

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4037



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COURSES OFFERED BY THE TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO COVER EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITAL SKILLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Today's labor market is being reshaped by new and emerging technologies. Based on a report by the World Economic Forum, advancements in technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics, are fueling demand for technology-related skills.¹ In fact, technology-related roles, such as big data experts, fintech engineers, AI and machine learning specialists, and software and application developers, are among the fastest growing jobs.² As such, educational programs in these areas and industries can be useful to enhance workers' employability.³

In the Philippines, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is the government agency primarily responsible for formulating coordinated and fully integrated technical education and skills development policies, plans and programs.⁴ From January to December 2024, a total of 1,375,627 students enrolled in TESDA training programs.⁵ In 2023, the top 3 sectors with the highest percentage share in terms of enrolled and graduates are (1) Tourism, (2) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, and (3) Social, Community Development and Other Services.⁶

¹ https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_Report_2025.pdf

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Republic Act No. 7796, Section 8.

⁵ <https://www.tesda.gov.ph/Media/NewsDetail/20388#:~:text=From%20January%20to%20December%202024,were%20certified%20as%20skilled%20workers.>

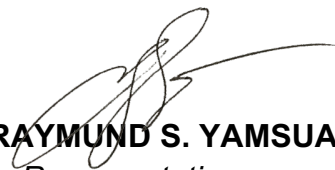
⁶ <https://www.tesda.gov.ph/Uploads/File/Planning2024/Annual%20Report/24.03.25%20ANNUAL%20T VET%20Statistics%202023.pdf>

Despite these hopeful numbers, there is still a gap in the skills that will be needed by Filipinos to catch up to the demands of employers when it comes to new technologies brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0. This new era is characterized by connectivity, analytics and intelligence, human-machine interaction, and advanced engineering.⁷ Consequently, there is a need for the reskilling and upskilling of workers to adapt to this current and future industrial revolutions.

For example, in the City of Parañaque, there are multiple buildings accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, reflecting continued demand for information technology and technology-enabled services.⁸ However, there are not a lot of opportunities to learn about emerging technologies to access higher-value jobs.

This measure aims to expand TESDA's accredited programs to modern technological and digital fields. By doing so, it operationalizes the constitutional mandate to give priority to science and technology education, training, and services.⁹

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

⁷<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-are-industry-4-0-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-and-4ir>

⁸https://easypropertymatch.com/peza-accredited-buildings-in-paranaque-as-of-june-30-2024/articles/4098/?srsId=AfmBOoqo_445UKQBMic2ILNjppAABIdvXOa02WUpIOBREeVzmXrWXaci

⁹ 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 10.

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*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 “TESDA Programs Modernization Act.”

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the declared policy of the State to provide relevant, accessible, high quality and efficient technical education and skills development to Filipinos, responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities. The State recognizes the need to equip its citizens with modern technological and digital skills. Towards this end, the State shall expand and continuously update TESDA-accredited programs to cover emerging technologies and digital skills to promote global competitiveness.

SECTION 3. Expansion of TESDA Courses. – Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, TESDA shall expand its courses and programs to include emerging technologies and digital skills aligned with the Industry 4.0 and future industrial revolutions, such as but not limited to Artificial Intelligence, software development and coding, game development, cybersecurity, digital marketing and e-commerce, robotics, and 3-D printing.

TESDA shall ensure that its courses and programs are reviewed every three (3) years and updated as necessary, to remain responsive to technological advancements, with the goal of future-proofing the Filipino workforce.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the TESDA in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,