

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 344



Introduced by **HON. MARLO C. BANCORO**
First District, Zamboanga Sibugay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as the principal government agency tasked with formulating and implementing policies, plans, and programs for the development and efficient operation of the higher education system in the country, plays a vital role in fulfilling this constitutional mandate.

This bill seeks to establish a Provincial Office of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, to be strategically located in its capital town of Ipil, and to be known as the CHED–Zamboanga Sibugay Office.

Zamboanga Sibugay is home to several higher education institutions (HEIs) catering to the educational needs of its growing population. However, the absence of a dedicated CHED office in the province has posed challenges in the timely implementation of CHED programs, monitoring of institutional performance, provision of assistance to students and schools, and the general coordination of higher education development efforts.

The establishment of a provincial CHED office will bring the agency's services closer to the people, ensuring more efficient, accessible, and responsive delivery of its programs and projects, including scholarships, faculty development, quality assurance, research and extension support, and institutional regulation.

This measure seeks to bridge the gap between the CHED Central and Regional Offices and the HEIs in Zamboanga Sibugay by enabling more direct and proactive coordination, reducing bureaucratic delays, and promoting educational development that is inclusive and attuned to the province's unique needs.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ATTY. MARLO C. BANCORO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AND
HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IPIL,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE KNOWN AS CHED-
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY PROVINCIAL OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Establishment.- There is hereby established a Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Provincial Office in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, under the supervision of CHED, to be known as the CHED-Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office and shall be established in its capital town, Ipil.

SEC. 2. Organization. - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the CHED, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Office. The organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be submitted to the Commissioner of CHED, to the Regional Director of Region 9 and to the Secretary of DBM for approval. The Commissioner of CHED shall immediately include in CHED's system the operationalization of CHED-Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Office.

SEC. 3. Administration. - The Office shall be headed by a Provincial Director, under the supervision of CHED, who shall render full-time service and be responsible for its administration and operation.

The Provincial Director shall be appointed by the Regional Director of Region 9, with the approval of the Commissioner of CHED in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification requirements for such office.

SEC. 4. Operationalization. - The CHED Chairperson shall immediately include in the CHED's programs the operationalization of the CHED-Province of Zamboanga Sibugay Field Office.

SEC 5. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the operation of the CHED-Province of Zamboanga Sibugay Field Office shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter, such amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, CHED shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of existing laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,