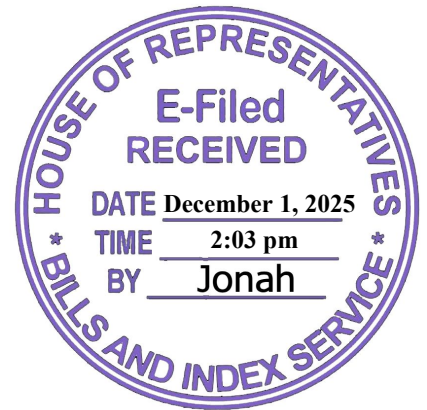


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6496



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are moments in a student's life that define not just what they have achieved but who they are becoming, and graduation is one of these rare, transformative moments. It marks the culmination of years of perseverance and the beginning of new journeys filled with hope and possibility. For countless Filipino families, it is a day when sacrifices are honored, dreams are affirmed, and pride is shared across generations.

In a nation as culturally rich and diverse as the Philippines, every region carries a tapestry of traditions, stories, and identities. Our handwoven textiles are among the most powerful embodiments of this heritage. Each weave carries the imprint of a community's history, artistry, and spirit. Incorporating Philippine textiles into academic regalia allows students to walk across the stage wearing symbols of home, culture, and identity, turning a personal milestone into a collective celebration of who we are as Filipinos.

Beyond symbolism, this act uplifts the weaving communities whose craftsmanship sustains both cultural memory and local livelihoods. Many of these artisans continue their work despite economic challenges, driven by pride in traditions that have endured for centuries. By integrating their textiles into graduation ceremonies, we provide meaningful support to these communities and strengthen sustainable, homegrown industries.

This measure therefore seeks to deepen cultural appreciation, promote local production, and proudly elevate our national identity. It proposes that all State and Local Universities and Colleges adopt the use of neo ethnic Philippine textiles, crafted from local materials and inspired by traditional designs, for academic gowns and

related garments. In doing so, every graduation becomes not only a celebration of academic success but also a tribute to our heritage and the resilient communities that keep it alive.

In the Nineteenth Congress, the House of Representatives approved a similar measure on Third Reading as House Bill No. 7620 on May 8, 2023.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


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

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 6496

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
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 “Philippine Academic Regalia Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and nationalism among the youth whose academic preparation for adulthood and responsible citizenship include values formation on love of country and pride in the uniqueness of their cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for displaying these values shall be encouraged by the school system not only as part of values development, but to preserve Philippine culture and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing of academic regalia that is based on Filipino ethnic and traditional design to promote the production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, boost the national effort to develop culture-based industries, and in the process create jobs in local communities.

Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) is therefore prescribed.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) *Academic regalia* refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty, graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other academic functions; and
- (b) *Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles* refer to textiles made of or containing natural or indigenous materials, sourced, and produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant, and green, scientific, and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs, and approaches.

SECTION 4. Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council. — There is hereby created a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the following as members:

- (a) Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);
- (b) Representative from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- (c) Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC);
- (d) Representative from the University of the Philippines (UP) System;
- (e) Representative from the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU);
and
- (f) Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions of the Council. — The Council shall have the following specific powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;

- (b) Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates, administrators, faculty, and awardees of SUCs and LUCs;
- (c) Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and loom parts;
- (d) Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;
- (e) Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic regalia and its proper use, protection, trade, and management; and
- (f) Protect the intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile pattern, color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.

SECTION 6. Mandatory Coordination with the Council. — Pursuant to the provisions of this Act, all SUCs and LUCs shall be required to coordinate with the Council to ensure that neo- ethnic Philippine textiles shall be prescribed in their academic regalia, specifically in the hood, robe or gown worn by students in important occasions, such as hooding ceremony or graduation from either a bachelor’s, master’s or doctorate degree, as well as the faculty and other members of the academic community, and may be incorporated in the headgear (mortarboard cap or tam), mortarboard tassel, stole, and cord, among others.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP, PASUC, ALCU, DTI and other relevant stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,