



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIEH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5217



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section I of the Philippine Constitution establishes the State's fundamental mandate to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education." This constitutional provision imposes a clear obligation on Congress to ensure that secondary education is made equally accessible to all Filipino youth, transcending geographical and socio-economic barriers.

Barangay Batug in Javier, Leyte, is home to 806 residents (2020 census), contributing to the municipality's total population of 26,658 across twenty-eight barangays. This locality, like the rest of Javier, has a growing youth demographic. However students from Barangay Batug and surrounding areas currently face significant barriers to secondary education. They must travel considerable distances to attend existing schools, such as the Javier National High School and Paulino M. Covacha National High School in the Municipality of Mcarthur. The combined burdens of long-distance travel, high costs, and severe school congestion directly limit educational access, drive up dropout rates, and ultimately diminish the academic prospects for the youth of Barangay Batug.

The establishment of Batug National High School directly addresses these inadequacies. By situating a local national high school within Barangay Batug, the State will not only alleviate the hardship of distance and transportation costs but also expand educational access to underserved learners. In accordance with the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education, the school will offer Junior and Senior High School programs, including technical-vocational-livelihood strands designed to equip students with employable skills in agriculture, trades, and information technology, thereby aligning education with local economic needs.

Moreover, a phased implementation of grade levels will ensure prudent allocation of government resources, while progressively meeting the increasing educational demand of the community. In the long term, the presence of Batug National High School will enhance literacy, reduce educational inequities, generate community development, and contribute to the national goal of inclusive growth.

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

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY
BATUG, MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS
BATUG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of a National High School.* There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd), a national high school in Barangay Batug, Municipality of Javier, Province of Leyte, to be known as Batug National High School.

SECTION 2. *Curriculum.* The school shall offer secondary education in accordance with the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education. It shall also include relevant technical-vocational courses to equip students with practical and employable skills.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of Batug National High School, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. *Implementation.* The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,