

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 312



Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, the Benguet State University is awarded SUC Level IV, the highest category in the SUC leveling classification of state universities and colleges by the Commission on Higher Education. Despite such attainment, a medical school has not been established in the university. In fact, the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges (June 2021) states that only two (2) out of fifty-eight (58) medical colleges are found in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Hence, the lack of medical education institutions in the region results to high cost of medical education, consisting transportation and accommodation allowance, for aspiring doctors, including my constituents.

The World Bank outlines that there are 1 physician for every 1,000 Filipinos. This results to the passage of *Doktor Para sa Bayan Act*, which establishes a medical scholarship and return service program for deserving students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), in order to combat doctor shortage in our country. However, the passage of the said legislation would not be prudent if providing more accessible institutions especially to far-flung rural areas such as Benguet and its neighboring provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region is not met.

This bill seeks to establish a College of Medicine in the Benguet State University nestled in La Trinidad, Benguet, which is to be known as *Benguet State University College of Medicine*. Further, it aims to provide an opportunity for the people of

Benguet and its neighboring provinces to acquire quality medical education and training within the proximity of their homes – reducing the costs of medical education as a whole.

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



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE OF BENGUET, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* There is hereby established a medical school in the Benguet State University (BSU) located in the Municipality of La Trinidad, Province of Benguet, to be known as the "*Benguet State University College of Medicine*".

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* The BSU - College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the "College", shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine Program, including the Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine (INTARMED) Program, consisting of basic science and clinical courses, and using learner-centered and competency-based approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop a corps of professional physicians to strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Benguet and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The College is also mandated to undertake the extension services and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 3. *Governance.* Being an institution within the BSU System, the governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the BSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers are defined under Presidential Decree No. 2010, and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* The administration of the College is vested in the Dean of the BSU insofar authorized by the Board of the University.

SEC. 5. *The College Dean.* The College shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and standards, and based on the recommendation of the Chancellor, following a process of consultation with the constituents of the College. The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

Within six (6) months of the effectivity of this Act, the Chancellor of BSU shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state colleges and those delegated by the Chancellor.

The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

In case of a vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the office, the Board upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Chancellor.

SEC. 6. *The Faculty.* The Board shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and the nomination by the President of the University, the faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That no political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: *Provided*, further, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, finally, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 7. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* The College shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the College.

No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability, or ethnic origin.

SEC. 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* The College shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

SEC. 9. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies and Detail of Personnel.* Upon the request of the Board, through the President of the BSU, the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may loan or transfer to the College such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by it, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, the apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the Dean of the College, and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular service.

SEC. 10. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* All existing appropriations, assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the BSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College shall be the property of the BSU, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the College ceases to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the BSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 11. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* The importation by the College of medical books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)";

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income 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. 12. *Suppletory Application.* The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Parity Clause.* All other powers, functions, and privileges, responsibilities, and limitations under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the College and its officials, whenever appropriate.

SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,