of the Revised
3 Compensation and Position Classification System, as amended, and other
4 pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service, and such
5 other duties and conditions as it may deem proper, to grant them at its
6 discretion, leaves of absence under regulations as it may promulgate, any
7 provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them
8 for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;
- 9 i) To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of
10 discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein
11 provided;
- 12 j) To set policies on admission, graduation and certification of
13 students;
- 14 k) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of
15 outstanding contribution in the field of education, public service, arts, science
16 and technology or in any field of specialization within the academic competence
17 of the Polytechnic State College and to authorize the award of certificates of
18 completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;
- 19 l) To absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the province of
20 Lanao del Norte in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the
21 Department of Budget and Management, and to offer therein needed programs

- 1 or courses, to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities
2 mandated by the Constitution;
- 3 m) To establish research and extension centers of the Polytechnic State
4 College where such will promote the development of the latter;
- 5 n) To establish chairs in the Polytechnic State College and to provide
6 fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving
7 students;
- 8 o) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove
9 to the President or other officials of the Polytechnic State College as it may
10 deem appropriate so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the
11 Polytechnic State College;
- 12 p) To authorize an external management audit of the institution, to be
13 financed by the CHED and to institute reforms, including academic and
14 structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;
- 15 q) To collaborate with CHED, TESDA and other governing boards of
16 state universities and colleges within the region, under the supervision of the
17 CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, in
18 the restructuring of the Polytechnic State College to become more efficient,
19 relevant, productive and competitive in producing professionals, technologists
20 and technicians;

- 1 r) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the
2 profitable development and management of the assets of the Polytechnic State
3 College, the proceeds of which will be used for the development and
4 strengthening of the Polytechnic State College;
- 5 s) To develop consortia and other forms of linkages with local
6 government units, institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and
7 foreign, in furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the Polytechnic State
8 College;
- 9 t) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability
10 building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public or private, local or
11 foreign, and to appoint experts or specialists as consultants, or visiting or
12 exchange professors, scholars, researchers, as the case may be;
- 13 u) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of
14 transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual
15 system, open learning, community laboratory, and competency-based training
16 for the promotion of greater access to higher education, professional and
17 technological education and skills development;
- 18 v) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative
19 decision-making and transparency within the Polytechnic State College;

1 w) To privatize, where most advantageous to the Polytechnic State
2 College, management and non-academic services such as health, food, building
3 or grounds or property maintenance and similar such other activities; and

4 x) To extend beyond the age of retirement but not later than the age of
5 seventy (70) the term of the President of the Polytechnic State College whose
6 performance has been unanimously rated as outstanding and upon unanimous
7 recommendation by the Search Committee for the President of the Polytechnic
8 State College.

9 SEC. 6. *Promulgation and Implementation of Policies.* – The Board
10 shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared state
11 policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine
12 Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports; as
13 well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No.
14 7722 and also in accordance with the policies, standards and programs of the
15 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the
16 designated government authority in technical education and skills development.

17 SEC.7. *Board Meetings; Quorum.* – The Board shall regularly
18 convene at least once every quarter. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
19 may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are
20 notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to said meeting.

1 A majority of all members holding office shall constitute a quorum for
2 board meetings: *Provided*, That the Chairperson of the CHED who is the
3 Chairperson of the Board or the President of the Polytechnic State College is
4 among those present in the meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson of the
5 CHED, a duly designated Commissioner of the CHED, shall represent the
6 Chairperson of the CHED in the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities
7 of a regular member: *Provided, however*, That in the said meeting, the
8 President of the Polytechnic State College as vice chairperson shall be the
9 presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this proviso notwithstanding, the
10 Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED
11 Commissioner as the regular Chairperson to the Board of the Polytechnic State
12 College, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding
13 officer.

14 The members shall serve without compensation, but they shall be
15 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in their attendance of meetings of
16 the Board or in connection with their official business authorized by resolution
17 of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

18 SEC. 8. *Administration.* – The administration of the Polytechnic
19 State College shall be vested in a President who shall render full-time service.
20 The President shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of a
21 duly constituted search committee. The President shall have a term of four (4)

1 years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term. In order to effect
2 a smooth transition to a Polytechnic State College, the current head of the
3 ICNSF shall become the first President of the Polytechnic State College.

4 The President shall be assisted by a vice president for academic affairs
5 who shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President
6 of the Polytechnic State College without prejudice to the appointment of more
7 than one vice president when so warranted.

8 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of the incumbent
9 President, the Board shall create a search committee for the presidency.

10 In case of vacancy by reason of death, compulsory retirement,
11 resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the
12 functions of the office, the Board shall have the authority to designate an
13 officer-in-charge of the Polytechnic State College within six (6) months from
14 the date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new President.

15 In case of vacancy in the office of the president as mentioned in the
16 immediately preceding paragraph, the successor shall hold office only for the
17 unexpired portion of the term.

18 The powers and duties of the President of the Polytechnic State College
19 in addition to those specifically provided in this Act shall be those usually
20 pertaining to the office of the president of other educational institutions.

1 The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with
2 the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, as modified by
3 Joint Resolution No. 4 dated June 17, 2009 and other pertinent budget and
4 compensation laws, and shall be comparable to that being received by the
5 presidents of similar educational institutions.

6 SEC. 9. **Secretary.** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary, who shall
7 serve as such for both the Polytechnic State College and the Board, and shall
8 keep all records of the Board.

9 SEC. 10. **Treasurer.** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex*
10 *officio* Treasurer of the Polytechnic State College.

11 SEC. 11. **Administrative Council.** – There shall be an administrative
12 council consisting of the President of the Polytechnic State College as
13 Chairperson, vice-presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank
14 as members whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board, policies
15 governing the administration, management and development planning of the
16 institution.

17 SEC. 12. **Academic Council.** – There shall be an academic council
18 consisting of the President of the Polytechnic State College as Chairperson,
19 vice-presidents and all members of the instructional staff with the rank not
20 lower than assistant professor, as members.

1 The academic council shall have the power to review and recommend the
2 curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the Polytechnic State College, for
3 the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for admission to the
4 Polytechnic State College, as well as for graduation and the conferring of
5 certificates and diplomas, subject to review and approval by the Board through
6 the President of the Polytechnic State College.

7 SEC. 13. ***Academic Freedom.*** – Pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of
8 Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, all
9 institutions of higher learning, public or private, shall enjoy academic freedom
10 and institutional autonomy.

11 SEC. 14. ***Admission and Scholarships.*** – No student shall be denied
12 admission to the Polytechnic State College by reason of gender, nationality,
13 religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, or political
14 affiliation.

15 The Polytechnic State College shall provide a scholarship program and
16 other subsidies to assist the poor but deserving students who qualify for
17 admission to the Polytechnic State College.

18 SEC. 15. ***Faculty.*** – No religious opinion or affiliation, political
19 beliefs, gender, preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin,
20 shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the

1 Polytechnic State College: *Provided, however,* That no member of the faculty
2 shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

3 SEC. 16. *Development Plan; Management Audit; Organizational,*
4 *Administrative and Academic Structure.* – Within the period of one hundred
5 twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the Polytechnic State College
6 shall accomplish the following;

7 a) Submit a five (5) year development plan, including program budget
8 to CHED and TESDA, for corresponding recommendation to the Department of
9 Budget and Management;

10 b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with CHED and
11 TESDA; and

12 c) Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic
13 structure, including the appointment of key Polytechnic State College officials.

14 SEC. 17. *Transfer of Assets.* – All assets, real and personal, personnel
15 and records of the ICNSF based in the City of Iligan, as well as liabilities or
16 obligations, are hereby transferred to the Polytechnic State College. The
17 position, rights and security of tenure of personnel therein employed under
18 existing laws shall be respected.

19 All parcels of land belonging to the government and occupied by the
20 ICNSF are hereby declared to be the property of the Polytechnic State College
21 and shall be titled under that name.

1 SEC. 18. *Loan of Equipment.* – The heads of bureaus and offices of
2 the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer upon request
3 of the President of the Polytechnic State College such apparatus, equipment or
4 supplies as may be needed by the Polytechnic State College, and to detail
5 employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or
6 office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can
7 be spared without serious detriment to the public service. Employees detailed
8 shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the
9 Polytechnic State College and the time so employed shall be counted as part of
10 their regular services.

11 SEC. 19. *Auditing.* – All accounts and expenses of the Polytechnic
12 State College shall be audited by the Commission on Audit or its duly
13 authorized representative.

14 SEC. 20. *Filing of Report.* – Not later than the fifteenth day of the
15 second month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall
16 file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the CHED and
17 TESDA, and to both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress,
18 conditions and needs of the Polytechnic State College.

19 SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the
20 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations
21 of the ICNSF. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued

1 operation and maintenance of the Polytechnic State College shall be included in
2 the annual General Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees,
4 executive orders, memoranda, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent
5 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is
8 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not
9 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

10 SEC. 24. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
11 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 Approved,