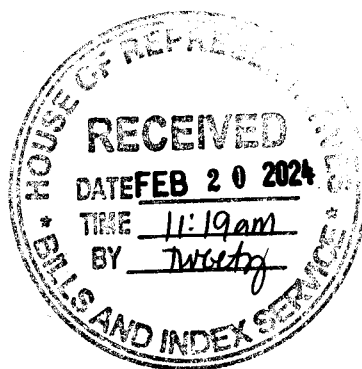




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9953**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL STUDIES CENTERS IN
STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, composed of more than seven thousand islands, is rich in culture and diversity. Each island contributes to the definition of the Filipinos’ national identity. However, in an era of globalization and the influence of different international cultures, there is a pressing need to ensure that we sustain and preserve the countrymen’s interest in our own local cultural heritage.

This measure proposes the establishment of Local Studies Centers in state universities and colleges (SUCs) across the country. These centers aim to become pivotal in researching, documenting, conserving, and promoting the country’s rich cultural heritage, specifically at the grassroots level. In addition, this measure will harness the academic and scientific capabilities of SUCs in exploring and preserving the Philippines’ history and culture. Moreover, this

measure shall serve as leverage for SUCs to become platforms for the systematic study of local cultural heritage.

By bridging the gap between the past and the present, we ensure the preservation of the country's cultural legacy.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR' followed by a stylized flourish.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Local Studies Center Act.”

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the long-standing efforts of
3 various private universities, colleges, and state universities and colleges (SUCs) in
4 spearheading the idea of establishing a local studies center. It is hereby declared the policy of
5 the State to recognize the wealth of Philippine culture and history in the provinces and cultural
6 communities, which is beneficial in strengthening government programs and policies in dispute
7 settlement; addressing stereotypes, unequal opportunities, and representations; conserving
8 what has been studied and recovered, and appraising Filipino identity and pride.

9 **SEC. 3. Establishment of Local Studies Centers.** – There shall be established local
10 studies centers, hereinafter referred to as the “Center,” in each province, or if necessary,
11 dedicated to the cultural community at large, in state universities and colleges (SUCs).

SEC. 4. Province and Cultural Community-Wide Cooperation. – Given that there are provinces and cultural communities with multiple SUCs, inter-institutional cooperation is encouraged to prevent redundancy in establishing a Center.

SEC. 5. Existing Local Studies Centers. – It is hereby encouraged that the existing local studies centers shall be automatically designated as the Center of a particular province and/or cultural community, enjoying the support of other SUCs located within the immediate locality, cultural community, and the concerned government agencies. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall maintain a directory of existing and future Centers and ensure that no duplication and redundancy shall take place.

SEC. 6. Structure and Staffing Pattern. – The administration of each individual SUC-based Center shall have plantilla positions for a Director, a librarian or archivist, history researchers, and if necessary, a museum curator, museum researchers, and conservators. It shall have the liberty to determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or units as it may deem necessary and appoint officers and employees.

SEC. 7. Composition and Functions of the Center. – The Center shall be composed of but not limited to the four (4) major service areas with their respective functions namely:

a) Research Service Area – conducts research and studies in their locality and cultural community; documents local history, culture, and society; and contributes to the local policymaking;

b) Publication Service Area – acts as the lead publisher, in print and online, of local history, culture and society, knowledge in the locality and cultural community. It shall support the production of educational materials on local history, culture and society, the promotion of vernacular literature and language, and other studies concerning the locality and cultural community.

- 1 c) Awareness Campaign Service Area – creates and promotes participatory programs,
2 projects, and activities to continue and encourage discourse on local history, culture, and
3 society; as well as champions or cultivates the laws and policies on cultural heritage to guide
4 the local government units;
- 5 d) Collection Service Area – tasked with the collection building of local historical and
6 cultural resources and the conservation thereof, through:
- 7 i. Collecting printed materials focusing on publications from their locality and cultural
8 community;
- 9 ii. Gathering available microfilm/microfiche publications;
- 10 iii. Photoduplicating documents found in various government institutions, especially in
11 national cultural agencies and other local and international institutions where data relevant to
12 local studies are available;
- 13 iv. Obtaining memoirs and other writings about significant personages and institutions in
14 the locality and cultural community;
- 15 v. Acquiring materials significant to the enrichment of local history, culture, and society
16 scholarship; and
- 17 vi. Procuring through donations, exchanges, or purchases of important historical
18 documents, manuscripts, journals, books, etc.

19 **SEC. 8. SUC Support to the Center.** - The host SUC of a Center shall

- 20 a. Designate premises conducive and equipped to store the collection of the Center;
21 conduct public programs such as lectures, seminars, and exhibits; and entertain researchers and
22 visitors;
- 23 b. Build the collection of the Center by acquiring and purchasing seminal Filipiniana core
24 collection;
- 25 c. Harmonize the university research program with the goals and objectives of the Center;

- d. Encourage localized studies among the faculty and the students to benefit the immediate community where the school is located;
- e. Involve academics, experts, and scholars outside the SUC to contribute to the research and publication activities of the Center; and
- f. Develop policies and programs appraising the quality and scholarship of historical and cultural research and publication for the Center.

SEC. 9. Patronage of Publications Produced by the Center. - The dire need for a body of knowledge about the towns, cities, provinces, regions, and cultural communities shall be augmented by encouraging the Center to produce regular publications by its resident or non-resident scholars. It shall provide at least two copies of each publication produced for deposit at the Historical Data Bank of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), and the University of the Philippines Diliman Filipiniana Library. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall purchase copies of the publications for dissemination to all Sentro Rizal cultural centers in foreign service posts. The local school board and the Department of Education shall do the same for all public and private schools of the concerned immediate schools division, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government and NLP for the public libraries.

SEC. 10. Local Historical Committees Network (LHCN). - This existing unit within the NHCP shall develop a comprehensive local and international linkage program that will connect the Center with relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other local and international historical and cultural societies, committees, associations, and councils, whose objectives are in line with the goals and objectives of the Center, as well as with the national government, the provincial government, and already existing Centers.

SEC. 11. Representation of the Center. The Center must be represented in the Local School Board and the Local Culture and Arts Council of concerned local government units, the

1 National Economic and Development Authority in the regions, and other government bodies
2 concerning local history, culture, and heritage.

3 **SEC. 12. Funding.** – The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this
4 Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the SUCs. Thereafter, such sums as
5 it may deem necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the institutions’
6 yearly budget under the General Appropriations Act.

7 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, rules, and regulations or parts thereof
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be
10 held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall be affected
11 thereby.

12 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
13 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,