

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6964

Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presently, there are 108 local universities and colleges all over the country. Their students now number 224, 396, composing around six per cent (6%) total of 3, 589, 484 college population in our country.¹

Despite their significant presence in the Philippine education landscape, the sector is in need of a specific mandate and direction in the context of its role in the national human resources development agenda. On the matter of course offerings, most of them offer courses similar to that being offered in state universities and colleges, private universities and colleges and technical-vocational institutions. To allow such state of affairs to continue is a wasted opportunity as well as unsound state policy as local universities and colleges are primarily meant to serve the requirements of the respective communities where they are located.

The uncertainty of the appropriate mandate place of local colleges and universities in the Philippine educational landscape is all the more emphasized by the fact that they are mostly attached to the local government units for its management and administration, instead of being in a position of

¹ Commission on Higher Education. *Higher Education Enrollment by Gender and Institutional Type AY 2016-17*. Retrieved January 11, 2018 from <http://www.ched.gov.ph/central/page/higher-education-enrollment-by-gender-and-institutional-type-ay-2016-17>

relative autonomy from the local government unit which created them in order to foster academic freedom and self-governance among our local colleges and universities.

The most significant badge of the uncertainty for local colleges and universities is their funding source, most of them being financed directly by the local government units that created them. Of course, the source of funds usually translate to control by the local government unit of the particular local university or college.

This bill seeks to rightfully secure for our local universities and colleges its relevant place in the Philippine educational landscape by addressing the above-mentioned three indicators of such uncertainty.

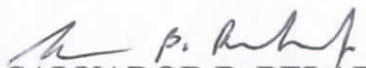
On the matter of course offerings, this bill proposes that our local universities and colleges be redesigned to focus on courses that serve the requirements of their host local government unit and on life-long learning of the residents who desire to enhance their skills.

On the matter of governance, this bill proposes to dilute the omnipotent control of the host local government unit by reconstituting the membership Board of Regents/Board of Trustees. The bill proposes the Board to be composed of (9) voting members namely: two representatives of the local government unit - the local chief executive and the chairman of the committee on education of the Sangguniang Bayan or Panglungsod. The President of the local university or college, Representatives from each of the alumni, faculty and students groups, as well as the CHED, NEDA, and DOST Regional Director or their authorized representative. To ensure succession to the Presidency of a local university or college which will result to a more independent administration, it is likewise proposed that the President of said local university or college can only be selected from those nominated by the members of the Board of Regents, each of whom is entitled to nominate only one candidate.

On the matter of funding, it is furthermore proposed that the funding of the operation of our local universities and colleges be given independent funding from their host local government unit. While under the proposed law, the latter can make donations and grants to the local university or college considering that the course offerings and programs of the said local university or college are after all, meant to primarily benefit the community

which the said local government unit also governs, the stability of our local colleges and universities would be compromised if their primary source of funds is solely from their host local government unit. In this regard, it is hereby proposed that Twenty Percent (20%) of all the yearly income of PCSO and PAGCOR be earmarked for the funding of all local universities and colleges all over the country.

For the aforementioned reasons, the passage of this bill is most earnestly sought.


REP. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

**AN ACT REDEFINING THE ROLE OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES, PROVIDING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENT
GOVERNANCE AND FOR THEIR REGULAR FUNDING**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Local Universities and Colleges Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Education is a key to development. While it is a state policy to afford the citizenry utmost leeway in availing of educational opportunities, it is sound fiscal management to ensure that all investments in education matter and redound to the national interest.

SECTION 3. *Course Offerings of Local Universities and Colleges* – Henceforth, the course offerings of all local universities and colleges shall be redesigned to focus on courses that serve the requirements of their host local government unit and on life-long learning of the residents of the community who are already settled therein but still wish to continually enrich and retool themselves.

SECTION 4. *Governance of Local Universities and Colleges.* - Every local university or college shall be governed by a Board of composed of the following nine (9) voting members - the President of the local university or college, representatives from each of the alumni, faculty and student groups, as well as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Regional Directors plus the two representatives of the local government unit - the local chief executive and the chairman of the committee on education of the Sangguniang Bayan or Panglungsod.

SECTION 5. *Succession in the Administration of Local Universities and Colleges.* - To ensure succession to the Presidency of a local university or college which will result to a more independent administration, it is likewise proposed that the President of said local university or college can only be selected from those nominated by the members of the Board of Regents each of whom is entitled to nominate only one candidate.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* - The funding of the operation of local universities and colleges shall be sourced from Twenty Percent (20%) of all the yearly income of PCSO and PAGCOR. The remainder, if any, shall be included in the yearly appropriations as reflected in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules.* - The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the National Development Authority (NEDA) is hereby tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 9. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees or rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 10. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.