



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10966**



Introduced by Representative Felimon M. Espares

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a campus of the Cebu Normal University (CNU) in the Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu to be known as the CNU-Argao Campus.

The CNU started its humble beginning as Cebu Normal School in 1902, gradually developed into a Cebu State College in 1976 and gained its state-funded university status in 1998 by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 8688, entitled “*An Act Converting the Cebu State College Into a State University to be Known as the Cebu Normal University, and Appropriating Funds Therefor.*” Through the years, CNU has provided quality education to thousands of students from Mindanao and Visayas islands and mostly from the Province of Cebu.

The CNU, with its main campus in Cebu City, had a student enrolment of 9,268 during the 1st semester and 8,736 of the 2nd semester during the Academic Year 2022-2023. The Province of Cebu has recorded a population of 3,325,385 and the City of Cebu has a population of 964,169, per 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

With the growing population of the Province of Cebu, the CNU-Balamban Campus and CNU-Medellin Campus were established in 2005 and 2008, respectively, to cater to the increasing number of students coming from the municipalities of Balamban and Medellin. And in order to accommodate the influx of the growing enrollees from the Municipality of Argao, there is a need to establish the CNU-Argao Campus, hence, this proposed measure.

The Municipality of Argao is among the first-class income municipalities in the Province of Cebu. It recorded 78,187 persons per PSA 2020 CPH and is expected to increase exponentially in the years ahead. Lies in the southeast portion of the Province of Cebu, it is approximately 66 kilometers from Cebu City, 109 kilometers from Balamban and 100 kilometers from Medellin. With only one other state-funded university campus in Argao with limited enrollment, the students and their parents in said Municipality are burdened with the high cost of transportation expenses or boarding housing expenses, traffic congestion and other related emergent issues in securing quality education. Consequently, they pose negative impacts to the students, parents and the community-at-large of Argao.

RA 8688, among others, authorizes the Board of Regents of CNU to establish branches within the Province of Cebu if there is no existing school offering similar programs or courses to promote equal access to educational opportunities. In view thereof, the CNU and the Municipality of Argao signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the establishment of a campus of CNU located in Argao.

The establishment of the CNU-Argao Campus will enhance the accessibility to quality higher education not only for the students of Argao, but also for those in nearby municipalities. It will also promote local culture, address skill gaps due to lack of adequate life-long learning and employment competencies, foster more community engagement and promote research and extension services. Lastly, the parents and students will be able to save time and money in traveling to and from their residences to Cebu City or paying for boarding houses.

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



FELIMON M. ESPARES



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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARGAO, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY (CNU)-ARGAO
CAMPUS, 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 “*Cebu Normal
University-Argao Campus Act.*”

SEC. 2. **CNU-Argao Campus.** – There is hereby established a campus of
the Cebu Normal University in the Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu, to
be known as the Cebu Normal University (CNU)-Argao Campus, hereinafter
referred to as the *CNU-Argao Campus*.

SEC. 3. **Mandate.** – The CNU-Argao Campus shall offer short-term,
undergraduate, and graduate courses within its areas of competency and
specialization, pursuant to the mandate of CNU, and according to its capabilities

as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Cebu.

The CNU-Argao Campus is also mandated to promote research and extension services, advance studies, and progressive leadership in education and other relevant fields.

SEC. 4. *Supervision and Management.* – The CNU-Argao Campus shall be headed by a campus administrator to be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board and upon the recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting a campus administrator. The campus administrator shall be under the general supervision of the University President.

SEC. 5. *Compliance.* – The CNU shall ensure the compliance of the CNU-Argao Campus with the policies, standards and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education for the operation of campuses, including those related to course offerings and the introduction of new or revised programs prior to its establishment.

SEC. 6. *Site Development.* – The Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu, shall assist the CNU in determining the site for the establishment of CNU-Argao Campus. Likewise, the Municipality of Argao is enjoined to provide the necessary assistance for the development of CNU-Argao Campus, including the construction of building, campus perimeter fence and other facilities, and provision of supplies, materials, logistics and utilities.

1 SEC. 7. ***Supplementary Application.*** – The provisions of Republic Act No.
2 8292, otherwise known as the “*Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997*,”
3 shall form part of this Act.

4 SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
5 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of
6 Cebu Normal University. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the
7 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
8 Appropriations Act.

9 SEC. 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days
10 from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall, in coordination with the
11 Commission on Higher Education, Department of Budget and Management and
12 Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu, issue the necessary rules and
13 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

14 SEC. 10. ***Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of
15 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions
16 not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

17 SEC. 11. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
18 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of
19 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20 SEC. 12. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,