

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4462



Introduced by Representative **CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the governance and management of the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System, by expanding its scope and operations to different provinces in the Philippines including the Province of Aklan.

The history of the PSHS traces back from its establishment in 1964 by which the American-Philippine Science Foundation and the Science Foundation of the Philippines had endorsed the passage of Republic Act 3661 (PSHS Charter) to President Diosdado Macapagal. The said institution was envisioned to nurture Filipino students to receive specialized education in the sciences. It has hurdled many challenges across decades, yet it continued to produce young Filipino scientists and researchers.

Pisay has played a critical role in the development of our human capital most especially the youth. It has become one of the leading science high schools in the Asia Pacific Region. Since its founding, PSHS expanded its operations in Visayas and Mindanao when until in 1997, Republic Act 8496 was signed by President Fidel V. Ramos to unify all the existing campuses into a single system. Its expansion across regions in the Philippine archipelago resulted to the founding of 15 more campuses.

Now with the ever-growing demands of the present, characterized to be volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA), it is an imperative that we invest more in scientific education so that we may be able respond to the issues and concerns that may continue to arise in the 21st century.

Toward this end, we seek to advance the knowledge, skills, and values of the next generation by accommodating more government scholars in the country. We encourage the establishment of more PSHS campuses, thereby increasing the access to quality, free, and globally competitive education.

PSHS, as an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology, will then be able to fulfill even more their vision in upholding integrity, excellence, and service to the nation. May we find the importance in investing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education which the PSHS has always championed through the years.

Therefore, the immediate approval of this bill is highly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ
Chairperson, Committee on Science & Technology

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF
THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Expanded*
2 *Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act.*"
3

4 **SEC 2. Declaration of Policy.** – "The State shall give priority to Research
5 and Development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to Science and
6 Technology education, training and services. It shall support appropriate, and self-
7 reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's
8 productive systems and national life. To achieve these, the State hereby establishes a
9 PSHS System that will assume a leadership role in secondary Science, Technology,
10 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education."
11

12 The State shall support the admission process of the PSHS System by
13 establishing test centers all over the regions, to enhance equitable admissions and
14 access for deserving pupils.
15

16 The State shall also ensure that every region is given equal opportunity to
17 benefit from the establishment of the PSHS System. Towards this end, not more than
18 two (2) PSHS campuses inclusive of the existing PSHS Campuses shall be established
19 in each of the administrative regions of the country outside NCR where PSHS Main
20 Campus is located. *Provided that*, all establishment of PSHS Campuses shall be in
21 accordance with the guidelines/criteria set by the PSHS System Board of Trustees.
22 After 15 years upon implementation of this law, the PSHS System Board of Trustees
23 (BoT) may consider establishment of more than two (2) PSHS campuses per region.
24

25 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall
26 pursue the following objectives:
27

- 28 a) Establish a science high school that offers on a free scholarship basis a
29 secondary course with special emphasis on subjects pertaining to each
30 student for a Science and Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

- 1
2 b) Establish campuses that are geographically-accessible to the public;
3
4 c) Ensure uniformity in quality standards and systematic operations of
5 schools under the PSHS system;
6
7 d) Rationalize the establishment of science high schools as defined in this
8 Act
9
10 e) Integrate the existing and future campuses into one system of
11 governance and management
12
13 f) Ensure that students with high aptitude in science and mathematics are
14 given equal scholarship opportunities to enroll in the Philippine Science
15 High School System;
16
17 g) Increase the pool of high school graduates who will pursue
18 undergraduate courses to conduct researches and to become leaders in
19 the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
20
21

22 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. -**
23

- 24 a) *Philippine Science High School System (PSHS)* – are secondary schools
25 offering scholarships to deserving students who shall be admitted and
26 trained under a curriculum specially designed to prepare them for
27 careers in Science and Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.
28
29 b) *Philippine Science High School (PSHS System)* - comprise the Office of
30 the Executive Director, and the PSHS campuses under its supervision.
31
32 c) *Term* - refers to the "term of office" with a duration of five (5) years in
33 each term
34

35 **SEC. 5. Scope.** - The Philippine Science High School System shall be
36 composed of the existing PSHS campuses herein mentioned and future campuses
37 which shall be established under this Act. The existing sixteen (16) campuses shall be
38 known as follows:

- 39 1. Philippine Science High School - Main Campus in Diliman, Quezon City
40
41 2. Philippine Science High School - Davao Region Campus in Davao City,
42 formerly PSHS – Southern Mindanao Campus
43
44 3. Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City,
45 formerly Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus
46
47 4. Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly
48 Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus
49
50 5. Philippine Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya,
51 formerly PSHS-Cagayan Valley Campus
52

- 1 6. PSHS-Northern Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly Philippine
2 Science High School-Central Mindanao Campus
3
- 4 7. Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus in Camarines Sur,
5 formerly Philippine Science High School -Bicol Region Campus
6
- 7 8. Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus in Ilocos Sur,
8 formerly Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus
9
- 10 9. Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly,
11 Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus
12
- 13 10. Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus in Clark Freeport
14 Zone, formerly Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus
15
- 16 11. Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus
17 in Baguio City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cordillera
18 Administrative Region Campus
19
- 20 12. Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN Region Campus in
21 Koronadal City, formerly Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN
22 Region Campus
23
- 24 13. Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus in Butuan City,
25 formerly Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus
- 26 14. Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus in
27 Batangas City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON
28 Region Campus
29
- 30 15. Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus in Romblon,
31 formerly Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus
32
- 33 16. Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus in
34 Dipolog City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga
35 Peninsula Region Campus”
36

37 In the establishment of future PSHS campuses, the Board of Trustees shall set
38 up in the following locations *provided that*, there shall only be one (1) campus to be
39 established in a province and shall pass the guidelines/criteria set by the BoT; Kalibo,
40 Aklan; Tagbilaran City, Bohol; Daraga, Albay; Sta Rosa, Laguna; Bacoor City, Cavite;
41 Reina Mercedes, Isabela; Iguig, Cagayan; Labangan, Zamboanga Del Sur; Malaybalay,
42 Bukidnon; Masinloc, Zambales; Aborlan, Palawan; and Madalum, Lanao del Sur.
43

44 New campuses established under this act shall be integrated in their respective
45 regions as provided under this Act.
46

47 **SEC. 6. Restriction on the Conversion of High Schools into a**
48 **Philippine Science High School System.** - In addition to the guidelines/criteria
49 that may be established by the PSHS Board of Trustees in the establishment and
50 operation of Philippine Science High School Systems, the conversion and inclusion of
51 existing high schools into the PSHS system shall not be allowed in order to maintain
52 the quality and uniform standard inherent of a bona fide PSHS.
53

1 **SEC. 7. Overall Coordinating Authority.** - The PSHS System shall be
2 under the administrative supervision of the Department of Science and Technology
3 (DOST). The Board of Trustees shall be the Governing Board of all the PSHS campus
4 wherever situated.
5

6 **SEC.8. PSHS Board of Trustees.** -There shall be a Board of Trustees
7 composed of the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology as *ex officio*
8 *Chairperson*, the Secretary of Department of Education as *ex officio Vice Chairperson*
9 and the following members: the President of the University of the Philippines, The
10 Executive Director of PSHS, the Director of Science Education Institute (SEI), the
11 President from the PSHS National Alumni Association, and the Chairpersons of the
12 Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of Representatives
13 as *ex officio members*, and one (1) representative each from the private sector
14 representing higher education, child development professionals or practitioners,
15 industry, agriculture and new emerging technologies. The private sector
16 representatives shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of
17 a duly constituted search committee. As much as practicable, the private sector
18 representatives shall come from various geographic regions. For the first set of
19 appointments, three (3) of them shall serve for four (4) years, while the other two (2) for
20 two (2) years, thereafter, succeeding appointments shall a fixed term of four years.
21

22 The Board shall exercise the following powers:
23

- 24 a) Ensure that the provisions of the Laws pertaining to the creation and
25 operation of the PSHS System are enforced/ implemented;
26
- 27 b) Approve policies and guidelines necessary in the establishment and
28 operation of science high schools under the PSHS System in order to
29 maintain the quality and uniform standard in all PSHS Campuses;
30
- 31 c) Approve the curricula submitted by the Executive Director;
32
- 33 d) Approve policies for the expansion of enrollment in the campuses under
34 the PSHS System;
35
- 36 e) Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
37
- 38 f) Approve the grant and termination of PSHS scholarships including
39 stipend and such allowances for students;
40
- 41 g) Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS
42 campuses;
43
- 44 h) Recommend to the DOST Secretary the appointment of Executive
45 Director, Deputy Executive Director(s) and Campus Director(s);
46
- 47 i) Approve appointment, promotion, retention, renewal, rewards and
48 incentives for faculty, fix their compensation and other conditions of
49 employment, and remove them for cause after proper investigation and
50 hearing;
51
- 52 j) Appoint professorial lecturers up to 70 years of age;
53

- 1 k) Draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty
2 and staff, and, any law to the contrary notwithstanding, to create
3 positions and fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members
4 and other employees and to determine the minimum hours of service of
5 faculty and such other terms and conditions of employment as it may
6 deem proper;
7
- 8 l) Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings and improvements thereof;
9 donations, contributions, bequests, gifts, and to formulate policies for
10 the administration thereof in accordance with applicable internal
11 revenue laws;
12
- 13 m) Approve the use of income generated by the PSHS System in the pursuit
14 of its functions and donations received in trust by individual campuses,
15 according to the purpose of the donor and intention of the donation. In
16 cases where income/donation received is not intended for a particular
17 campus, the Board shall likewise appropriate the same for the benefit of
18 the System or any part thereof;
19
- 20 n) Approve policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;
21
- 22 o) Approve partnership of PSHS System with international institutions;
23
- 24 p) Approve policies and criteria to rationalize the establishment and
25 operation of science high schools under the System, for its assessment,
26 evaluation and approval including the naming or renaming of existing or
27 future PSHS Campuses;
28

29 **SEC. 9. Executive Director (ED).** - There shall be an Executive Director for
30 PSHS System who shall be appointed by the DOST Secretary upon the
31 recommendation of the Board of Trustees and shall have the rank of an Executive
32 Director V, with a Salary Grade of 30 and with a fixed term of five (5) years, renewable
33 for another term but with a maximum of three (3) terms at the option of the PSHS
34 System Board of Trustees.
35

36 The ED shall exercise academic and administrative supervision within the
37 Philippine Science High School System and shall be the Chief Executive Officer and
38 primary implementor of policies and guidelines set by the Board of Trustees. As a
39 member of the Board of Trustees, they shall articulate to the Board the concerns of the
40 PSHS System.
41

42 The ED shall act as the head of the procuring entity in the Office of the
43 Executive Director.
44

45 In view of the expansion of the PSHS System, the ED office shall be provided
46 with additional plantilla positions to be determine by the Executive Director and
47 approved by the BoT.
48

49 **SEC.10. Deputy Executive Director.** - There shall be three (3) Deputy
50 Executive Directors with the rank of Deputy Executive Director IV and with Salary
51 Grade (28) who shall be appointed by the DOST Secretary upon the recommendation of
52 the Board of Trustees on the basis of a search process. They shall serve for a fixed term

1 of five years, renewable for another term but with a maximum of three (3) terms at the
2 discretion of the Board. The DED shall perform duties assigned by the Executive
3 Director.

4
5 **SEC. 11. Campus Director.** - There shall be a Campus Director for each
6 PSHS campus in the region who shall be appointed by the PSHS System BOT with the
7 rank of Director IV with a Salary Grade 28 on the basis of a search process. He/She
8 shall serve for a fixed term of five (5) years, renewable for another term but with a
9 maximum of three (3) terms.

10
11 The Campus Director shall be given the option to apply as a Special Science
12 Teacher VI with the Salary Grade of 26 upon the end of his/her term. The CD shall
13 implement the academic programs, plans and activities of the PSHS Campus. The CD
14 shall act as the Head of the Procuring Entity in the campus.

15
16 **SEC. 12. Executive Committee.** - There shall be an Executive Committee
17 in the PSHS System composed of the Executive Director as ex officio chairperson and
18 the Campus Directors as members.

19
20 **SEC.13. Extension of Tenure.** - PSHS faculty members shall be considered
21 as scientists under the provisions of RA 8439 as amended by RA. No.11312 otherwise
22 known as “Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other Science and
23 Technology Personnel in the Government”.

24
25 **SEC. 14. Exemption from Tax.** - Gifts and donations of real and personal
26 properties of all kinds shall be exempt from the donor’s tax and the same shall be
27 considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance
28 with applicable internal revenue laws.

29
30 **SEC. 15. Teacher’s Qualification.** - Appointment to Special Science Teacher
31 I shall be exempt from CSC Eligibility and can stay in the said rank for a maximum of
32 three (3) years. Appointments to Special Science Teacher II and above shall require
33 CSC eligibility or professional license recognized by the Philippine Regulatory
34 Commission.

35
36 Said professors, instructors and faculty members, as well as the school’s
37 administrative staff, shall be exempt from the provisions of laws, rules and regulations
38 on wage and position classification.

39
40 **SEC. 16. Patriot Formation Program.** - To foster nationalism and
41 patriotism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and
42 development, PSHS personnel and scholars shall undergo patriot formation program
43 to instill the core values of professional excellence, social responsibility and servant
44 leadership to recognize their vital role in nation building and contribute to inclusive
45 development.

46
47 **SEC.17. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the initial
48 implementation of this act and to start or open a new campus, shall be provided for in
49 the General Appropriations Act with a minimum allocation of 200 Million pesos per
50 additional campus, to be adjusted for inflation, for one academic building and one
51 dormitory building. Thereafter, sufficient appropriation as may be needed for the
52 continuous operation of the Philippine Science High School System shall be included
53 in the Annual General Appropriations Act for the continuous offering of secondary

1 STEM education on scholarship basis.

2
3 **SEC.18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The BOT shall
4 formulate, within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, and issue the necessary
5 Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.

6
7 **SEC.19. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared
8 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
9 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

10
11 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** - Republic Act Nos. 3661, 8436 and 9036 are
12 hereby repealed. All laws, proclamations, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof,
13 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed
14 or modified accordingly.

15
16 **SEC.21. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,