

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4997

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to accessible and quality education is a fundamental pillar of national development and social justice. The Philippine Constitution and statutes such as Republic Act No. 8292, or the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997," mandate the State to make higher education accessible to all, with particular emphasis on underserved and geographically isolated areas RA 8292 (1997). Republic Act No. 9261 further establishes the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) as an instrument for delivering advanced education and professional training in the province RA 9261 (2004).

The Municipality of Pintuyan, situated at the southern tip of Panaon Island in Southern Leyte, is classified as a geographically isolated and disadvantaged area (GIDA) within the Eastern Visayas region. Currently, there is no university or college within Pintuyan's jurisdiction, and the nearest SLSU campus in Sogod is approximately 70 kilometers away. This significant distance imposes logistical and financial hardships on students, particularly those from low-income families, often resulting in deferred educational aspirations and unfulfilled potential.

The absence of local tertiary education options not only limits the prospects of Pintuyan's youth but also constrains the socioeconomic development of the municipality and neighboring areas such as San Ricardo, Saint Bernard, and Limasawa Island. These communities would greatly benefit from improved access to quality public higher education.

This bill seeks to establish the Southern Leyte State University – Pintuyan Campus, a strategic initiative to decentralize higher education and bring it closer to the people. The proposed campus will offer undergraduate, graduate, and technical-vocational programs responsive to local industry needs, including but not limited to agriculture, fisheries, tourism, maritime services, education, and information technology.

Furthermore, the campus is envisioned to serve as a hub for research and extension services tailored to the unique realities of the Eastern Visayas region. Through institutional linkages and community partnerships, the SLSU–Pintuyan Campus will contribute to building a more resilient, empowered, and progressive local population.

Beyond expanding educational access, the establishment of a campus in Pintuyan is expected to stimulate economic activity, generate employment, and encourage local investments in housing, food services, transportation, and infrastructure. This measure supports both human capital development and regional growth, in line with the State’s constitutional and statutory mandate to promote accessible and quality education for all.

In view of the foregoing, and in the spirit of SERBISYONG TINUORAY (genuine public service), the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PINTUYAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SLSU – PINTUYAN 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 the "SLSU – Pintuyan Campus Act".

SEC. 2. Establishment of Southern Leyte State University – Pintuyan Campus — There is hereby established a regular campus of the Southern Leyte State University (SLSU), to be located in the Municipality of Pintuyan, Province of Southern Leyte, which shall be known as the Southern Leyte State University – Pintuyan Campus. Should any law be enacted renaming the Southern Leyte State University, the name of the Pintuyan Campus shall likewise be deemed amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. General Mandate — The SLSU – Pintuyan Campus shall offer undergraduate, graduate, and short-term technical-vocational courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the SLSU Board of Regents may determine, to meet the needs of the Province of Southern Leyte and the Eastern Visayas Region. The Campus shall also undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization, including the offering

of graduate degrees under the SLSU system, consistent with its mandate under RA 9261 (2004).

SEC. 4. Administration and Supervision — The SLSU - Pintuyan Campus shall be headed by a Campus Administrator who shall render full-time service and shall be appointed by the SLSU Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted Search Committee, and in accordance with the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board.

SEC. 5. Compliance with Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Requirements — The SLSU shall ensure that the SLSU – Pintuyan Campus complies with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the operation of the campus, including those pertaining to the offering of new or revised courses and programs, prior to their implementation.

SEC. 6. Management of Assets, Personnel, and Records —. All assets, real and personal, personnel, and records of the SLSU – Pintuyan Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be under the name of the SLSU. All parcels of government land occupied by the SLSU – Pintuyan Campus shall be titled in the name of the SLSU: Provided, That should the campus cease to exist or be abolished, or should such parcels of land be no longer needed by the SLSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit, the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be, consistent with RA 9261 (2004) and RA 11079 (2018).

SEC. 7. Appropriations — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including funding for plantilla positions of teaching and non-teaching personnel, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Supplementary Application — The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997,” and other pertinent laws shall form part of this Act and shall serve as the governing charter of the SLSU and its campuses.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations — Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the SLSU Board of Regents, in consultation with the CHED and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause — If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte