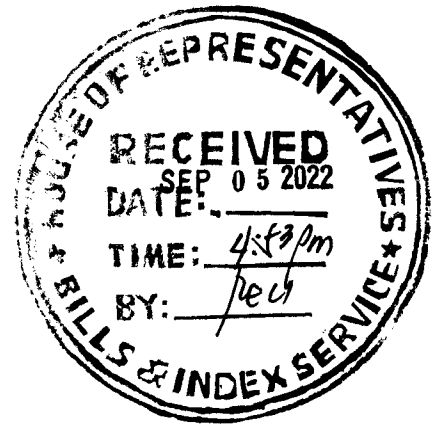




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4439**

Introduced by Representatives DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ and
ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the ambit of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Organisation for Animal Health¹ and the World Veterinary Association (WVA) is in solidarity that specific veterinary activities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the veterinary profession for public health, are essential to ensure a continuum in food safety, disease prevention, and emergency management.

In the Philippines, it is by virtue of Republic Act No. 9395, or the SLSU Charter, that has been mandated in providing advanced education, professional, technological instruction in the fields of allied medicine, education, engineering, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment, arts and sciences, accountancy, business and entrepreneurship, and other relevant fields of study.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a College of Veterinary Medicine in the Southern Luzon State University Catanauan Campus. In the middle of an existing health crisis, our veterinarians play an important role in investigating animal and human disease outbreaks such as food-borne illnesses, influenza, and rabies. They are also essential in protecting our public health by investigating zoonotic diseases and other diseases affecting the health of animals and people.

By instituting the proposed College in the Municipality of Catanauan, we democratize access to higher education. Similarly, with Quezon Province being geographically adjacent to animal agriculture regions, it will primarily benefit from this piece of legislation. To this end, we improve the health of our animals, which has a domino effect of improving the quality of life for our communities.

For this reason, the approval of this measure is respectfully sought.

DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ

ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ

¹ The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in 2018 has a total of 182 Member Countries. The OIE maintains permanent relations with nearly 75 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional offices on every continent



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HOUSE BILL No. **4439**

Introduced by Representatives **DAVID "JAY-JAY" C. SUAREZ** and
ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE SOUTHERN
LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CATANAUAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN LUZON
STATE UNIVERSITY CATANAUAN-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 *Southern Luzon State University Catanauan-College of Veterinary Medicine Act*.

Sec. 2. *Establishment.* There is hereby established a college of veterinary medicine in the Southern Luzon State University Campus in the Municipality of Catanauan, Province of Quezon, to be known as the Southern Luzon State University Catanauan-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 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 that are adept in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of animal diseases, including terrestrial and aquatic animals.

Sec. 4. *Implementation.* – As provided under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9395, the Governing Board is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.* – The provisions of this Act

notwithstanding, the establishment of the College shall become effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts it shall constitute for the purpose that the institution has complied with the policies, standards, and guidelines on CHED Memorandum Order No. 01, Series of 2018 for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.

Provided, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the institution has substantially complied with the requirements for the program.

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 shall be used actually, directly, and exclusively by the College shall be exempt from donor's 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. *Suppletory 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 serve as part of the Governing Charter of the College.

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,