

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8543



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As stated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is the prime duty of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. It is also its solemn mandate to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

One of the educational institutions in the country that deserves assistance and recognition from the State is Faith Academy.

Faith Academy, Inc., a private, non-stock, non-profit educational institution, has been continuously in operation in the Philippines since its establishment in 1957. From its humble beginnings of two classrooms with 47 students, it now has an average enrollment of over 525 students, composed of twenty-two nationalities. The three largest ethnic groups are Korean, American and Filipino. The school offers a progressive Pre-K through Grade 12 international education in a Christian environment, primarily for the children of missionaries working in Southeast Asia. Faith Academy is a day and boarding school. Approximately 20% of the high school student body live in on-campus boarding homes provided by the school. Faith's greatest asset is its staff. All of the teaching staff serve as missionary volunteers. They come to Faith through approved sending agencies and raise their own financial support to work here.

Historically some "Educational Institutions of International Character" have been created through executive authorization (Presidential Decree) like International School, Manila (PD 732), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (PD 2021), and Brent International School (PD 2022). Others have been recognized through legislative action as in the case of Cebu International School (Republic Act No. 9190), Stonyhurst Southville International School of Batangas City (Republic Act No. 9493) and British School, Manila (Republic Act No. 2147). Three other schools are currently in process, German European School Manila, Inc. (HB 5856, SB 3293), Canadian American Education Foundation Inc. (HB 5857) and Everest Academy (HB 4512, SB 1413).

As part of the State's policies on education, it is high time to accord Faith Academy as an Educational Institution of International Character and grant it certain prerogatives conducive to its growth. In this manner, the State shall remain true to its policy of

establishing and supporting a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

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



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

Representative

Third District, Province of Masbate

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**AN ACT RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND PROVIDING
FOR MECHANISMS ON THE GRANT OF CERTAIN PREROGATIVES
CONDUCTIVE TO ITS GROWTH**

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

SECTION 1. Faith Academy, operated by Faith Academy, Inc., is hereby declared and officially recognized as an educational institution of international character authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.

SEC. 2. Faith Academy, herein referred to as the "Academy", was established by religious groups and mission boards and shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the "Board", elected in accordance with its corporate charter.

The Academy, having been established primarily for foreign missionary personnel and their dependents and for other temporary residents, shall be covered by the exemptions provided in Section 4 (2), Article XIV of the Constitution of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. To enable the Academy to continue carrying out its educational program, improve its standard of instruction, and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

- a) Accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own eligibility standards and rules for admission and grade placement;
- b) Be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess the qualifications prescribed by the Board;
- c) Be able to accept provisions and donations of every kind to carry out the purposes of the Academy and be entitled to use properties, real or personal, so donated and to construct and own buildings thereon exclusively for educational purposes;

Whenever necessary to carry out its objectives, allow the Christian Education Assistance Foundation (CEAF), the owner of the Academy's properties, the right to obtain leases on real properties, acquire personal properties, tangible or intangible, or any interests in such properties other than real, by purchase, lease, barter, donation, gift or otherwise, and dispose of, mortgage or encumber them for the benefit of the Academy.

(d) Upon consultation with the Secretary of Education, determine its own basic education curriculum, calendar of studies, and work schedule, and teach whatever language or languages it may deem appropriate and determine the reasonable amount of fees and assessments which shall be imposed upon its students and the compensation of its teachers, consultants, employees and necessary personnel to maintain and conform to the Academy's standard of education;

(e) Maintain standards of education compatible with those obtaining in similar schools of generally recognized standing;

(f) Contract its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Academy's administration either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other nationalities; such foreign personnel being exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees: *Provided*, That such exemption shall not extend to their liability from income taxes; and

(g) Be granted benefits and privileges under the law as a non-stock, non-profit educational institution.

SEC. 4. Foreign scholars, trainees, participants, students, volunteers, fellows or professors appointed, selected, hired, employed, contracted or otherwise by the Academy shall be allowed entry as special non-immigrants under Section 47 (a) (2) of the "Philippine Immigration Act of 1940", as amended, and as such shall be exempted from the payment of visa and immigration fees: *Provided*, That such persons are holders of valid passports and are not otherwise disqualified from.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Academy and the members of the Board, shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,