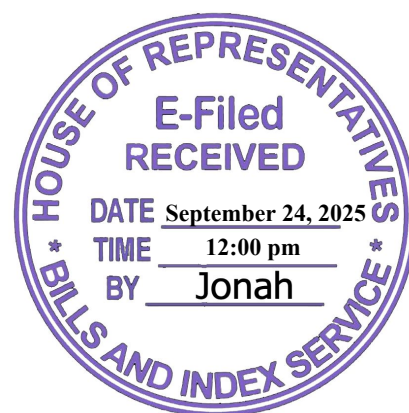




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4851



INTRODUCED BY: HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The youth represent a dynamic force for economic growth and innovation. However, young entrepreneurs face significant challenges, including limited access to capital, lack of mentorship, and complex regulatory requirements, particularly in provinces and less urbanized cities. While Republic Act No. 10679 (Youth Entrepreneurship Act) promotes entrepreneurial education and Republic Act No. 10644 establishes Negosyo Centers, these initiatives lack a targeted focus on localized, youth-specific support systems.

This measure seeks to bridge these gaps by establishing Youth Innovation and Enterprise Centers in every province and highly urbanized city. These centers will serve as one-stop hubs offering start-up capital, mentorship and skills development.

This measure is expected to reduce youth unemployment, and foster regional economic development. By empowering young Filipinos to innovate and create jobs. This bill aligns with the Philippine Development Plan's goals for inclusive and innovative growth, ensuring that the youth contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Foregoing considered; the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar



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AN ACT TO DEVELOP YOUTH INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE CENTERS IN PROVINCES AND CITIES, PROVIDING ACCESS TO START-UP CAPITAL, MENTORSHIP AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, FOR YOUTH-LED MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Youth Innovation and Enterprise Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes the critical role of the youth in driving economic innovation, job creation, and sustainable development. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the sustained development of young Filipinos and honed their abilities through education and specialized training programs. To empower young Filipinos to establish and sustain micro, small, and medium enterprises. Towards this end, the State shall support a complete, adequate, and integrated system to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit among our youth as well as support and promote the growth of young entrepreneurs nationwide.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* For the purposes of this Act

- a. “Youth” – refers to individuals aged fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years
- b. “Youth-Led MSME” – refers to a micro, small, or medium enterprise where at least fifty-one percent (51%) of ownership and management is held by youth, and which meets the criteria for MSMEs
- c. “Youth Innovation and Enterprise Center” – refers to a facility established in provinces and cities to serve as a hub for youth-led MSMEs, providing start-up capital, mentorship, skills training, and business development services.
- d. “Start-up Capital” – refers to financial assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans provided to youth-led MSMEs for business initiation or early-stage growth.
- e. “Mentorship and Skills Development” – includes business coaching, technical training, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship education tailored to youth.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of Youth Innovation and Enterprise Centers.* The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in collaboration with the National Youth Commission (NYC), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Public Works and

Highways (DPWH) and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall establish at least one (1) Youth Innovation and Enterprise Center in every province and highly urbanized city within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Functions of the Youth Innovation and Enterprise Centers.* Each Center shall provide the following services to qualified entrepreneurs:

- a. Provide access to start-up capital through the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.
- b. Provide access to shared facilities such as co-working spaces
- c. Provide guidance on business registration, licensing, and intellectual property rights
- d. Provide support for market access, including participation in trade fairs and e-commerce platforms
- e. Facilitate skills development programs and mentorship programs introducing and connecting youth with experienced entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and academic experts

SECTION 6. *Youth Enterprise Development Fund.* A Youth Enterprise Development Fund is hereby established.

SECTION 7. *Eligibility Criteria and Application Process.* Youth entrepreneurs may apply for support through a Youth Innovation and Enterprise Center by submitting proof of age, a business plan, and MSME registration documents.

SECTION 8. *Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting.* The DTI, in coordination with the National Youth Commission (NYC) shall establish a monitoring system to track the performance of supported MSMEs, including metrics on job creation, revenue growth, and innovation outputs.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in consultation with the National Youth Commission (NYC), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Finance (DOF), and other appropriate agencies as may be deemed necessary, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval. The rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,