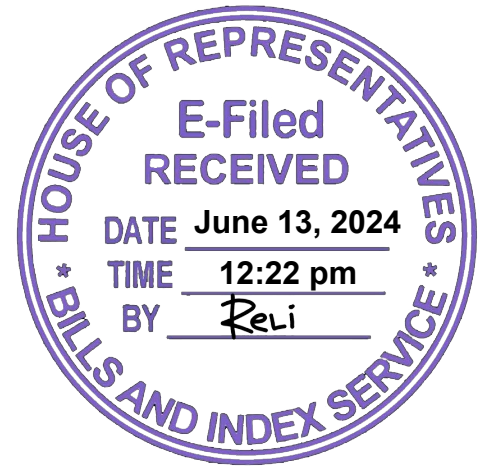


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10529**



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is imperative that the State shall provide relevant, accessible, high quality and efficient technical education and skills development in support of the development of high quality Filipino middle-level manpower responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities.

Article XIV, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution highlights the government's duty to ensure a complete and suitable education system that meets the needs of the people in an ever-changing environment. It also calls for support for students through scholarships and other aid, especially for those from underprivileged backgrounds.

Furthermore, it promotes alternative learning approaches, including informal and community-based programs.

This House Bill seeks to encourage active participation of various concerned sectors, particularly private enterprises, being direct participants in and immediate beneficiaries of a trained and skilled work force, in providing technical education and skills development opportunities.

Thus the creation of the **Department of Technical Education Skills Development (DTESD)** is long overdue.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10529

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (**DTESD**), TO
STREAMLINE GOVERNANCE, ENHANCE
COORDINATION, ENSURE THE CONTINUITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AT DEVELOPING A
SKILLED AND GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines
in congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. — This Act shall be known as the
Department of Technical Education and Skills Development (DTESD)
Act of 2024 "

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY – it is hereby
a declared the policy of the state to:

- i. Promote and strengthen the quality of technical education and skills development programs to attain international competitiveness.
- ii. Focus technical education and skills development on meeting the changing demands for quality middle-level manpower;
- iii. Encourage critical and creative thinking by disseminating the scientific and technical knowledge base of middle-level manpower development programs;
- iv. Recognize and encourage the complementary roles of public and private institutions in technical education and skills development and training systems; and
- v. Instill desirable values through the development of moral character with emphasis on work ethic, self-discipline, self-reliance and nationalism.

The state shall provide relevant, accessible, high quality and efficient technical education and skills development in support of the development of high-quality Filipino manpower responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities.

The state shall encourage active participation of various concerned sectors, public as well as private technical-vocational institutions **(TVIs)** being direct participants in and immediate beneficiaries of a technically educated and trained workforce, in providing technical education services and training opportunities.

SECTION 3. Creation of the Department of Technical Education and Skills Development. — There is hereby created a Department of Technical Education and Skills Development **(DTESD)**, which shall be the primary policy formulation, planning, coordinating, implementing, regulating and administrative entity of the government for technical education and skills development (TESD) agenda.

SECTION 4. MANDATE - The Department shall exercise the following:

- a)** Formulate a national technical education and skills development program, plans, policies, strategies to promote scientific and technical knowledge base of manpower development programs, in coordination and in consultation with national and local stakeholders, local government units (LGUs), and other government agencies;
- b)** To ensure permanence and continuity of technical education and skills development program at par with international standards to attain global competitiveness;
- c)** To recommend to the executive and legislative branches, priorities and grants on technical education and skills development and research;
- d)** Assess, review, harmonize and coordinate all TESD policies and programs to ensure overall consistency and implementation of the national policies;
- e)** Organize and constitute various standing committees, subsidiary groups, or technical working groups for efficient integration, coordination and monitoring of TESD programs at the national, regional, and local levels;
- f)** Enter into, make, execute, perform and carry-out domestic and foreign contracts subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;
- g)** Restructure the entire sub-sector consisting of all institutions and programs involved in the promotion and development of middle-level manpower through upgrading, merger and/or phase-out following a user-led strategy;
- h)** Approve training standards and assessment packages as established and conducted by private industries;
- i)** To instill necessary values through the development of ethical character with emphasis on work ethics, self-discipline, self-reliance and nationalism;
- j)** To support the implementation of the Philippine Qualifications Framework or the PQF Act (Republic Act No. 10968), the ladderized Education Act (Republic Act No. 10647) and the Dual Training System Act (Republic Act No. 7686); and other laws, decrees and orders on education;

- k)** To maximize returns to the country's investment in technical education and skills development through an efficient graduates' employment facilitation program within the framework of the national employment service network system; and
- l)** To support in the poverty alleviation efforts by providing the marginalized and vulnerable segments of the country's population access to income generating technical education and skills development opportunities.
- m)** To promote and strengthen the quality of technical education and skills development programs to attain global competitiveness and inclusive growth;
- n)** To focus technical education and skills development on meeting the changing demands for quality manpower particularly in support of the development thrust of the country;
- o)** To encourage critical and creative thinking by disseminating the scientific and technical knowledge base of manpower development programs;
- p)** To recognize and encourage the complementary roles of public and private institutions, enterprises, local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in technical education and skills development;
- q)** Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively the purpose and objectives of this Act;
- r)** Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and for the continued enhancement, growth or development of higher education.

SECTION 5. COMPOSITION. - The Department shall be composed of the Office of the Secretary, and the various bureaus, services and regional and provincial/district offices.

The Office of the Secretary shall house the Office of the Department Secretary, the Offices of the Undersecretaries, the Offices of the Assistant Secretaries, and their immediate support staff.

SECTION 6. QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT. - No person shall be appointed Secretary, Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary of the Department unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, of proven integrity, and with relevant competence and expertise.

SECTION 7. BUREAUS, SERVICES, AND STAFFING. — The bureaus under the Office of the Secretary of **DTESD** shall be headed by an Executive Director to be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary.

The Executive Directors shall have the rank and emoluments of Director V.

SECTION 8. TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS. - The **DTESD** shall absorb and enhance existing Technical Education and Training Centers and establish a network of national, regional and local technical education and skills development centers for the purpose of promoting technical education and skills development. This network shall include leading training technology centers, training centers in technical vocational schools, including TESDA- administered and supervised TVIs, including arts and trades schools/colleges and polytechnic institutes, and all other duly accredited public and private dual system educational institutions.

SECTION 9. STRUCTURE AND STAFFING PATTERN. - Subject to the approval of the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**, the Secretary shall determine the organizational structure and create new divisions or units as may be necessary, and appoint officers and employees of the Department and the Commission hereinafter created in accordance with the civil service laws, rules and regulations. The remuneration structure of the position in the staffing pattern shall strictly conform to Republic Act No. 6758,

otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law, as amended. SEC. 16. Formulation of a Comprehensive Development Plan for Middle Level Manpower.

The **DTESD** shall formulate a comprehensive development plan for middle manpower based on a national employment plan or policies for the optimum allocation, development and utilization of skilled workers for employment entrepreneurship and technology development for economic and social growth. This plan shall be updated periodically and submitted to the President for approval.

Thereafter, it shall be the plan for the technical education, training, and certification for the entire country within the framework of the National Development Plan.

The **DTESD** shall direct through its offices to call on public agencies, the private sector and academe to assist in this effort. The comprehensive plan shall provide for a reformed industry-based training program including apprenticeship, dual training system and other similar schemes intended to:

SECTION 10. Technical Education and Skills Development Board. The DTESD shall establish Technical Education and Skills Development board at the regional and local levels to coordinate and monitor the delivery of all training activities by the public and private sectors, and recommend policy, program and project.

This board shall likewise serve as the Technical Education and Skills Development Committees of the regional and local development councils.

The composition of the Technical Education and Skills Development board shall be determined by the Secretary.

SECTION 11. Enterprise-Based Training Program. - The DTESD shall promote Enterprise-Based Training as a major mode of

training rather than an employment arrangement and shall see to it that it is not subject to abuse by unprincipled entities.

SECTION 12. Establishment and Administration of National Training Standards Policies & Guidelines - There shall be a national training standard to be established by DTESD-accredited industry board. The DTESD shall develop and implement a certification and accreditation program in which private industry groups and trade associations are accredited to conduct approved assessment packages, and the local government units to promote such assessment in their respective areas in accordance with the guidelines set by the DTESD.

SECTION 13. Administration of Training Programs. - The DTESD shall design and administer training programs and schemes that will develop the capabilities of public and private institutions to provide quality and cost-effective technical education and skills development and related opportunities.

This training programs and schemes shall include teachers'/trainers' training in occupational trades and related fields of employment, and value development as an integral component of all technical education and training programs.

SECTION 14. Assistance to Establishments - The DTESD shall assist any employer or organization engaged in technical education and training schemes design to attain its objectives under rules and regulations established by the DTESD.

SECTION 15. Accreditation and Regulation of TESD Programs. - All TESD shall be duly accredited by the DTESD before it is offered to the public by any public, private entity or non- government organization.

Non-compliance with the accreditation requirements of the DTESD shall form part of the bases for the possible suspension or cancellation of the entities' license to operate issued by competent authorities.

SECTION 16. Enterprise-Based Connections. - The **DTESD** shall establish effective and efficient institutional arrangements with industry bodies and such other organizations or associations to ensure direct participation of employers and workers in the design and implementation of technical education and skills development schemes, competency standardization and certification; and such other functions in the fulfillment of the DTESD's objectives.

SECTION 17. DTESD DEVELOPMENT FUND - A DTESDA Development Fund is hereby established, to be managed/administered by the Secretary, the income from which shall be utilized exclusively in awarding of grants and providing assistance to training institutions, industries, local government units for upgrading their capabilities and to develop and implement training and training-related activities.

The contribution to the fund shall be the following:

- a.** one-time lump sum appropriation from the National Government;
- b.** annual contribution from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Fund, the amount of which should be part of the study on financing in conjunction with letter (D) of Section 34 of RA7796;
- c.** donations, grants, endowments, and other bequests or gifts, and
- d.** any other income generated by the Agency.

The Secretary shall be the administrator of the fund, and as such, shall formulate the necessary implementing guidelines for the management of the fund.

SECTION 18. DTESD BUDGET - The amount necessary to finance the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the existing appropriations of the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC) and the Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE).

SECTION 19. TRANSITORY PROVISION. — The DTESD Secretariat created under Sections IO- 15 of R.A. 7796 shall comprise the initial manpower complement of the **DTESD**, Provided, that, no employee shall be terminated by virtue of this transfer.

The laws and rules on government reorganization as provided under Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall govern the transfer and reorganization process of the **DTESD**.

The Personnel of the **DTESD** shall, in a holdover capacity, continue to perform their respective duties and responsibilities and receive their corresponding salaries and benefits until such time when the organizational structure pattern of the DTESD shall have been approved.

Provided, That the preparation and approval of the said new organizational structure and staffing pattern shall, as far as practicable, respect and ensure the security of tenure and seniority rights of affected government employees. Those personnel whose positions are not included in the new staffing pattern or who are not reappointed or who choose to be separated as a result of the reorganization shall be paid their separation or retirement benefits under existing laws.

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATIONS. - The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal

year's appropriation of TESDA. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the DTESD shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. **(GAA)**.

The amount of two billion pesos **(₱2,000,000,000.00)**, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is there hereby appropriated as funding, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

The State shall hereby provide a separate authorize operational and organizational funding of five hundred million pesos **(₱500,000,000.00)** to implement and to maintain the continuity of its mandate.

The amount necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of implementing agencies in the General Appropriations Act **(GAA)** of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

The state shall hereby authorize the Department of Technical Education and Skills Development to re-align its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

SECTION 21. PERIODIC REPORTS - The TESDA shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 22. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and

programs in the **DTESD** and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 23. REPEALING CLAUSE - All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 24. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 25. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,