

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1253**



Introduced by **REP. MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

Section 1. 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.

Numerous Local Government Units (LGUs) have established colleges and universities in their territorial jurisdiction through their local ordinances to provide access to quality education. However, there is a need to rationalize the creation of Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) to upgrade and improve the delivery of quality and accessible higher education to the people. In line with this, this bill seeks mandatory guidelines in establishing LUCs in terms of school administration, faculties, library and laboratories, curriculum and instructions, faculty and non-teaching personnel development programs, research and community services.

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

MARCELINO R. TEODORO

Representative
First District, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1253

Introduced by **REP. MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as "A."
2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to establish,
4 maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
5 relevant to the needs of the people and society. It is also the policy of the State to
6 protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education and to take appropriate
7 steps to make education accessible to all.
8

9 To this end, mandatory guidelines on the establishment of local colleges and
10 the conversion of local colleges into universities must be prescribed to achieve a
11 standard and integrated system of higher education, provide the appropriate direction
12 in their governance, and ensure that they will deliver quality and relevant education to
13 students.
14

15 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:
16

17 (a) **Degree program** refers to the set of academic programs and courses in a field of
18 study leading to the conferment of an undergraduate or graduate degree;
19

20 (b) **Higher education institution** refers to an institution of higher learning which
21 primarily offers degree-granting programs duly recognized by the Commission on
22 Higher Education (CHED) and leading to the conferment of a diploma;
23

24 (c) **Level II accreditation** refers to a status granted to an educational program after
25 being granted the initial accreditation following a formal survey by the accrediting
26 agency and duly certified by the accreditation federation or network, effective for a
27 period of three (3) years;
28

1 (d) **Local college or dalubhasaan** refers to a public higher education institution with
2 below Level II accreditation, financially supported, operated and maintained by the
3 local government unit, and offers undergraduate or baccalaureate and graduate
4 academic programs leading to the conferment of a degree;

5
6 (e) **Local government unit (LGU)** refers to municipalities, cities and provinces that
7 created or established the local university or college;

8
9 (f) **Local higher education institution** refers to a public higher education institution
10 financially supported by an LGU through an ordinance, which offers
11 undergraduate or baccalaureate and graduate academic programs leading to the
12 conferment of a degree;

13
14 (g) **Local university or pamantasan** refers to a public higher education institution
15 with above Level II accreditation that is financially supported, operated and
16 maintained by an LGU and offers undergraduate or baccalaureate and graduate
17 academic programs leading to the conferment of a degree;

18
19 (h) **Non-degree program** refers to a postsecondary short-term certificate or diploma
20 academic and technical-vocational programs below the baccalaureate or bachelor's
21 degree;

22
23 (i) **Ordinance** refers to the enabling act of a *Sangguniang Panglunsod*, or
24 *Sangguniang Bayan*, or *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* creating a particular local
25 university or college and which serves as their charters; and

26
27 (j) **Technical-vocational institution** refers to a postsecondary education institution
28 that offers short-term nondegree, diploma or certificate technical-vocational education
29 and training programs or courses.

30
31 **SEC. 5. Coverage.** The provisions of this Act shall apply to:

32
33 (a) Existing local universities and colleges (LUCs);

34
35 (b) Higher education institutions (HEIs) to be established and operated by
36 LGUs through a local ordinance;

37
38 (c) HEIs to be established and operated by LGUs that will offer non-degree
39 programs, but which intends to offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs;

40
41 (d) Existing technical-vocational institutions established and operated by an
42 LGU offering non-degree programs, but which intend to propose a reclassification as
43 a college, professional institution or university; and

44
45 (e) Existing LUCs which have not met the minimum standards of the
46 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as prescribed in CHED Memorandum
47 Order (CMO) No. 46, series of 2012, or the most recent CMOs on Policies, Standards,
48 and Guidelines (PSGs) for HEIs.

1 **SEC. 6. Establishment and Operation of Local HEIs by LGUs.** A local HEI,
2 to be known as a local college or *dalubhasaan*, or any typology assigned by the CHED
3 in accordance with changes in the Philippine higher educational system, shall be
4 established and operated by an LGU through an ordinance duly enacted for that
5 purpose by the *sanggunian* concerned: *Provided*, That prior to the enactment of the
6 said ordinance, the LGU establishing a local college shall consult with the CHED,
7 through the regional office that has jurisdiction over the area where the institution is
8 intended to be established, to ensure full compliance with the mandatory requirements
9 set forth in this Act.

10
11 **SEC. 7. Mandatory Requirements for the Establishment of the LUC.** The
12 CHED shall require all LUCs to submit the following requirements for review and
13 approval:

- 14
15 (a) Feasibility study that shall include the following: 1) the necessity for a local HEI in
16 the area; 2) human resource requirements of the industry to determine the
17 proposed program offerings; 3) target offerings; 4) financial capacity of the LGU
18 to establish and sustain the operation of the LUC;
19
20 (b) Certification of availability of funds by the Treasurer of the concerned LGU, as
21 provided under the pertinent of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the
22 "Local Government Code of 1991";
23
24 (c) A project development plan with a program of work showing that the LGU
25 allocated a school site with appropriate size and location pursuant to the
26 applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National
27 Building Code of the Philippines", a blueprint of the architectural design of its
28 buildings and other physical facilities, and provisions for acquisition of
29 instructional materials and equipment that comply with the CMOs pertinent to the
30 program offered; and
31
32 (d) A five-year institutional development plan duly approved by the *sanggunian*,
33 which shall include the following: 1) annual budgetary allocation; 2)
34 organizational structure and composition of the Governing Board, hereinafter
35 referred to as the Board; and 3) personnel complement indicating the *plantilla* of
36 positions to be hired on a merit system and the procedure for hiring non-*plantilla*
37 items duly approved by the Civil Service Commission.

38
39 In all cases, a duly established educational institution by the LGU shall require
40 the imprimatur of the CHED prior to the offering of higher education degree programs.
41 It shall file with the CHED an application to offer a higher education degree program.
42 The application shall be supported with documents indicating compliance with the
43 policies, guidelines, and standards relative to such degree program.
44

45 **SEC. 8. Supervisory, Monitoring, and Visitorial Power of the CHED.** All
46 LUCs shall be subject to the monitoring, inspection, and evaluation of the CHED.
47

48 Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the
49 "Higher Education Act of 1994", the CHED shall exercise supervisory power over

1 LUCs. Through its regional offices, the CHED shall continue to monitor, inspect,
2 evaluate, and provide technical assistance to the LUCs.

3
4 The CHED shall, in the issuance of academic policies and standards affecting
5 LUCs, ensure quality assurance by taking into account the different characteristics,
6 peculiar needs, the distinct features of the LUCs, their organizational set-up, and their
7 operation, among other considerations: *Provided*, That the CHED shall, at all times,
8 devise ways and practices that will ensure that the LUCs will remain committed to the
9 delivery of quality education to its students.

10
11 **SEC. 9. Governing Board of LUCs.** The governing board of a College or
12 *Dalubhasaan* shall be its Board of Trustees (BOT), while the governing Board of a
13 University or *Pamantasan* shall be its Board of Regents (BOR).

14
15 The regular and special meetings of the BOT or BOR of the LUCs shall be
16 specified in the ordinance creating the LUC.

17
18 (a) Composition - The governing board of the LUC, shall be composed of the:

19
20 1) Local chief executive, as chairperson;

21
22 2) President of the LUC, as vice-chairperson;

23
24 and the following as members:

25
26 3) President of the duly recognized faculty association of the LUC;

27
28 4) President of the duly recognized student council of the LUC;

29
30 5) President of the duly recognized alumni association;

31
32 6) Chairperson of the Committee on Education of the *Sanggunian*;

33
34 7) Treasurer of the LGU establishing the LUC;

35
36 8) Budget Officer of the LGU establishing the LUC; and

37
38 9) Two (2) representatives from the private sector who are of known probity
39 and have distinguished themselves in their respective professions or fields
40 of expertise or specialization in the municipality, city, or province where the
41 LUC is located.

42
43 The two (2) private sector representatives shall be appointed by the local chief
44 executive and shall each serve a term of two (2) years from the date of their respective
45 appointments.

46
47 (b) Term of Office – 1) The President of an LUC shall serve a full term in such
48 capacity; 2) The presidents of the faculty association, student council, and the
49 alumni association shall sit in the Board and shall serve their respective terms
50 of office in the associations co-terminously, pursuant to their respective

1 constitutions and by-laws. Such associations shall conduct the election of its
2 officials shortly before the end of terms of the incumbents or within one (1)
3 month prior to the expiration of their terms, otherwise their positions in the
4 Board shall be deemed expired.

5
6 (c) Vacancy - In case of a vacancy in the Board by reason of resignation, death, or
7 the incapacity of one or more of its appointed members, such vacancy shall be
8 filled by appointment by the local chief executive and the appointee shall hold
9 office for the unexpired portion of the term.

10
11 (d) Meetings – The Board shall regularly convene every month. The Chairperson
12 of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That
13 members are notified in writing at least three (3) calendar days prior to the said
14 meeting.

15
16 (e) Quorum – A majority of the members of the Board holding office at the time of
17 its regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.

18
19 (f) Compensation - The members shall serve without compensation other than
20 reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in their attendance to
21 meetings of the Board or in connection with their official business, as may be
22 authorized by resolutions of the Board.

23
24 **SEC. 10. Powers of the Board.** The Board shall be the highest policymaking
25 body of the LUCs and shall have the following powers and functions:

26
27 (a) To promulgate policies in accordance with the declared policies on higher
28 education, as well as the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED
29 under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education
30 Act of 1994” and other pertinent laws;

31
32 (b) To promulgate rules and regulations consistent with existing laws, rules, and
33 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of
34 the LUC;

35
36 (c) To receive assistance from the LGU to augment the internal sources of
37 funds, as may be provided, to carry out the purposes and functions of the
38 LUC;

39
40 (d) To fix the tuition fees and other school charges as the Board may deem
41 proper to impose after due consultations with the relevant sectors: *Provided*,
42 that these fees shall be based on the guidelines of the CHED and not
43 prohibitive or unreasonable as to deviate from the purpose for which the
44 LUCs are created;

45
46 (e) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the President, vice presidents,
47 deans, executive directors, heads of departments, faculty, and other officials
48 and employees;

- 1 (f) To develop consortia and other academic linkages and, other forms of
2 networks with the LGUs, industries, institutions and agencies, both public
3 and private, local and foreign: *Provided*, That these comply with the
4 applicable guidelines of the CHED in furtherance of the purposes and
5 objectives of the LUCs, as well as develop academic arrangements for
6 institution capacity and capability building with appropriate institutions and
7 agencies, public and private;
8
- 9 (g) To determine and approve curricular programs and course offerings in
10 response to the needs and demands of the community and based on local
11 and regional development initiatives: *Provided*, That these comply with the
12 minimum CHED requirements and its PSGs;
13
- 14 (h) To promulgate policies on admission, retention, and graduation of students
15 in conformity with the guidelines of the CHED, and to award degrees, titles,
16 diplomas, and certificates;
17
- 18 (i) To ensure the efficient management of nonacademic services, such as
19 medical and dental, guidance counseling, property maintenance;
20
- 21 (j) To institutionalize research and extension programs and establish research
22 and extension centers where such will promote the development of the
23 LUCs;
24
- 25 (k) To appoint the President of the LUC upon the recommendation of the search
26 committee;
27
- 28 (l) To confirm the appointments of other school officials, teaching, and
29 nonteaching personnel appointed by the President of the LUC;
30
- 31 (m) To approve rules of discipline for the administrative and academic staff and
32 students of the college or university to ensure orderly and effective
33 governance thereof;
34
- 35 (n) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding
36 contribution in the field of education, public service, arts, science and
37 technology or any field of specialization within the academic competence of
38 the university or college and to authorize the issuance of certificates of
39 completion of non-baccalaureate programs and nontraditional or innovative
40 courses: *Provided*, That these conform to the applicable guidelines of the
41 CHED and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
42
- 43 (o) To establish professorial chairs in the LUC and to provide fellowships for
44 qualified faculty and scholarships to deserving students;
45
- 46 (p) To appoint experts and specialists as consultants, or visiting or exchange
47 professors, scholars, researchers, as the case may be: *Provided*, That such
48 appointment conforms to the CHED guidelines;
49

1 (q) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting
2 knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual training
3 system, and open distance learning, for the promotion of greater access to
4 education;

5
6 (r) To submit to the Local Chief Executive or to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*,
7 *Sangguniang Bayan* or *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* an annual detailed
8 report, setting forth the status, progress, needs, goals of the LUC; and
9

10 (s) To delegate any of its power and duties to the President or the other officials
11 of the LUC as it may deem appropriate so as to expedite the administration
12 of the affairs of the university or college.
13

14 **SEC. 11. Administration of LUCs.** The administration of each LUC shall be
15 vested in the President who shall render full-time service to implement policies
16 promulgated by the Board.
17

18 The Board shall, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search
19 committee, appoint the President for a term of four (4) years, subject to reappointment
20 for another term only.
21

22 The President of the LUC must preferably have a Doctorate Degree or a Master's
23 degree in education, administration, or other related fields, with at least three (3) years
24 of relevant administrative experience, without prejudice to provision of additional
25 qualifications to be set by the Board of the LUC.
26

27 **Sec. 12. Vacancy in the Office of the President.** In case of a vacancy in the
28 Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation,
29 removal for cause or incapacity of the president to perform the functions of the office,
30 the Board shall, within a period of thirty (30) days, designate an officer-in-charge of
31 the LUC pending the appointment of a new President.
32

33 The powers and duties of the President of the LUC, in addition to those specifically
34 provided in this Act, shall be similar to those usually pertaining to the Office of the
35 President of other LUCs, and those delegated by the Board.
36

37 **Sec. 13. Search Committee.** In case of vacancy in the Office of the President
38 brought about by any of the causes mentioned in the preceding Section, the Board
39 shall organize and convene a Search Committee for the Presidency, which shall
40 evaluate and present to the Board the qualifications of the candidates for President of
41 the LUC.
42

43 The Search Committee for the Presidency shall have five (5) members to be
44 appointed by the Board. The members shall each represent the following: a) CHED;
45 b) the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU); c) the concerned LGU,
46 d) the academe; and e) the business or industry sector. It shall elect a Chairperson
47 and Vice-Chairperson and shall ensure that the new LUC President is elected not later
48 than three (3) months from the time that the position is vacant.
49

1 **Sec. 14. The Secretary of the LUC and the Secretary of the Board.** There
2 shall be a Secretary of the LUC who shall be appointed by the Board as Secretary of
3 the Board upon recommendation of the University President. The Secretary of the
4 Board shall be the custodian of all official records of the LUC.
5

6 **SEC. 15. Elevation of a Local College to the Status of a University.** A local
7 college, upon the recommendation of the Board to the *Sangguniang Bayan, or*
8 *Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Panlalawigan,* may subsequently apply
9 with the CHED for university status: *Provided,* That it has complied with the
10 requirements of the CHED and has undergone the appropriate process of
11 accreditation by a reliable accreditation body that subsequently found the college to
12 be prepared for reclassification as a university: *Provided further,* That a local college,
13 upon conversion into a local university, shall continue to be operated by the concerned
14 LGU in coordination with the CHED.
15

16 The proposal for classification to a university status shall be submitted to the
17 CHED Central Office, through the CHED Regional Office, for review. Only the CHED
18 *en banc* shall grant the "University" status upon compliance with the requirements.
19

20 No new local HEI shall be established immediately as a local university or
21 *pamantasan*. A local HEI established by an LGU shall be known as a local college or
22 *dalubhasaan* or any other typology assigned by the CHED in accordance with
23 developments. in the Philippine Higher Educational System.
24

25 **SEC. 16. Existing LUCs.** In the interest of efficient control and supervision by
26 the CHED, all LUCs existing at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall be allowed
27 to continue their operation, subject to compliance with the requirements of this Act
28 within a non-extendible period of three (3) years. Non-compliance with the
29 requirements of this Act shall result in the phaseout of the programs being offered by
30 the concerned LUCs.
31

32 **SEC. 17. Existing Local Postsecondary Educational Institutions.** Local
33 postsecondary educational institutions offering only pre-professional training or non-
34 baccalaureate programs shall not use "College" or "University" in its name unless they
35 have complied with the requisites provided for the establishment of a college or the
36 grant of university status under the CHED rules and regulations: *Provided,* That
37 existing local post-secondary educational institutions which have been using the name
38 "college" or "university" prior to the passage of this Act shall be allowed to retain such
39 name: *Provided further,* That said educational institutions shall be given a grace
40 period by the CHED to comply with the requirements for the status of "college" or
41 "university" or any other typology assigned by the CHED in accordance with
42 developments in the Philippine higher educational system.
43

44 **SEC. 18. Penalties for Non-Compliance.** Any person found violating any of
45 the provisions of this Act shall be subject to an administrative fine of up to Five hundred
46 thousand pesos (P500,000.00), depending on the severity of the violation, as may be
47 determined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.
48

49 **SEC. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within ninety (90) days from
50 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the Department of the

1 Interior and Local Government, the ALCU, and other relevant stakeholders promulgate
2 the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 20. *Exclusion Clause.*** This Act shall apply to all LUCs duly created by
5 their ordinances enacted for that purpose, except for the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng
6 Maynila (PLM), which was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 4, entitled "An Act
7 Authorizing the City of Manila to Establish and Operate the University of the City of
8 Manila and for Other Purposes". However, in so far as faculty qualifications, curriculum
9 and instruction, and facilities are concerned, the PLM shall be governed by this Act.

10
11 **SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act shall be held
12 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby
13 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

14
15 **SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions,
16 rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent
17 with this Act are modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

18
19 **SEC. 23. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

21
22 *Approved,*