



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11333



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

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 plays a crucial role in enhancing our understanding of the nation's past. It offers a more comprehensive view of Philippine history by recognizing the contributions of influential figures from the provinces and various cultural communities. By delving into the unique histories and cultures found across the country, we can promote a more inclusive narrative, one that reflects the diverse experiences of all Filipinos.

Understanding the historical and cultural wealth present in the provinces and cultural communities is essential for several reasons. It assists the national government in resolving local disputes, dismantling stereotypes, addressing unequal opportunities, and ensuring fair representation. Additionally, it allows us to conserve the valuable heritage that has often been overlooked or taken for granted. Recognizing and preserving local histories also contributes to a more holistic and unified Filipino identity, fostering a sense of pride among citizens and providing a solid foundation for nation-building.

This bill proposes the establishment of Local Studies Centers in all State Colleges and Universities (SUCs), which will focus on the study, documentation, preservation, and promotion of local history, folklore, language, and other cultural heritage aspects. These centers will function as research institutions dedicated to grassroots-level studies, employing academic, scientific, and scholarly methods to capture the richness of local traditions and histories.

Through the establishment of these centers, we will not only deepen our appreciation of the country's diverse cultural landscape but also work towards sustainable and inclusive social and economic development. By ensuring that all regions and communities are

represented in our national history, we empower localities and contribute to the creation of a more equitable and prosperous nation.

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



REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE

Lone District of Biñan, Laguna



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) *Research Service Area* – conducts research and studies in their locality and cultural community; documents local history, culture, and society; and contributes to the local policymaking;

b) *Publication Service Area* – acts as the lead publisher, in print and online, of local history, culture and society, knowledge in the locality and cultural community. It shall support the production of educational materials on local history, culture and society, the promotion of vernacular literature and language, and other studies concerning the locality and cultural community.

c) *Awareness Campaign Service Area* – creates and promotes participatory programs, projects, and activities to continue and encourage discourse on local history, culture, and society; as well as champions or cultivates the laws and policies on cultural heritage to guide the local government units;

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

i. Collecting printed materials focusing on publications from their locality and cultural community;

ii. Gathering available microfilm/microfiche publications;

iii. Photo duplicating documents found in various government institutions, especially in national cultural agencies and other local and international institutions where data relevant to local studies are available;

iv. Obtaining memoirs and other writings about significant personages and institutions in the locality and cultural community;

v. Acquiring materials significant to the enrichment of local history, culture, and society scholarship; and

vi. Procuring through donations, exchanges, or purchases of important historical documents, manuscripts, journals, books, etc.

Sec. 8. *SUC Support to the Center.* – The host SUC of a Center shall:

a. Designate premises conducive and equipped to store the collection of the Center; conduct public programs such as lectures, seminars, and exhibits; and entertain researchers and visitors;

b. Build the collection of the Center by acquiring and purchasing seminal Filipiniana core collection;

c. Harmonize the university research program with the goals and objectives of the Center;

d. Encourage localized studies among the faculty and the students to benefit the immediate community where the school is located;

e. Involve academics, experts, and scholars outside the SUC to contribute to the research and publication activities of the Center; and

f. Develop policies and programs appraising the quality and scholarship of historical and cultural research and publication for the Center.

Sec. 9. *Patronage of Publications Produced by the Center.* – The dire need for a body of knowledge about the towns, cities, provinces, regions, and cultural communities shall be augmented by encouraging the Center to produce regular publications by its resident or non-resident scholars. It shall provide at least two copies of each publication produced for deposit at the Historical Data Bank of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), and the University of the Philippines Diliman Filipiniana Library. The Department of Foreign Affairs shall purchase copies of the publications for dissemination to all Sentro Rizal cultural centers in foreign service posts. The Local School Board and the Department of Education shall do the same for all public and private schools of the concerned immediate schools division, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government and NLP for the public libraries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,