



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5947



Introduced by Rep. Edwin Ongchuan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The practice of social work plays a crucial role in nation-building as it addresses the welfare needs of individuals, families, and communities, especially those in vulnerable situations. In accordance with Republic Act No. 4373, otherwise known as the "Social Work Law", social work practice must be grounded in professional education, technical competence and adherence to ethical standards.

In the Province of Northern Samar, there is a recognized shortage of qualified social workers capable of effectively responding to the growing social welfare challenges faced by its local government units and communities. To address this gap and institutionalize the training of future social workers within the province, this bill seeks to establish a **Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW)** program at the **University of Eastern Philippines (UEP)** in Catarman, Northern Samar. The program aims to develop competent, ethical, and service-oriented professionals equipped to promote human welfare and community development in both the public and private sectors.

The proposed program shall adhere to the pertinent policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). It will also align with the goals of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", which mandates CHED to ensure quality standards and equitable access to higher education.

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


EDWIN C. ONGCHUAN
Representative
Second District, Northern Samar



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES IN CATARMAN, NORTHERN
SAMAR, 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 “University of Eastern Philippines Bachelor of Science in Social Work Program Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote accessible, relevant, and quality education in all regions of the country. Toward this end, the State shall support the establishment of higher education programs that strengthen the professional workforce in social services, consistent with Republic Act No. 4373, otherwise known as the “Social Work Law”.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Program* – There shall be established a Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) program in the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP), located in Catarman, Northern Samar. The program shall offer instruction, research, and extension services in the field of social work.

SECTION 4. *Compliance with CHED Requirements* – The BSSW program shall be in accordance with the policies, standards, and guidelines prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), including CHED Memorandum Order No. 39, Series of 2017, and such other subsequent or amendatory issuances that may hereafter be promulgated.

SECTION 5. *Curriculum and Program Implementation* – The curriculum shall include professional social work courses, field instruction, and research components consistent with national and international standards of practice. The university shall ensure that qualified faculty members and adequate facilities are provided for effective program delivery.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the University of Eastern Philippines. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the BSSW program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with

the University of Eastern Philippines, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause* – Existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,