



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4553



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a 2017 study by The World Bank, there is 1 physician per 1,000 people in the Philippines. The shortage is not simply because there are not enough doctors, but also because of the imbalance in the distribution of doctors, especially in the provinces where doctors and other healthcare-related professionals are likely to migrate overseas in the promise of better pay.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines was already facing a serious shortage of medical workers. At present, with the pandemic and the nation's population growing and aging, the scarcity of doctors is felt even more. The need to produce doctors is essential as more doctors may mean improved patient outcomes, better quality patient care, and improved safety outcomes.

This bill seeks to establish the Visayas State University- College of Medicine in the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte.

Visayas State University is a recipient of numerous awards from CHED and is also internationally recognized as a 4-star university under the research-oriented category for ASEAN universities last 2021. The proposed Visayas State University- College of Medicine will not only ensure additional doctors in the Visayas Region, but it also aims to provide an accessible option for students to enroll in a quality medical school closer to home.

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

Respectfully submitted,

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE
KNOWN AS THE "VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. There is hereby established a medical school in the Visayas State University (VSU) located in the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte, to be known as the "Visayas State University College of Medicine".

SECTION 2. General Mandate. The VSU - 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 a 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 Leyte. The College is also mandated to undertake extension services and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SECTION 3. Governance. Being an institution within the VSU System, the governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the VSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers are defined under Republic Act No. 9437, and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

SECTION. 4. Administration. The administration of the College is vested in the Dean of the VSU insofar authorized by the Board of the University.

SECTION. 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 VSU 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.



Republic of the Philippines
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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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 VSU, 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.

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



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SECTION 11. Duty and Tax Exemptions. The importation by the College of medical books or publications, medical equipment, or instruments that 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.

SECTION 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.

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

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

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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,