

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11258



Introduced by Representative Edsel A. Galeos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

The value of education has been recognized by no less than the fundamental law of our land. Access to quality education has been enshrined in our Constitution to ensure that it shall always remain a policy consideration when the government determines laws, systems, and plans.

Cebu Normal University currently has three campuses and two extension campuses. As of 2023, it offers 32 programs across various disciplines. It is one of the leading institutions nationwide and is known for upholding academic excellence. Both the students and faculty of the university are actively involved in research. The university is also dedicated in engaging with the local community to support regional development.

This measure seeks to establish a regular campus of the Cebu Normal University located in the Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu. The creation of a new campus will significantly improve access to higher education, especially for the residents of the Municipality of Argao and the surrounding areas. It will also enhance infrastructure, provide additional resources for academic programs, and secure increased funding for other academic endeavors such as research initiatives and extracurricular activities, benefiting both the students and the faculty.

For the foregoing reasons, passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


EDSEL A. GALEOS

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARGAO, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE
CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY-ARGAO CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SEC. 1. **Short Title.** – This act shall be known as Cebu Normal University-Argao Campus Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of higher education relevant to the ever-changing needs of the people and society with primary focus on quality research and development and higher education leading to medical, nursing and healthcare programs.

The State recognizes that education sector is an essential element for the attainment of sustained national and local development and progress.

Therefore, the State shall establish, promote and support centers and programs leading to the realization of this objective, such as scholarship programs, improvement of the quality of education, popularization and sustainability of higher education programs directed towards the development, promotion and continual enhancements of the knowledge, competences, skills, and potentials of the young populace and learners in various fields of specialization.

In the realization of the foregoing, the State shall also provide adequate resources in the implementation and sustainability of higher education institutions (HEIs) campuses with distinctive operational efficiency, effectiveness and productivity that develops, utilizes and maintains state-of-the-art technologies and sound architecture infrastructures to ensure meaningful student experience and establishing conducive working environment to the officials, faculty, non-teaching personnel, students and clients.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of the CNU-Argao Campus.* – There is hereby established a regular campus of Cebu Normal University in the Municipality of Argao, which shall be known as the “Cebu Normal University- Argao Campus or CNU-ArC.”

SEC. 4. *General Mandate.* – The CNU-Argao Campus shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses such as, but not limited to, education, tourism, science and technology, information and communications technology (ICT), nautical, maritime education, artificial intelligence, data management, special needs education, early childhood education, lifelong learning, forestry, environmental protection and conservation, livelihood technology education, criminology, engineering, electronics and manufacturing, foresight and futures management, real estate management, business and economics, food technology innovation and incubation, marine sciences, fishery, utilities and logistics, energy such, but not limited to, renewable energy and petroleum engineering, disaster risk reduction and management, and such programs within its areas of competency and specialization, pursuant to the mandates of the CNU, and according to its capability, as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resources development needs of the Province of Cebu and the Central Visayas Region. Furthermore, in order to maximize the quality of nursing, law and medical programs and produce more leaders, professionals and educators therein, the CNU-Argao Campus shall offer at least two-year curriculum for the BS in Nursing, Juris doctor and Doctor of Medicine programs and the successful completers therein shall be allowed to continue and graduate in the CNU Main Campus and/or such Campus of the University duly designated by the Board, under the 2+2 model, subject to the requirements of the policies and standards prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education and authorization by the Board of Regents of the University.

It is also mandated to undertake research and extension services in support of the socioeconomic development and to provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 5. *Supervision and Management.* – The University President shall have overall supervision and management of the CNU-Argao Campus. The Campus be headed by a Campus Director who shall be appointed/designated by the Board, subject to its guidelines, qualifications and standards, and upon the recommendation of Search Committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the Campus Director: *provided*, That pending the submission of the report by the Search Committee duly constituted by the Board, the University President shall designate from among the faculty members or employees of the University to serve as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Campus Director or in acting capacity subject to the confirmation by the Board and applicable policies of the Civil Service Commission. *Provided, however*, that the in order to ensure smooth transition, the incumbent designated Campus Director of CNU-Argao Campus, if qualified, shall serve as the first Campus Director, subject to the pertinent provisions of the University Code and policies promulgated by the Board.

The Campus Director shall be assisted by a Dean who shall be appointed or designated with the duties and functions determined by the University President, subject to the confirmation by the Board.

SEC. 6. *Compliance with the Requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).* – The CNU shall ensure compliance of the CNU-Argao Campus with the policies,

standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of the campus, including those related to the offering of courses and the introduction of new or revised programs prior to the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Management of Personnel, Assets, Liabilities, and Records.* – All assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the CNU-Argao Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be transferred to the CNU. The positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be respected.

All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the CNU-Argao Campus shall be transferred to the CNU: *Provided*, That should the CNU-Argao Campus or the CNU cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the CNU, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned or the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 8. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The Municipality of Argao shall continue to provide assistance to the CNU-Argao Campus until such time that the amount necessary for the operation and maintenance of the CNU-Argao Campus shall be included of the annual GAA.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,