

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2394



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares that it is the responsibility of the State to inculcate patriotism and nationalism among the youth. One meaningful way to do this is by incorporating our rich cultural identity into significant academic milestones through the use of neo-ethnic textiles in academic regalia.

Neo-ethnic textiles refer to “natural and/or indigenous materials, sourced and/or produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations by spinners, dyers, weavers, and artisans”.¹ Meanwhile, academic regalia is the official garb worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other academic functions.

This proposed bill prescribes the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all state universities and colleges and local universities and colleges not only to instill patriotism among our youth and preserve Filipino heritage, but as well as support the local weaving industry by creating sustainable job opportunities for the communities that skillfully produce these traditional textiles. The measure also provides for the creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council, which shall develop a national policy on academic regalia and oversee the responsible integration of neo-ethnic textiles into the ceremonial attire.

This measure received the support of the technical experts from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Textile Research Institute and was approved by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate during the 19th Congress.

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


HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

¹ Philippine Textile Research Institute. (2013, December 3). *Neo-ethnicism of Philippine textiles: Technology marries age-old indigenous traditions*. <https://ptri.dost.gov.ph/transparency/privacy-notice/2-transparency-seal/uncategorised/3-neo-ethnicism-of-philippine-textiles-technology-marries-age-old-indigenous-traditions>

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, featuring a large, sweeping loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE

A cursive signature in black ink, with the first letter 'T' being particularly large and ornate, followed by 'suyoshi' and 'Horibata'.

HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA

A cursive signature in blue ink, with the first letter 'T' being particularly large and ornate, followed by 'erry' and 'L. Ridon'.

HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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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.”

SECTION 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 include values formation 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.

SECTION 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 green, scientific, and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs, and approaches.

SECTION 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).

SECTION 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 as regards design silhouettes, textile pattern, color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.

SECTION 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 degree, 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.

SECTION 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.

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

SECTION 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.

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

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

Approved,