

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2690



Introduced by:
HONORABLE JAIME EDUARDO MARC D. COJUANGCO
Representative, 1st District, Tarlac

**AN ACT RENAMING THE TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY (TAU) TO
TARLAC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY (TSTAU),
REORGANIZING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, ENHANCING ITS CURRICULAR
OFFERINGS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 10800,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT CONVERTING THE TARLAC COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE (TCA) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAMILING, PROVINCE OF
TARLAC INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE TARLAC
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10800, enacted in 2016, converted the Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) in the Municipality of Camiling, Province of Tarlac, into a state university to be known as the Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU). This transformation represented a significant milestone in the development of higher education in Central Luzon, especially in the field of agriculture and its allied disciplines.

Since its conversion, TAU has undergone dynamic and substantial institutional growth. It has expanded its academic portfolio to include programs in engineering, business and entrepreneurship, teacher education, arts and humanities, veterinary medicine, and other allied health sciences. It has also strengthened its research, extension, and internationalization efforts. These changes have led to increased student enrollment, heightened accreditation of programs, and enhanced recognition both locally and abroad.

Despite these advances, the name “Tarlac Agricultural University” continues to imply that the institution is primarily, if not solely, focused on agriculture. This has created limitations in public perception, branding, and strategic positioning, especially in areas of science, technology, innovation, and medical education. The university administration, faculty, and stakeholders have therefore proposed the renaming of the institution to the Tarlac Science, Technology, and Agricultural University (TSTAU) — a name that more accurately captures the comprehensive and multidisciplinary nature of the university’s mission, vision, and academic offerings.

This bill proposes the following essential amendments:

1. Renaming the University – from TAU to TSTAU to reflect its expanded mandate and to eliminate misconceptions that the university only offers agriculture-related programs.

2. Revision of the General Mandate and Curricular Offerings – to emphasize advanced instruction not only in agriculture, but also in science, technology, engineering, business, teacher education, and allied health fields.
3. Reorganization of the Governing Board – by including the Regional Directors of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DepDev, formerly NEDA), recognizing the critical role of these sectors in shaping the future of the university.
4. Formal Recognition of Additional Vice Presidents – particularly the Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance, whose functions are vital to ensuring institutional excellence and compliance with CHED standards.
5. Security of Tenure for University Leadership – through the creation of a plantilla item for the outgoing university president, to encourage continuity and stability in leadership transition.
6. Mandated Issuance of Land Titles – to the university for all government-owned land it currently occupies, resolving longstanding bureaucratic delays and legal uncertainties regarding property ownership.
7. Extension of Compliance Period – for meeting CHED requirements for full university status, to allow flexibility while ensuring adherence to outcomes-based and typology-based quality assurance.
8. Introduction of a Transitory Clause – appointing the incumbent university president as the first president under the new charter, to ensure continuity in the implementation of the university's strategic direction.

These proposed amendments are not merely cosmetic or semantic—they are substantive reforms intended to elevate the institution's capacity to deliver quality, inclusive, and transformative education for the people of Tarlac, Region III, and the entire country. By renaming and reorganizing the university, we equip it with the necessary institutional identity, administrative structure, and legal support to pursue excellence across a broader spectrum of disciplines.

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


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AN ACT RENAMING THE TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY (TAU) TO TARLAC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY (TSTAU), REORGANIZING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, ENHANCING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) NO. 10800, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT CONVERTING THE TARLAC COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (TCA) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAMILING, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE TARLAC AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as “The Tarlac Science, Technology, and Agricultural University Charter”.

SECTION 2. *TAU Renamed.* – Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) is hereby renamed to Tarlac Science, Technology, and Agricultural University (TSTAU)

SECTION 3. *General Mandate.* – Section 2 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 2. General Mandate. – The Tarlac Science, Technology, and Agricultural University, hereinafter referred to as the TSTAU, shall primarily provide advanced instruction in the field of agriculture, business, arts and humanities, teacher education, engineering, science, technology and other allied medical field. It shall also undertake research, extension services, and production activities in support of the development of the entire Philippines, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.”

SECTION 4. Section 4 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 4. *Curricular Offerings.* - The TSTAU shall offer undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate courses in the fields of agriculture, business, entrepreneurship, arts and humanities, veterinary medicine, teacher education, science, technology, engineering, and other allied medical courses with emphasis on agriculture, science and technology and other courses within its areas of specialization, and according to its capabilities as the Board may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in meeting the needs of the Province of Tarlac, Region III and the entire country.

The University may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school under its College of Education.”

SECTION 5. Section 6 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 6. The Governing Board. – The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairperson;
- (b) The President of the University, Vice Chairperson;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;
- (e) The Regional Director of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev), member;
- (f) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA), member;
- (g) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), member;
- (h) The Regional Director of the Department of Health, member;
- (i) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the University, member;
- (j) The President of the federation of student councils of the University, member;
- (k) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the University, member;
- (l) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization, members; and
- (m) The President of Non-Academic Staff Association, non-voting member.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from a list of qualified persons in the Province of Tarlac, as recommended by the search committee, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the position.

The Presidents of the federation of faculty associations, the federation of student councils, the federation of alumni associations and federation of non-academic staff association shall serve in the Board only for the duration of their respective terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and bylaws.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment, and shall be eligible for renewal for another term of two (2) years.

SECTION 6. Sub-section (z) of Section 7 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“(z) Serve as disciplining authority for all officers and employees of the TSTAU, both teaching and non-teaching; *and*”

SECTION 7. A new sub-section is hereby added to Section 7 of R.A. 10800

“(aa) Extend the term of the President of the University, whose performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding, beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), upon the recommendation of the search committee.”

SECTION 8. Section 9 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 9. *The University President.* - The University shall be headed by a President, who shall render full-time service and who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The University President shall serve a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term: *Provided*, that this provision shall not adversely affect the term of the incumbent President.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the University, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency (SCP).

The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the University, in case of a 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 Officer-in-Charge shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

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

The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, as modified by Joint Resolution No. 4 dated June 17, 2009, and other pertinent budget and compensation laws, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions. A Plantilla item equivalent to the salary grade of the incumbent University President shall be created and reserved to the immediately outgoing University President.

The President of the University shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic Affairs, a Vice President for Finance and Administration, Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance, and a Vice President for Research, Extension and Training, whose appointment by the University President shall be confirmed by the Board.”

SECTION 9. Section 17 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 17. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* - All assets, real and personal, personnel and records of the TAU, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby retained by the University: *Provided*, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to this Act shall be respected: *Provided*, further, That the incumbents of the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise provided for by the

Board: *Provided*, finally, That the University shall also include an upgrade or increase in its human resource component.

All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the TAU, including those that were originally occupied by the TCA, are hereby declared to be property of the University, and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert to the LGU concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be. The concerned Register of Deeds where the properties are located shall be obliged to issue the necessary Certificate of Title under the name of the University.”

Section 10. Sub-section (f) of Section 23 of R.A. 10800 is hereby amended as follows:

“(f) Outreach activities that allow the students, faculty, and research staff to apply the new knowledge they generate to address specific social development problems broadly defined.

The institution shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act, unless in the meantime it is able to comply with the requirements provided herein, within a period not later than January 01, 2029.”

SECTION 11. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Tarlac Agricultural University under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act, including the expansion of academic offerings, reorganization of administrative and support offices, creation of plantilla positions, infrastructure development, and operationalization of new curricular programs, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of the Tarlac Science, Technology, and Agricultural University (TSTAU).

SECTION 12. Transitory Provision. – In order to effect the smooth transition and implementation of the new charter, the incumbent University President shall serve as the first University President under this new charter and who shall be eligible for re-appointment for another fresh term.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 14. 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 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,