



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7210**



Introduced by Representative JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the creation of at least one (1) High School for the Arts in every region nationwide.

Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall, among others, give priority to arts and culture to foster patriotism and nationalism. However, it cannot be gainsaid that (1) efforts to promote arts and culture in the country have been highly centralized in national government agencies, and (2) other, perhaps more quantitative, subjects have hogged the attention of our resources in terms of developing education.

While the national government agencies put up a gallant effort in promoting arts and culture, it is submitted by this representation that only through devolution of this responsibility to regional units that the objective can be achieved.

Further, while it is important to focus on the sciences, arts and culture reflect the heart of our nation, and frame the character of our people while we embark towards our desired bright future. It thus deserves, as the Constitution mandates, preference and priority. This bill seeks to ensure the preservation of the Filipino heritage and identity through arts and culture education.

It is hoped that thru this policy, the duty of developing arts and culture will more prudently be spread across the country thru institutions that will focus specifically on such disciplines. The national government agencies cannot fulfill this alone. And given the initiative of this administration to decentralize, there is no better time to commence this policy than now.

Support for this bill is therefore earnestly sought.


JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
2nd District, Province of Bataan



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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AT LEAST ONE (1) HIGH
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Principles – The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society, taking into consideration the different capabilities of each student.

The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of the Filipino culture in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression, and shall encourage such discourse and learning in an educational setting.

SECTION 2. Creation of High School for the Arts in all Regions – The Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby mandated to establish at least one (1) High School for the Arts in every region nationwide.

SECTION 3. Compliance – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, in coordination with the local government units concerned, take into consideration the school capacity, faculty readiness, location, and local student demand in identifying and assigning the appropriate areas where a High School for the Arts shall be established in accordance with this Act.

The DepEd shall develop the necessary criteria that each regional High School for the Arts must comply with to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

1 **SECTION 4. *Appropriation*** – During the initial year of the implementation
2 of this Act, the requisite funding shall be sourced from the available funds of the
3 DepEd. Every year thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued
4 operation and maintenance of all High School for the Arts shall be provided in
5 the yearly General Appropriations Act of the national government.

6 The LGUs concerned shall likewise provide assistance to the
7 corresponding High School for the Arts.

8 **SECTION 5. *Supplementary Application*** – The relevant provisions of Republic
9 Acts 9155 and 10533, otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education
10 Act of 2001” and “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013” respectively, shall have
11 supplementary application for purposes of this Act.

12 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within one hundred
13 twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education,
14 in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and Arts and the
15 Cultural Center of the Philippines shall issue such rules and regulations as may
16 be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

17 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision
18 of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or
19 provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

20 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
21 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of
22 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon
24 the approval and publication thereof.

25 *Approved.*