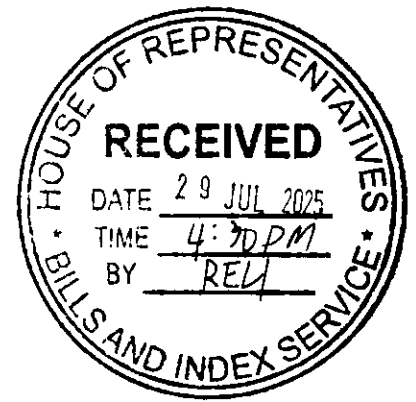


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2507

Introduced by REP. RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ENTREPRENEURS' ACADEMY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Entrepreneurship is a vital engine for economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction, particularly in developing economies like the Philippines. It fosters innovation, encourages self-reliance, and builds resilience within communities. Recognizing this indispensable role, this proposed measure seeks to establish the **Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy**, an institution dedicated to nurturing and formalizing entrepreneurship education and training across all levels of learning.

Currently, various government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) offer non-formal entrepreneurship programs and short-term technical-vocational courses. While these initiatives are useful, there is a clear need for a centralized, cohesive, and formalized academic institution that can integrate these efforts into a structured school system. This will ensure a standardized, high-quality, and comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship development.

This bill aims to address this need by:

- **Establishing the Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy** under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).
- **Providing a comprehensive mandate** for the Academy to offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as short-term technical-vocational non-degree courses and modular trainings. These programs are designed to enhance core competencies in entrepreneurship and cater to technical-vocational, college, and graduate students.
- **Promoting the relevance of entrepreneurship** to job generation and its significant role in the sustainable economic growth of the country.

- **Formalizing and integrating** existing non-formal entrepreneurship programs from various government agencies (TESDA, DTI, DOST, etc.) under one school system.
- **Enabling the Academy to administer education and consultancy, supervise publication, and conduct scientific and policy-oriented research and training on entrepreneurship.**
- **Creating a robust Governing Board (Board of Trustees)** comprised of key government officials from CHED, TESDA, NEDA, DOST, DTI, and legislative committees, as well as representatives from the Academy's faculty, students, alumni, and the private sector. This diverse composition ensures broad expertise and oversight.
- **Providing tax exemptions** for the importation of economic, technical, and cultural books, and for grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the Academy, incentivizing support for its mission.
- **Appropriating the necessary funds** for its establishment and continued operation.

By establishing the Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy, the State takes a decisive step towards cultivating a strong entrepreneurial culture, equipping Filipinos with the necessary skills and knowledge to innovate, create sustainable businesses, and significantly contribute to the nation's economic resilience and prosperity.

This bill is a re-filed version of House Bill No. 6473, which was approved by the House of Representatives in December 2022 and was transmitted and received by the Senate December 2022. Due to its non-enactment into law during the 19th Congress and acting on the importance of this measure, the approval of this bill herein sought.

Approved,

RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ
2nd District, Laguna

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2507

Introduced by REP. RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ENTREPRENEURS' ACADEMY 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 Entrepreneurs Academy Act."

Section 2. *Establishment.* There is hereby established a learning institution, under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), to be known as the "Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy," hereinafter referred to as the Academy.

Section 3. *General Mandate.* The Academy shall provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs, short-term technical-vocational nondegree courses and modular trainings that will enhance the core competencies of individuals on entrepreneurship. It shall cater to technical-vocational, college and graduate students. It shall promote the relevance of entrepreneurship to job generation and its significant role to the sustainable economic growth of the country.

The Academy shall formalize and integrate, under a school system, the nonformal entrepreneurship programs and short-term technical-vocational courses of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and other government agencies. It shall administer education and consultancy, and supervise publication on entrepreneurship. It shall also conduct scientific and policy-oriented research and training.

The Academy shall comply with the requirements and standards of CHED and the provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", and other pertinent laws on higher education.

Section 4. Curricular Offerings. – The Academy shall offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs and short-term diploma or certificate courses on entrepreneurship, including entrepreneurship development in the fields of agriculture, trade, technology, and the manufacturing sector. The curriculum and modules of the programs shall be designed and developed following the competency-based curriculum model and in accordance with the mandate of this Act.

Section 5. School Sites. – The Academy shall have two (2) campuses, with the main campus to be established in the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone located in the Provinces of Pampanga and Tarlac, to be known as the “Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy Main Campus-Clark”. The other campus shall be located in the City of Baguio, to be known as the “Philippine Entrepreneurs Academy-Baguio City Campus”.

Section 6. Governing Board. – The governing board of the Academy shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of CHED, and the President of the Academy, respectively, with the following as members:

- a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Senate;
- b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- c) Director General of TESDA;
- d) Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- e) Secretary of DOST;
- f) Secretary of DTI;
- g) President of the federation of faculty associations of the Academy;
- h) President of the federation of student councils of the Academy;
- i) President of the federation of alumni associations of the Academy; and
- j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

The members of the Board shall not receive any compensation or remuneration for their services as such, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in discharging the business of the Academy.

Section 7. Powers and Duties of the Board. – The Board shall be the highest policymaking body of the Academy. In addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of a corporation under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies and pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, as well as policies, standards and thrusts of CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;

- b) Adopt rules and regulations not contrary to law, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the Academy, and to effectively discharge its responsibilities;
- c) Receive assistance from any legitimate source to augment the internal sources of funds, as may be provided, for the support of the Academy in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Academy;
- d) Constitute the Board, as herein defined;
- e) Appoint the President, and as many Vice-Presidents as may be necessary to assist the President in the administration of the affairs of the Academy;
- f) Review periodically the administrative procedures and programs of the Academy;
- g) Receive, in kind and in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds, and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the Academy, subject to limitations, discretions and instructions of the donors, if any;
- h) Fix the tuition fees and other school charges such as matriculation fees, graduation fees, laboratory fees, and other miscellaneous fees as the Board may deem proper to impose after due consultations with the involved sectors: Provided, That these fees shall not be prohibitive or unreasonable as to deviate from the purpose for which the Academy was created based on the guidelines of the CHED;

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other incomes generated by the Academy, shall constitute its regular fund and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same fund for the use of the Academy.

Any provision of existing law, rule and regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the Academy from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the Academy, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension services, or other programs and projects of the Academy: Provided, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which they were collected. If for reason beyond its control, the Academy shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the Academy;

- i) Adopt and implement a socialized tuition scheme for greater access of poor,

but deserving students in accordance with Republic Act No.10931 or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”;

- j) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment, and other facilities, as well as the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including the necessary supplies, materials, and equipment;
- k) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the Academy, the deans, executive directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees;
- l) Prescribe the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and by such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and civil service rules and regulations governing hours of service and related concerns, and other pertinent laws;
- m) Formulate and implement the curricula and institutional programs of the Academy: *Provided*, That they comply with the minimum CHED requirements and guidelines;
- n) Formulate and promulgate the rules of discipline for the students of the Academy to ensure orderly and effective governance thereof;
- o) Set policies on admission and graduation of students: *Provided*, That they conform with CHED guidelines;
- p) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of education, public service, arts, science and technology, or any field of specialization within the academic competence of the Academy and to authorize the issuance of certificates of completion of non-baccalaureate programs and nontraditional or innovative courses: *Provided*, That these conform with the 5 applicable guidelines of the CHED and TESDA;
- q) Establish research and extension centers of the Academy where such will promote the development of the latter;
- r) Establish professorial chairs in the Academy and provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;
- s) Enter into any agreements or joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable management of the economic and manpower assets of the Academy, the proceeds from which shall be used for the upgrading of facilities and its development;
- t) Authorize an external management audit of the Academy, to be financed by

the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

- u) Import economic, technical, and cultural books and publications;
- v) Develop consortia, academe-industry linkages and other forms of networks with other institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign: *Provided*, That these comply with the applicable guidelines of the CHED in furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the institution as well as develop academic arrangements for institution capacity and capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private;
- w) Appoint experts and specialists as consultants, or visiting or exchange professors, scholars, researchers, as the case may be: *Provided*, That the appointment shall conform with CHED guidelines;
- x) Set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge, such as the use of information technology, the dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to education;
- y) Outsource, where most advantageous to the institution, the management of non-academic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance and similar objectives;
- z) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President or the other officials of the Academy, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the Academy;
- aa) Extend the term of the President of the Academy beyond the age of retirement, when deemed meritorious due to outstanding performance, but not beyond the age of seventy (70) years old; and
- bb) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Academy.

Section 8. *President of the Academy.* – The Academy shall be headed by a President, who shall render full time service and shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of a duly constituted Search Committee. The President shall also be the chief executive officer of the Academy.

The President shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment to another term. Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the Academy, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency.

The President shall receive such compensation and remuneration in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and by such other

laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions. The President shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a) Submit for the consideration of the Board and the Executive Committee, the policies and measures which are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Academy;
- b) Recommend, coordinate, and administer the programs and projects of the Academy;
- c) Direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Academy, and delegate administrative responsibilities in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Academy;
- d) Submit an annual report to the Board setting forth the accomplishments of the Academy during the year, its financial operations and status, and a program and budget for the ensuing year; and
- e) Exercise other powers and discharge other functions, as may be vested by the Board and the Executive Committee.

The Board shall designate an Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the Academy in case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the Academy, in addition to those provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar educational institutions, and those delegated by the Board.

Section 9. *Executive Committee.* – There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President of the Academy and four (4) other members to be elected by the Board from its members. Each Members of the Executive Committee, other than the President of the Academy, shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, and shall be eligible for re-election, unless at the time of election, a shorter term is specified. The Board shall elect the Chairperson of the Executive Committee from the membership of the Board.

Section 10. *Functions of the Executive Committee.* – The Executive Committee shall administer the affairs of the Academy in accordance with such functions, powers and responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board.

Section 11. *Government Support and Coordination.* – The CHED Chairperson is hereby authorized to call upon any department, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government for such assistance as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 12. *Tax Exemption.* – The importation of economic, technical and cultural books and publications, which are for the economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes of the Academy, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff 13 Act”.

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to the Academy, to be used actually, directly and exclusively by it, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Section 13. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED shall, in coordination with TESDA and DTI, formulate the necessary rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 15. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,