

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4082



Introduced by Representative Edsel A. Galeos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

The value of education has been recognized by no less than the fundamental law of our land. Access to quality education has been enshrined in our Constitution to ensure that it shall always remain a policy consideration when the government determines laws, systems, and plans.

The Cebu Normal University (CNU) is one of the oldest educational institutions in Cebu. It has a main campus in Cebu City and two extension campuses located in the Municipalities of Balamban and Medellin, Province of Cebu. As of Fiscal Year 2023, it offers 32 programs across various disciplines of which all its undergraduate programs are issued with Certificates of Program Compliance (COPC) by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). It is one of the leading higher education institutions nationwide and is known for upholding academic excellence. Both the faculty and students of the University are actively involved in research and extension services which contribute to national, regional, and local development.

As of 2020, the Province of Cebu already has a population of 3,325,385. As the population grows, so does the demand for essential services including education. Thus, there is a need to establish and create an additional campus to accommodate the influx of enrollees.

This measure seeks to establish a regular campus of the Cebu Normal University located in the Municipality of Argao, Province of Cebu. The Municipality of Argao is among the first-class income municipalities in the Province of Cebu, it lies in the southeast portion of the Province of Cebu and is approximately 66 kilometers from Cebu City. The creation of a new campus will significantly improve access to higher education, especially for the residents of the Municipality of Argao and the surrounding areas. The measure aims to bridge the gap caused by limited access to educational institutions due to high housing costs and inadequate transportation options. It will also enhance infrastructure, provide additional resources for academic programs, and secure increased funding for other academic endeavors such as research initiatives and extracurricular activities, benefiting both the students and the faculty.

For the foregoing reasons, passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


EDSEL A. GALEOS

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARGAO, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN
AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY-ARGAO CAMPUS, 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 Cebu Normal University-Argao Campus Act of 2025”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of higher education relevant to the ever-changing needs of the people and society with primary focus on quality research and development and higher education leading to medical, nursing and healthcare programs.

The State recognizes that education sector is an essential element for the attainment of sustained national and local development and progress.

Therefore, the State shall establish, promote and support centers and programs leading to the realization of this objective, such as scholarship programs, improvement of the quality of education, popularization and sustainability of higher education programs directed towards the development, promotion and continual enhancements of the knowledge, competences, skills, and potentials of the young populace and learners in various fields of specialization.

In the realization of the foregoing, the State shall also provide adequate resources in the implementation and sustainability of higher education institutions (HEIs) campuses with distinctive operational efficiency, effectiveness and productivity that develops, utilizes and maintains state-of-the-art technologies and sound architecture infrastructures to ensure meaningful student experience and establishing conducive working environment to the officials, faculty, non-teaching personnel, students and clients.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of the CNU-Argao Campus.* – There is hereby established a regular campus of Cebu Normal University in the Municipality of Argao, which shall be known as the “Cebu Normal University- Argao Campus or CNU-ArC.”

1 **SECTION 4. *General Mandate.*** – The CNU-Argao Campus shall offer
2 undergraduate and graduate courses such as, but not limited to, education, tourism, science
3 and technology, information and communications technology (ICT), nautical, maritime
4 education, artificial intelligence, data management, special needs education, early
5 childhood education, lifelong learning, forestry, environmental protection and
6 conservation, livelihood technology education, criminology, engineering, electronics and
7 manufacturing, foresight and futures management, real estate management, business and
8 economics, food technology innovation and incubation, marine sciences, fishery, utilities
9 and logistics, energy such, but not limited to, renewable energy and petroleum engineering,
10 disaster risk reduction and management, and such programs within its areas of competency
11 and specialization, pursuant to the mandates of the CNU, and according to its capability,
12 as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary for the
13 accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resources
14 development needs of the Province of Cebu

15 and the Central Visayas Region. Furthermore, in order to maximize the quality of nursing,
16 law and medical programs and produce more leaders, professionals and educators therein,
17 the CNU-Argao Campus shall offer at least two-year curriculum for the BS in Nursing,
18 Juris Doctor and Doctor of Medicine programs and the successful completers therein shall
19 be allowed to continue and graduate in the CNU Main Campus and/or such Campus of the
20 University duly designated by the Board, under the 2+2 model, subject to the requirements
21 of the policies and standards prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education and
22 authorization by the Board of Regents of the University.

23
24 It is also mandated to undertake research and extension services in support of the
25 socioeconomic development and to provide progressive leadership in these areas.

26
27 **SECTION 5. *Supervision and Management.*** – The University President shall have
28 overall supervision and management of the CNU-Argao Campus. The Campus shall be
29 headed by a Campus Director who shall be appointed/designated by the Board, subject to
30 its guidelines, qualifications and standards, and upon the recommendation of Search
31 Committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the Campus Director: *provided,*
32 That pending the submission of the report by the Search Committee duly constituted by
33 the Board, the University President shall designate from among the faculty members or
34 employees of the University to serve as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Campus Director or
35 in acting capacity subject to the confirmation by the Board and applicable policies of the
36 Civil Service Commission. *Provided, however,* that in order to ensure smooth transition,
37 the incumbent designated Campus Director of CNU-Argao Campus, if qualified, shall
38 serve as the first Campus Director, subject to the pertinent provisions of the University
39 Code and policies promulgated by the Board.

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41 The Campus Director shall be assisted by a Dean who shall be appointed or
42 designated with the duties and functions determined by the University President, subject
43 to the confirmation by the Board.

44
45 **SECTION 6. *Compliance with the Requirements of the Commission on Higher***
46 ***Education (CHED).*** – The CNU shall ensure compliance of the CNU-Argao Campus with
47 the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of the campus,
48 including those related to the offering of courses and the introduction of new or revised
49 programs prior to the effectivity of this Act.

50
51 **SECTION 7. *Management of Personnel, Assets, Liabilities, and Records.*** – All
52 assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the CNU-Argao Campus, as well

1 as its liabilities or obligations, shall be transferred to the CNU. The positions, rights, and
2 security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws
3 prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be respected.
4

5 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the CNU-Argao
6 Campus shall be transferred to the CNU: *Provided*, that should the CNU-Argao Campus
7 or the CNU cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land
8 be no longer needed by the CNU, the same shall revert to the local government unit
9 concerned or the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.
10

11 **SECTION 8. *Development Plans.*** – Within sixty (60) working days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the University shall submit Medium-Term Development Plan and
13 such plans to its Board of Regents for review and endorsement to the Department of
14 Budget and Management (DBM) for the provision of plantilla positions and budgetary
15 requirements of the Campus for its operations and maintenance.
16

17 **SECTION 9. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
18 otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part
19 of this Act.
20

21 **SECTION 10. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
22 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
23

24 The Municipality of Argao shall continue to provide assistance to the CNU-Argao Campus
25 until such time that the amount necessary for the hiring of faculty and administrative staff,
26 operation and maintenance of the CNU-Argao Campus shall be authorized by the DBM or
27 included of the annual GAA, as the case may be.
28

29 **SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) working
30 days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue
31 rules and regulations to implement its provisions.
32

33 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of
34 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
35 affected are in full force and effect.
36

37 **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive
38 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
39 repealed or modified accordingly.
40

41 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
42 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
43 circulation.
44

45 Approved