



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4127



INTRODUCED BY REP. HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The academic regalia is referred to as the official uniform worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during academic functions. Commonly seen in graduation ceremonies and graduation pictures in social media sites during graduation season, the academic regalia serves as a distinguishing factor and a symbol of the values that the academic institution represents.

The use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles created by the local community craftsmen aims to showcase our culture and heritage in order to produce an academic regalia that is truly Filipino. With an average of 300,000 graduates from SUCs annually, the opportunity of creating jobs for communities is also an impetus to the creation of this proposal.

It is the purpose of this bill to utilize the resources we have, especially from the far-flung places of the country to display and preserve our Filipino culture, and give back to the same communities that skillfully produce neo-ethnic textiles.

This bill was first filed by Rep. Loren Legarda in the 18th Congress. This bill is a copy of the Third Reading Copy that was transmitted to the Senate in the 18th Congress.

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


HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN



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HOUSE BILL NO. 4127

Introduced by Representative
HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

AN ACT

**PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, 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 "Philippine Academic Regalia Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the people especially the youth whose academic preparation for adulthood and responsible citizenship include values formation on love of country and pride in the uniqueness of their cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for diplating these values shall be encouraged by the school system not only as part of value development, but to preserve Philippine culture and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing of an academic regalia that is not only truly Filipino but likewise distinguishes graduates of Philippine universities and colleges while giving back to the communities in the countryside through job creation and production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, that allow for the promotion of culture-based industries.

Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all state universities and colleges (SUCs) is therefore prescribed.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) Academic regalia refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other academic functions; and
- (b) Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles refer to textiles made of or containing natural or indigenous materials, sourced, and produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant, and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs, and approaches, and thus, contributing to livelihood generation and sustaining the local handloom weaving and textile heritage

SECTION 4. Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council. — There is hereby created a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the following members:

- (a) Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);
- (b) Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC);
- (c) Representative from the University of the Philippines System (U.P.); and
- (d) Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions of the Council. - The Councils shall have the following specific powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;
- (b) Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates, administrators, faculty, and awardees of SUCs;
- (c) Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and loom parts;
- (d) Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;

- (e) Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic regalia and its proper use, protection, trade, and management; and
- (f) Protect the intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile pattern, color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP, PASUC, and DTI, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. 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 shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.