

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7335



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The citizens' access to quality education at all levels is guaranteed under the 1987 Philippine Constitution (Section 1, Article XIV). The fundamental charter, furthermore, gives priority to science and technology education, training and services (Sec. 10, Art. XIV).

The limitation therefore imposed by Republic Act No. 8496, as amended by Republic Act No. 9036 (particularly Sections 2 and 5 thereof), on the establishment of Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campus to only one per administrative region of the country, seemingly goes against the grain of the constitutional policy.

This bill seeks to expand the PSHS System by authorizing the establishment of additional campuses as long as their establishment is compliant with the guidelines or criteria laid down by the PSHS Board of Trustees. It is believed that provinces deserve to have a PSHS campus of their own so that their youth would have access to free and quality public science education.

In the Eighteenth (18th) Congress, the Honorable Congressmen Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado (thru House Bill No. 5964) and Jonathan Keith Flores (thru H. B. No. 5567) attempted to democratize access to the PSHS System by allowing the establishment of more campuses. It is in pursuit of that similar laudable goal that this measure is being filed.

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


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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:

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

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

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

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

SEC. 3. Objectives. – In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall pursue the following objectives:

- a) Establish a science high school that offers on a free scholarship basis a secondary course with special emphasis on subjects pertaining to each student for a Science and Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.
- b) Establish campuses that are geographically-accessible to the public;
- c) Ensure uniformity in quality standards and systematic operations of schools under the PSHS system;
- d) Rationalize the establishment of science high schools as defined in this Act;
- e) Integrate the existing and future campuses into one system of governance and management;
- f) Ensure that students with high aptitude in science and mathematics are given equal scholarship opportunities to enroll in the Philippine Science High School System;
- g) Increase the pool of high school graduates who will pursue undergraduate courses to conduct researches and to become leaders in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. –

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

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

1. Philippine Science High School - Main Campus in Diliman, Quezon City

2. Philippine Science High School - Davao Region Campus in Davao City, formerly PSHS — Southern Mindanao Campus
3. Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus
4. Philippine Science High School- Eastern Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus
5. Philippine Science High School – CagayanValley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya, formerly PSHS-Cagayan Valley Campus
6. PSHS-Northern Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly Philippine Science High School-Central Mindanao Campus
7. Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus in Camarines Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School -Bicol Region Campus
8. Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus in Ilocos Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus
9. Philippine Science High School – Central Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly, Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus
10. Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus in Clark Freeport Zone, formerly Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus
11. Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus in Baguio City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus
12. Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN Region Campus in Koronadal City, formerly Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN Region Campus
13. Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus in Butuan City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus
14. Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus
15. Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus in Romblon, formerly Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus

16. Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus in Dipolog City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus”

In the establishment of future PSHS campuses, the Board of Trustees shall set up in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Region Campus provided that, there shall only be one (1) campus to be established in a province and shall pass the guidelines/criteria set by the Board of Trustees;

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

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

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

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

The Board shall exercise the following powers:

- a) Ensure that the provisions of the Laws pertaining to the creation and operation of the PSHS System are enforced/implemented;

- b) Approve policies and guidelines necessary in the establishment and operation of science high schools under the PSHS System in order to maintain the quality and uniform standard in all PSHS Campuses;
- c) Approve the curricula submitted by the Executive Director;
- d) Approve policies for the expansion of enrollment in the campuses under the PSHS System;
- e) Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
- f) Approve the grant and termination of PSHS scholarships including stipend and such allowances for students;
- g) Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS campuses;
- h) Recommend to the DOST Secretary the appointment of Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director(s) and Campus Director(s);
- i) Approve appointment, promotion, retention, renewal, rewards and incentives for faculty, fix their compensation and other conditions of employment, and remove them for cause after proper investigation and hearing;
- j) Appoint professorial lecturers up to 70 years of age;
- k) Draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty and staff, and, any law to the contrary notwithstanding, to create positions and fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other employees and to determine the minimum hours of service of faculty and such other terms and conditions of employment as it may deem proper;
- l) Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings and improvements thereof; donations, contributions, bequests, gifts, and to formulate policies for the administration thereof in accordance with applicable internal revenue laws;
- m) Approve the use of income generated by the PSHS System in the pursuit of its functions and donations received in trust by individual campuses, according to the purpose of the donor and intention of the donation. In cases where income/donation received is not intended for a particular campus, the Board shall likewise appropriate the same for the benefit of the System or any part thereof;
- n) Approve policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;
- o) Approve partnership of PSHS System with international institutions;

- p) Approve policies and criteria to rationalize the establishment and operation of science high schools under the System, for its assessment, evaluation and approval including the naming or renaming of existing or future PSHS Campuses;

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

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

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

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

SEC.10. *Deputy Executive Director.* – There shall be three (3) Deputy Executive Directors with the rank of Deputy Executive Director IV and with Salary Grade (28) who shall be appointed by the DOST Secretary upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees on the basis of a search process. They shall serve for a fixed term of five (5) years, renewable for another term but with a maximum of three (3) terms at the discretion of the Board. The DED shall perform duties assigned by the Executive Director.

SEC. 11. *Campus Director.* – There shall be a Campus Director for each PSHS campus in the region who shall be appointed by the PSHS System BOT with the rank of Director IV with a Salary Grade 27 on the basis of a search process. He/She shall serve for a fixed term of five (5) years, renewable for another term but with a maximum of three (3) terms.

The Campus Director shall be given the option to apply as a Special Science Teacher VI with the Salary Grade of 24 upon the end of his/her term. The CD shall implement the academic programs, plans and activities of the PSHS Campus. The CD shall act as the Head of the Procuring Entity in the campus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC.17. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act and to start or open a new campus, shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act with a minimum allocation of 200 Million pesos per additional campus, to be adjusted for inflation, for one academic building and one dormitory building. Thereafter, sufficient appropriation as may be needed for the continuous operation of the Philippine Science High School System shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act for the continuous offering of secondary STEM education on scholarship basis.

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

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

SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act Nos. 3661, 8436 and 9036 are hereby repealed. All laws, proclamations, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which

are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,