

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1972



Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Academic regalia, traditionally worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during formal academic events, serve not only as ceremonial attire but also as a symbol of institutional pride, dignity, and identity.

This bill proposes the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in academic regalia—locally woven fabrics crafted by Filipino artisans. By integrating indigenous designs and materials into graduation attire, we celebrate and preserve our rich cultural heritage while promoting a distinctly Filipino identity within our academic traditions.

With over 300,000 students graduating from State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) each year, this initiative presents a significant opportunity to generate sustainable livelihood for weaving communities across the country, especially in rural and marginalized areas.

This measure is both cultural and economic in nature, as it supports local artisans, strengthens community-based industries, and reaffirms the role of education in nation-building, not only through knowledge but also through cultural pride and inclusivity.

Initially filed by Representative Loren Legarda in the 18th Congress and Representative Harris Christopher Ongchuan in the previous Congress, this version adopts the Third Reading copy transmitted to the Senate in the 19th Congress.

The immediate passage of this bill is respectfully urged.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelino R. Teodoro".

MARCELINO R. TEODORO
Representative
1st District, Marikina City

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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES
IN THE ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE AND LOCAL
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Academic Regalia Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the youth, whose academic preparation for adulthood and responsible citizenship includes the formation of values on love of country and pride in the uniqueness of their cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for displaying these values shall be encouraged by the school system not only as part of values development but to preserve Philippine culture and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing of academic regalia that is based on Filipino ethnic and traditional design to promote the production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, boost the national effort to develop culture-based industries, and in the process create jobs in local communities.

Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) is therefore prescribed.

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

- (a) *Academic regalia* refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other academic functions; and
- (b) *Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles* refer to textiles made of or containing natural or indigenous materials, sourced and produced in the Philippines

using updated, relevant, and environmentally friendly scientific and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs, and techniques.

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council.*

There is hereby created a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the following as members:

- (a) Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);
- (b) Representative from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- (c) Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC);
- (d) Representative from the University of the Philippines (UP) System;
- (e) Representative from the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU); and
- (f) Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Council.* The Council shall have the following specific powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;
- (b) Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates, administrators, faculty, and awardees of SUCs and LUCs;
- (c) Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and loom parts;
- (d) Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;
- (e) Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic regalia and its proper use, protection, trade, and management; and
- (f) Protect the intellectual property rights regarding design silhouettes, textile patterns, colors, and textile specifications for

the academic regalia.

SEC. 6. *Mandatory Coordination with the Council.* Pursuant to the provisions of this Act, all SUCs and LUCs shall be required to coordinate with the Council to ensure that neo-ethnic Philippine textiles shall be prescribed in their academic regalia, specifically in the hood, robe or gown worn by students in important occasions, such as hooding ceremony or graduation from either a bachelor's, master's or doctorate, as well as the faculty and other members of the academic community, and may be incorporated in the headgear (mortarboard cap or tam), mortarboard tassel, stole, and cord, among others.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP, PASUC, ALCU, DTI, and other relevant stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *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 shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,