

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

Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10203



Introduced by **HON. FERNANDO T. CABREDO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to establish the Bicol University College of Veterinary Medicine in the City of Ligao, Province of Albay.

Over the past years, new variants of animal diseases have been reported all over the world and made a large impact on human health and food supply. Among the newly found infections around the world, 70% were found to be zoonoses such as Influenza A, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Highly Pathologic Avian Flu (HPAI), Leptospirosis, Rabies and the most recent African Swine Fever (ASF) which resulted in the drastic decrease in pig meat in the Philippine market.

According to DOH, DA, and DENR, there are at least 172 zoonotic diseases known. Emerging increase in these diseases poses a great challenge especially in the Philippines where animal and human health services and resources are limited. Outbreak of animal diseases can also cost the country millions of losses due to animal slaughters, trade halts, and subsequent disease eradication efforts. Animal health concerns reduce the quantity and quality of animals and/or commodities that are available. Thus, animal health management is vital to support the livestock industry and ensure steady supply of healthy animals available for trade and consumption.

Veterinary Medicine is the only profession that concerns animal health and human health. Veterinarians play a crucial role in protecting the health of the human by ensuring the health of the animals. They protect the animals by preventing and managing the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

Ironically, there are only about 10,000 veterinarians in the Philippines and 20 of those are based in the province of Albay. Likewise, there is only one (1) higher education institution (HEI) in the Bicol Region which offers Doctor of Veterinary Medicine which is two to three hours travel from the province of Albay.

In light of this current challenge, this proposed measure seeks to establish a College of Veterinary Medicine in Bicol University in the City of Ligao in the province of Albay. The vision is to produce globally-competitive veterinary medicine graduates equipped with high-quality skills and competencies for employment in the public and private sectors and even overseas.

In full support of these laudable and relevant measure, the City of Ligao in the province of Albay shall provide land and such other necessary facilities to make this proposal a reality.

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


FERNANDO T. CABREDO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN BICOL
UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY TO BE KNOWN
AS THE BICOL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the *Bicol University College of Veterinary Medicine Act*.

Sec. 2. Establishment. - There is hereby established college of veterinary medicine in Ligao City, Province of Albay, to be known as the *Bicol University College of Veterinary Medicine*, hereinafter referred to as the "College".

Sec. 3. General Mandate. - The College shall primarily offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program, which is a professional course involved in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of diseases of animals, including terrestrial and aquatic animals.

The program shall be a 6-year course consisting of a 2-year preparatory veterinary medicine curriculum, including general education courses, and a 4-year professional veterinary medicine consisting of two-year preparatory veterinary medicine, basic animal sciences, and veterinary medical sciences.

The primary goal of the program shall be the development of professionals who are adept in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of animal diseases, including terrestrial and aquatic animals.

Sec. 4. Implementation. – The implementation of the Veterinary Medicine program shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 5521 and existing provisions of the BU Code of 2016, particularly Chapter II, Section 4 allowing the Bicol University, through its Board of Regents, to promulgate and implement programs, projects and activities in accordance with state policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution, as well as the policies, standards and thrust of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Sec. 5. Compliance with CHED Requirements. - The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the College shall, prior to the offering of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Program, secure the proper authority from CHED by strictly adhering to the provisions of the CHED Memorandum Order No. 01, series of 2018 (Policies, Standards and Guidelines for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine).

Sec. 6. Tax Exemption. - The importation of scientific and technical books or publications, which are for scientific and technical purposes of the College, upon certification by the CHED shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization 5 and Tariff Act (CMTA)."

All grants, bequests, endowment, donations, and contributions made to the College and are used actually, directly, and exclusively by the College shall be exempt from tax. The same shall be allowed deductions from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Sec. 7. Annual Report. - On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Governing Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the College.

Sec. 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 9. Supplementary Application. - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall be applied suppletorily.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. - If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.