

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **11313**

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Local history has enriched the understanding of our nation's past. It has paved the way for rewriting Philippine history by acknowledging the role of illustrious personages from the provinces and cultural communities.

Understanding and discovering the wealth of Philippine culture and history in the provinces and cultural communities help the national government in settling disputes; addressing stereotypes, unequal opportunities, and representations; conserving what has been studied, recovered, and previously taken for granted; and acknowledging our holistic identity, which is beneficial in appraising Filipino identity and pride.

To recognize the wealth of Philippine culture and history in the provinces and cultural communities, this bill seeks to establish Local Studies Centers in all state colleges, and universities (SUCs) dedicated to cultural communities at large. These centers shall serve as research institutions that focus on the grassroots level with the thrust of identifying, recognizing, documenting, conserving, preserving, and

promoting local history, folklore, language, and other aspects of cultural heritage through academic, scientific, and scholastic approaches. It is through learning and appreciating the wealth of our local history and culture that we will be able to enrich our national identity better and achieve more sustainable and inclusive social and economic progress.

In line with the policy adopted by its original proponent Senator Loren Legarda, this bill serves as a counter-part House Bill. It is for the reasons stated above that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA JR.

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

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

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

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

1 Sec. 4. *Province and Cultural Community-wide cooperation.* – Given that there are
2 provinces and cultural communities with multiple SUCs, inter-institutional
3 cooperation is encouraged to prevent redundancy in establishing a Center.

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

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

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

- 20 a) *Research Service Area* – conducts research and studies in their locality and
21 cultural community; documents local history, culture, and society; and
22 contributes to the local policymaking;
- 23 b) *Publication Service Area* – acts as the lead publisher, in print and online, of
24 local history, culture and society, knowledge in the locality and cultural
25 community. It shall support the production of educational materials on local
26 history, culture and society, the promotion of vernacular literature and
27 language, and other studies concerning the locality and cultural community.
- 28 c) *Awareness Campaign Service Area* – creates and promotes participatory
29 programs, projects, and activities to continue and encourage discourse on
30 local history, culture, and society; as well as champions or cultivates the laws
31 and policies on cultural heritage to guide the local government units;

1 d) *Collection Service Area* – tasked with the collection building of local historical
2 and cultural resources and the conservation thereof, through:

- 3 i. Collecting printed materials focusing on publications from their
4 locality and cultural community;
- 5 ii. Gathering available microfilm/microfiche publications;
- 6 iii. Photoduplicating documents found in various government institutions,
7 especially in national cultural agencies and other local and
8 international institutions where data relevant to local studies are
9 available;
- 10 iv. Obtaining memoirs and other writings about significant personages
11 and institutions in the locality and cultural community;
- 12 v. Acquiring materials significant to the enrichment of local history,
13 culture, and society scholarship; and
- 14 vi. Procuring through donations, exchanges, or purchases of important
15 historical documents, manuscripts, journals, books, etc.

16 Sec. 8. *SUC Support to the Center.* - The host SUC of a Center shall

- 17 a. Designate premises conducive and equipped to store the collection of the
18 Center; conduct public programs such as lectures, seminars, and exhibits;
19 and entertain researchers and visitors;
- 20 b. Build the collection of the Center by acquiring and purchasing seminal
21 Filipiniana core collection;
- 22 c. Harmonize the university research program with the goals and objectives
23 of the Center;
- 24 d. Encourage localized studies among the faculty and the students to benefit
25 the immediate community where the school is located;
- 26 e. Involve academics, experts, and scholars outside the SUC to contribute to
27 the research and publication activities of the Center; and
- 28 f. Develop policies and programs appraising the quality and scholarship of
29 historical and cultural research and publication for the Center.

30 Sec. 9. *Patronage of Publications Produced by the Center.* - The dire need for a
31 body of knowledge about the towns, cities, provinces, regions, and cultural

1 communities shall be augmented by encouraging the Center to produce regular
2 publications by its resident or non-resident scholars. It shall provide at least two
3 copies of each publication produced for deposit at the Historical Data Bank of the
4 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Library of
5 the Philippines (NLP), and the University of the Philippines Diliman Filipiniana
6 Library. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall purchase copies of the publications
7 for dissemination to all Sentro Rizal cultural centers in foreign service posts. The
8 local school board and the Department of Education shall do the same for all public
9 and private schools of the concerned immediate schools division, and the
10 Department of the Interior and Local Government and NLP for the public libraries.

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

18 Sec. 11. *Representation of the Center*. The Center must be represented in the
19 Local School Board and the Local Culture and Arts Council of concerned local
20 government units, the National Economic and Development Authority in the
21 regions, and other government bodies concerning local history, culture, and
22 heritage.

23 Sec. 12. *Funding*. - The initial funding requirements for the implementation
24 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the SUCs.
25 Thereafter, such sums as it may deem necessary for its continued implementation
26 shall be included in the institutions' yearly budget under the General
27 Appropriations Act.

28 Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, rules, and regulations or parts thereof
29 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
30 accordingly.

1 Sec. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall
2 be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall
3 be affected thereby.

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

Approved,