Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE February 29, 2024
TIME 2:33 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10000

Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Singapore School Cebu Corp. envisions itself to be the leading international school in Cebu, Philippines, best known for providing its students the highest standard of education deriving from their exceptional performance that keeps pace with the academic achievements of their peers in other highly developed countries.

To this end, Singapore School Cebu is adopting the Singaporean curriculum, known to be one of the most advanced educational programs internationally, for preschool (Nursery to Kinder 2), primary levels (Grades 1-6) and lower secondary levels (Grades 7-8); the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education for higher secondary (Grades 9-10); and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme for pre-university (Grades 11-12). The school made history as the first and only campus in Cebu, Philippines that is accredited by Cambridge International Education and the International Baccalaureate Organisation. It also adheres to Constitutional mandates for educational institutions operating in the Philippines and is duly recognized by the Department of Education.

In the past, other international schools have been recognized through legislation such as Southville International School (RA 9493), Everest International Academy (RA 11255), British School Manila (RA 11218), and CCF Life International Academy (RA 11638). This bill aims to grant to Singapore School Cebu the same status of an international school with certain prerogatives conducive to its growth.

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

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10000

Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING SINGAPORE SCHOOL CEBU AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Singapore School Cebu, herein referred to as the School, is hereby declared an educational institution of international character authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.

SEC. 2. “Singapore School Cebu Corp." shall be the registered name of the School, and shall be governed by a Board of Directors, herein after referred to as the Board, elected in accordance with its corporate charter.

SEC. 3. To enable the School to continue carrying out its educational program, improve its standard of instruction, and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

(a) Accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own eligibility standards, and rules for admission and grade placement; *Provided,* That no single alien nationality shall consist more than one third of the entire student population in a given school year, as stated in the records of the School, except in case of dependents of foreign diplomatic personnel or other foreign temporary residents, as may be provided by law;

(b) Whenever necessary to carry out its objectives, have the right to obtain leases on real properties, acquire personal properties, tangible or intangible, or any interests in such properties other than real, by purchases, lease, barter, donation, gift or otherwise, and dispose of, mortgage or encumber them for the benefit of the School concerned, subject to the limitations provided by law;

(c) Be managed and administered by a Head of School who is a Filipino citizen and who possesses the qualifications prescribed by the Board;

(d) Upon consultation with the Secretary of Education, determine its own curriculum and teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper and determine the amount of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its pupils and students, to maintain or confirm to the School's standards of education;

(e) Maintain the international standards of education compatible with those obtained in similar schools of generally recognized standing;

(f) Employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Board either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other countries or nationalities, such foreign personnel being exempt from otherwise applicable laws and regulations attending their employment, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees; *Provided,* That such exemption shall not extend to their liability for income taxes, unless otherwise provided by a bilateral agreement; *Provided, further,* That the School shall give priority in hiring locally qualified teaching and management personnel;

(g) Promote international friendship, goodwill and understanding among members of the foreign community and citizens of the Philippines; and

(h) Not to teach anything derogatory to the prestige and well-being of the Philippines and its people, nor those which will subvert its institutions and government.

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding the recognition and prerogatives under this Act, the School shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Department of Education and shall adhere to basic laws and the rules and regulations of the Department governing international or foreign schools.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the members of the Board of the School, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 6. If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the rules and regulations under Section 5 herein, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,