

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6343



INTRODUCED BY REP. RUTH T. MANGUDADATU-SAKALURAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Legal education plays a vital role in upholding justice, promoting the rule of law, and ensuring that those who enter the legal profession are competent, ethical, and socially responsible. However, access to quality legal education remains a challenge for many Filipinos due to high costs, uneven quality among institutions, and limited opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Also, the concentration of law schools in urban centers limits opportunities for aspiring lawyers in the provinces to pursue legal studies without incurring significant financial and logistical burdens.

This bill seeks to establish the Sultan Kudarat State University – College of Law to provide accessible and affordable legal education in the Province of Sultan Kudarat and neighboring areas. The proposed College aims to produce competent, ethical, and socially responsible members of the legal profession who will serve their communities and contribute to the administration of justice.

The College shall offer (a) graduate programs in Juris Doctor, Master of Laws, and Doctor of Laws; (b) Confer degrees, diplomas, and certificates to qualified candidates; (c) Undertake research, extension, and legal aid programs and; (d) Enter into linkages and agreements with other academic and legal institutions, subject to existing laws;

The establishment of the Sultan Kudarat State University – College of Law will not only enhance access to legal education in the region but will also strengthen the

legal and judicial institutions by producing homegrown professionals grounded in the principles of justice and public service.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal flourish.

RUTH T. MANGUDADATU-SAKALURAN

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AN ACT
CREATING THE SULTAN KUDARAT STATE UNIVERSITY -
COLLEGE OF LAW, PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATION,
ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Sultan Kudarat State University-College of Law Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote accessible and high-quality legal education and to foster the development of competent, ethical, and socially responsible members of the legal profession.

SECTION 3. Establishment - There is hereby established a College of Law in the Sultan Kudarat State University located in the City of Tacurong, Province of Sultan Kudarat, which shall be known as the "Sultan Kudarat State University-College of Law".

SECTION 4. Governance. -The governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the SKSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers and functions are defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9966, entitled, "An Act Converting the Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC) in the City of Tacurong and its Designated Campuses in the Municipalities of Lutayan, Kalamansig, Palimbang and Isulan, all located in the Province of Sultan Kudarat into a State University to be Known as the Sultan Kudarat State University (SKSU) and Appropriating Funds Therefor", and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

The Board shall have the authority to appoint the Dean and other officials, prescribe academic programs, and promulgate rules and regulations for the effective operation of the College.

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions. - The College, subject to the rules and regulations duly approved by the Board of Regents, shall have the following powers and functions: (a) To offer the graduate programs in Juris Doctor, Masters of Laws, and Doctor of Laws; (b) To confer degrees, diplomas, and certificates to successful candidates; (c) To undertake research, extension, and legal aid programs; (d) To enter into agreements with other institutions, subject to existing laws; (e) To receive and appropriate funds for its support and development; and (f) To perform such other acts as may be necessary for the attainment of its objectives.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of Sultan Kudarat State University - College of Law. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the College shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act .

To further strengthen the capacity of the College in legal education, research, instruction, and facilities development, an SKSU-College of Law Fund in the amount of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) per year for a period of five years shall be appropriated, in addition to the regular appropriations and increases for the College under the annual General Appropriations Act. This fund shall likewise be

included in the annual General Appropriations Act and shall be disbursed by the Board of Regents strictly in accordance with the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,