

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

**Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 8579



Introduced by Honorable Dan S. Fernandez

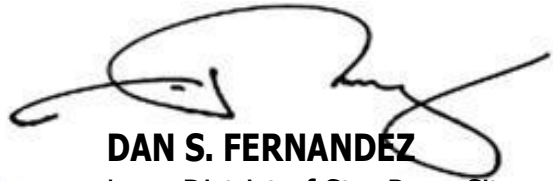
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The term “homeland security” came about following the enactment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 in the United States and the reorganization of many U.S. government agencies in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks (“9/11”). Originally, it pertains to the national effort to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards where American interests, aspirations, and ways of life can thrive. Over time, the phrase homeland security is no longer limited in its meaning and application to terrorist incidents. An “all-hazards approach” has now been adopted so as to encompass both natural disasters and man-made events. Thus, the domain of homeland security now accommodates a plethora of situations and scenarios, ranging from natural disasters to acts of terrorism.

Under this bill, the term homeland security refers to the efforts and measures undertaken to protect and safeguard the Philippines against threats to its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security, including but not limited to terrorism, insurgency, natural disasters, pandemics, and cyber threats. On the other hand, “public safety”, a related term, encompasses the collective actions, policies, and initiatives aimed at ensuring the welfare, protection, and well-being of the general public. It includes activities related to crime prevention, emergency management, disaster response, public health, and other areas that contribute to maintaining peace, order, and public security.

This measure aims to strengthen our homeland security, as well as public safety through education, research, and innovation. It provides for an integrated and coordinated approach to enhance expertise, promote knowledge generation, and facilitate the application of innovative solutions in addressing security challenges. For such purposes, it formulates the national framework for our country’s homeland security and public safety and creates a national governance council.

In view of the importance and urgency of institutionalizing the foregoing framework and mechanisms, the early approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan S. Fernandez', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

DAN S. FERNANDEZ
Lone District of Sta. Rosa City

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Homeland Security and Public Safety Education, Research, and Innovation Act of 2023."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to strengthen the capabilities and capacities of the Philippines in the fields of homeland security and public safety through education, research, and innovation. The State recognizes the need for an integrated and coordinated approach to enhance expertise, promote knowledge generation, and facilitate the application of innovative solutions in addressing security challenges.

In particular, the State shall:

- a) Prioritize the development and enhancement of homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation capabilities in the Philippines;

- b) Recognize the critical role of education, research, and innovation in strengthening the country's capacity to prevent, respond to, and mitigate threats and risks to homeland security and public safety;
- c) Promote and enhance the country's national security by establishing a national and comprehensive framework that promotes collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and excellence in homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation;
- d) Ensure collaboration and coordination among government agencies, educational institutions, research organizations, industry stakeholders, and civil society in order to foster partnerships and synergies to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to homeland security and public safety;
- e) Promote the development and delivery of high-quality education and training programs in the field of homeland security and public safety emphasizing the importance of equipping professionals with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to effectively respond to emerging threats and challenges;
- f) Prioritize research and innovation advancement in addressing evolving security threats and improving public safety practices by encouraging the generation of new knowledge, the application of cutting-edge technologies, and the development of innovative solutions to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of homeland security and public safety efforts;
- g) Underscore the importance of leveraging technology and information systems to enhance situational awareness, intelligence gathering, and response capabilities in the field of homeland security and public safety and encourage the adoption of advanced technologies and the establishment of robust information systems for data collection, analysis, and dissemination;
- h) Acknowledge the importance of international cooperation in addressing transnational security threats and promoting best practices in homeland security and public safety and encourage collaboration with foreign counterparts, participation in international forums, and the exchange of information, expertise, and resources; and

- i) Recognize the need for sufficient resources, both financial and human, to support the implementation of effective homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation initiatives.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act,

- a) “Homeland Security” - refers to the efforts and measures undertaken to protect and safeguard the Philippines against threats to its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security, including but not limited to terrorism, insurgency, natural disasters, pandemics, and cyber threats.
- b) “Public Safety”- encompasses the collective actions, policies, and initiatives aimed at ensuring the welfare, protection, and well-being of the general public. It includes activities related to crime prevention, emergency management, disaster response, public health, and other areas that contribute to maintaining peace, order, and public security.
- c) “Education” - pertains to the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, and values through formal and informal means, aimed at developing individuals' understanding and capabilities in the field of homeland security and public safety.
- d) “Research” - involves systematic investigation, analysis, and study conducted to generate new knowledge, insights, and solutions in the areas of homeland security and public safety. It includes both theoretical and empirical studies, data collection and analysis, and the application of scientific methodologies.
- e) “Innovation”- refers to the creation, development, and application of new or improved technologies, methodologies, practices, or approaches that enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and resilience of homeland security and public safety efforts.
- f) “Secretariat” - the administrative and technical support body that assists and facilitates the operations and functions of the Council.

SEC. 4. *Adopting the National Framework on Homeland Security and Public Safety Education, Research, and Innovation.* - The Act establishes a comprehensive framework that sets out the principles, objectives, and strategies for homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation in the Philippines. The framework ensures alignment with national security priorities, emerging threats, and global best practices. It promotes interdisciplinary approaches, collaboration between academia and industry, and the integration of research findings and innovations into policy and practice.

The National Framework shall include provisions for:

- a) Developing a risk-based approach to homeland security and public safety education, research and innovation. This involves conducting comprehensive risk assessments to identify and prioritize threats and vulnerabilities. Education and training programs are tailored to address specific risks, while research efforts are focused on understanding the evolving threat landscape and developing effective mitigation strategies.
- b) Promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration among government agencies, academia, industry partners, communities, and civil society organizations. This includes collaborative undertakings, platforms and networks that facilitate information exchange, sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices, leading to more comprehensive and effective training, education, research and innovation initiatives.
- c) Embracing the integration of technology in homeland security and public safety training, education, research and innovation. This includes leveraging advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, cybersecurity, remote sensing, and communication technologies. Training and education programs incorporate hands-on experience with emerging technologies, while research efforts are concentrated on exploring innovative applications of technology in enhancing security capabilities.
- d) Prioritizing capacity building efforts on professional and leader development in the homeland security and public safety sectors. This includes designing comprehensive training and education programs, certifications, and continuous professional development initiatives.

Research supports capacity building efforts by identifying training and education needs, evaluating the effectiveness of training and educational interventions, and providing recommendations for improvement.

- e) Developing community-based training and education programs that enhance awareness, preparedness, and resilience at the grassroots level. This includes engaging communities in the research process by involving them in data collection, needs assessments, and the co-creation of solutions. This approach promotes a sense of ownership and fosters community resilience.
- f) Utilizing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to homeland security and public safety training, education, research and innovation. This includes collaboration among different disciplines, such as law enforcement, emergency management, public health, social sciences, and engineering. Training programs and research initiatives integrate knowledge, methodologies, and perspectives from various fields to address complex security challenges.
- g) Embedding ethics and human rights considerations in homeland security and public safety training, education, research and innovation. Ensure that professionals are trained to adhere to ethical principles, respect human rights, and uphold the rule of law. Research initiatives include ethical implications of security measures, privacy concerns, and the impact of interventions on vulnerable populations.
- h) Promoting evidence-based policy and effective governance frameworks in the field of homeland security and public safety. This includes conducting research that informs policy development, evaluates policy effectiveness, and identifies gaps in governance structures. It also includes fostering collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure policies are grounded on empirical evidence and aligned with training and education needs.
- i) Fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptation in the homeland security and public safety sectors. Training and professional development opportunities include emerging threats, technologies, and best practices.

Research efforts are geared towards the understanding of evolving security challenges and employment of adaptive strategies.

- j) Promoting international collaboration and cooperation in homeland security and public safety training, education, and research. This includes knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and sharing of best practices with other countries and international organizations. Collaborative endeavors enhance the effectiveness of training and educational programs, expand research networks, and contribute to a global understanding of security challenges.

SEC. 5. *Creating and Defining the Power and Functions of the National Governance Council on Homeland Security and Public Safety Education, Research, and Innovation.* -

- a.) The Council - There is hereby created a National Governance Council on Homeland Security and Public Safety Education, Research, and Innovation, hereinafter referred to as the "Council." The Council shall serve as the coordinating body responsible for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies, programs, and initiatives aligned with the National Framework on homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation.
- b.) Powers and Functions of the Council - The Council shall:
 - 1. Provide strategic guidance and oversight in the adoption and implementation of the National Framework on Homeland Security and Public Safety Education, Research, and Innovation consistent with national security priorities, emerging threats and global trends.
 - 2. Coordinate and facilitate collaboration, synergy and effective governance among stakeholders in the field of homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation.
 - 3. Promote the development and approval of high-quality education and training programs in homeland security and public safety, including the establishment of standards and accreditation mechanisms.

4. Foster and approve research and innovation initiatives that contribute to the understanding of security challenges, the development of advanced technologies, and the enhancement of operational strategies in the homeland security and public safety sectors.
5. Support the capacity building and professional development of individuals working in homeland security and public safety institutions through specialized training programs, scholarships, and professional certifications.
6. Identify and address gaps in knowledge, skills, and capabilities in the homeland security and public safety sectors through targeted educational initiatives and capacity-building programs.
7. Establish mechanisms for the dissemination and utilization of knowledge, research findings, best practices, lessons learned in order to contribute to evidenced based decision making in public safety and homeland security.
8. Conduct regular assessments and evaluations to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of education, research, and innovation efforts in addressing homeland security and public safety challenges.
9. Promote the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices in homeland security and public safety education, research, and innovation at the national and international levels.
10. Promote the integration of research and innovation into homeland security and public safety strategies and operations.
11. Provide recommendations and advocate for policies and legislation that promote innovation, knowledge transfer, enhancement of capabilities and collaboration in the homeland security and public safety sectors.
12. Secure funding and resources to support the activities and initiatives of the Council, including partnerships with public and private entities.

SEC. 6. *Composition and Structure of the Council.* - Membership of the Council

shall comprise the following:

- a.) National Government Agencies with established educational and training institutions:

- Department of the Interior and Local Government

- Department of Transportation

- Department of Justice

- Department of Finance

- Department of Health

- Department of National

- Defense

- Department of Information, Communication and Technology

- Department of Science and Technology

- Other Executive Offices

- b.) Three (3) Prominent Research and Academic Institutions

- c.) Four (4) Industry Stakeholders and Civil Society Organizations

The Council shall be headed by the following:

- a.) Chairperson

- b.) Vice Chairperson on Policy Development and Legislation

- c.) Vice Chairperson on Standards and Quality Assurance

- d.) Vice Chairperson on Capacity Building and Scholarship

- e.) Vice Chairperson on Research and Innovation

- f.) Vice Chairperson on International Engagement and Collaboration

SEC. 7. *Instituting the Philippine Public Safety College as Secretariat to the Council.* - The Philippine Public Safety College (hereinafter referred to as the "College") shall be designated as the Secretariat to the Council.

The College shall be empowered to provide administrative and technical support to the Council's operations, including organizing meetings, coordinating activities, and facilitating communication among stakeholders.

The College shall act as the focal point for information exchange, knowledge sharing, and collaborative efforts within the Council especially in the implementation of its policies, strategies, programs and initiatives aligned with the National Framework.

SEC. 8. *Promulgating the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) Charter.* – In pursuit of the expanded role of PPSC as the Secretariat to the Council playing a vital role in coordinating and implementing the national framework on education, research, and innovation, the College shall be granted a Charter.

The Charter shall define the mandate, powers and functions, governance structure, funding mechanisms and other necessary provisions for the effective operations of the College.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Council and the Philippine Public Safety College may also seek funding from other sources, such as grants, donations, and partnerships, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,