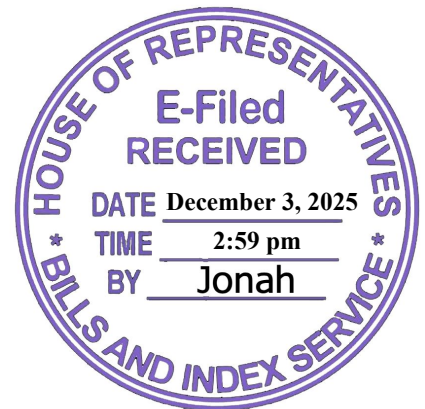




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6597



**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A.
Acidre**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE
STUDIES IN THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice. The State shall encourage the private sector to undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives and shall create an atmosphere that is conducive to the growth and development of these cooperatives.

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) is the leading institution in cooperative studies in the country. PUP (formerly the Philippine College of Commerce) was designated as a training center for the establishment of a Model Project for Non-Agricultural Cooperatives by virtue of Memorandum Order No. 251 issued by President Ferdinand E. Marcos on April 1, 1969. Since then, PCC initiated various intervention programs benefiting cooperatives. By 1979, PUP has developed a complete set of training materials and modules for the cooperative sector, from elementary, high school up to college. These educational materials and the trainings conducted on how to organize cooperatives led to the establishment of a number of cooperatives in the country.

In 1989, the Institute of Cooperatives was established, and PUP began offering Bachelor in Cooperatives program, the first in the Philippines.

PUP has made it its concern to expand program offerings to include courses training services with emphasis and focus on the poor but deserving Filipino youth to become the next generation of cooperative leaders and managers that could future-proof the registered cooperatives in the country, and eventually redound for its sustainability, as well as for economic recovery and national development.

To further its advocacy of cooperative development and cooperative studies, this representation proposes the creation of the National Center for Cooperative Studies in PUP and offer integrative and holistic services for the entire cooperative sector.

It is the intent of this bill, therefore, that the creation of National Center for Cooperative Studies in PUP help promote, enhance, develop, and upgrade the Philippine Cooperative Sector.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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*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 “PUP National Center
for Cooperative Studies Act”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to foster the
creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-
reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic
development and social justice. The State shall encourage the private sector to
undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives and shall create
an atmosphere that is conducive to the growth and development of these
cooperatives.

Toward this end, the Government and all its branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities and agencies shall ensure the provision of technical guidance, financial assistance and other services to enable said cooperatives to develop into viable and responsive economic enterprises and thereby bring about a strong cooperative movement that is free from any conditions that might infringe upon the autonomy or organizational integrity of cooperatives.

Further, the State recognizes the principle of subsidiarity under which the cooperative sector will initiate and regulate within its own ranks the promotion and organization, training and research, audit and support services relative to cooperatives with government assistance where necessary.

SEC. 3. *Declaration of Objectives.* – That it is the concern of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) to expand program offerings to include courses training services with emphasis and focus on the poor but deserving Filipino youth to become the next generation of cooperative leaders and managers that could future-proof the registered cooperatives in the country, and eventually redound for its sustainability, as well as for economic recovery and national development.

The creation of the National Center for Cooperative Studies (NCCS) in the PUP will serve as an integrative and holistic center that will cater to the needs of the entire cooperative sector where their activities can be centralized in order to fulfill a much greater responsibility to address the needs of the Cooperative Sector in the Philippines in the ASEAN region.

The program trajectory of the NCCS shall be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, International Cooperative Development Agenda, the Philippine Medium Term Development Plan, Ambisyon Natin 2040, as it endeavors to address poverty, pursue economic development, promote

empowerment, resiliency, and social innovation through cooperative social enterprise.

SEC. 4. *Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.* – The Board of Regents of the PUP is hereby authorized to establish the NCCS under the direct supervision of its Institute of Cooperative. The Center shall have cooperative specialists with higher degree of competence and expertise in business management, financial management and community development.

SEC. 5. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover the creation of the NCCS and the formation of all the integrative programs that will carry out its objective, including all the required activities, support services, training facilities and the appropriate funds to implement the program.

SEC. 6. *Framework.* – The NCCS shall consists the following integrative programs:

A. *The Bachelor of Science in Cooperatives* – In response to the growing need of the Philippine cooperative movement for higher managerial competence and expertise of the cooperatives' leadership, NCCS shall offer the Bachelor of Science in Cooperatives. This is a four-year degree, with the following specializations, BSC major in Cooperative Social Enterprise Management and the BSC major in Cooperative Education and Community Development.

The BS Cooperative course aims to produce cooperative technopreneur, provide the human resource and manpower requirement of the cooperative sector. The program aims to produce globally competitive graduates who will be professionally competent, morally discerning, change agents, social innovators for national development.

BS Cooperative students are trained to attain a higher level of values-based and managerial competence and expertise in community cooperative organizing, management and leadership.

B. Deployment of Staff Support/Student Assistants to Micro and Small Cooperatives/ On-the-job-trainee/Pre-deployment – NCCS could send staff support to micro, small and medium cooperatives through its On-the-Job Training Program to complement the office workforce and serve as its research enumerators or marketing staff.

C. Education, Extension and Training Services – NCCS shall provide specialized courses and serialized Modular Certificate Program jointly undertaken in partnership with cooperatives in different regions all over the country. These partners and sponsoring cooperatives may send their respective board of directors, cooperative committee officers, managers and support staff to the program for their continuing professionalization.

D. Cooperative Research Group – NCCS shall establish research group that will bridge theory and practice. This research service seeks to address the dearth of literature in cooperative research. NCCS shall also conduct researches in aid of legislation, cooperative development and policy formulation.

E. Production of Modules, Audio Video - Flexible Technology Learning (FlexTel) Teaching and Learning Materials for Elementary, Junior, Senior High School and Higher Education on Adult Education, Cooperative Enterprise, Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship – NCCS shall form a technical working group to craft modules; popular

education materials, handouts, audio-video production that will serve as teaching and learning material to aid students.

F. Student Laboratory Cooperative – NCCS shall house a student laboratory. Students of the program, as well as from the allied courses may join and visit the Student Laboratory Cooperative to avail of the services and products of cooperatives. Students, officers, staff of the Laboratory Cooperative working in shifts may serve as volunteers and may avail of certificate/equivalency for the number of hours they have worked in the Lab Coop to be credited as part of their OJT.

G. Training Facility – NSSC shall conduct trainings, host annual cooperative congress and international conferences in partnership with line agencies of the government, the industry, the cooperative sector, the academe and international cooperative alliance, and partner cooperatives in the ASEAN region.

H. Consultancy, Technical and Information Support Services – NCCS shall provide consultancy, technical and information support services to partners to complement the specialized courses and fill in the gaps in the application of the actual knowledge and skills gained from the short and certificate courses offered by the NCCS. These technical and consulting support services may also match the expertise of the faculty members, who could be tapped by the different medium and millionaire cooperatives in the country to assist them in the preparation of their performance, audit reports, strategic plans and programs.

SEC. 7. *Partner Organizations.* – NCCS shall spur collaboration among cooperatives in the local, regional, national and international level in line with the principle of cooperativism which is “Cooperation among cooperatives”. Cooperatives may share best practices and educative learning processes that enabled their cooperatives to prosper, to operate amidst challenges brought about by the pandemic and ultimately to work for the benefit of their members and the greater community in the better normal.

SEC. 8. *Funding and Appropriations.* — The initial amount of One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P 150,000,000.00) shall be added to the annual budget of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines for the first year of the operation of the center. Thereafter, the amount necessary to operate the center shall be proposed by PUP and shall be included in its annual budget.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Authority.* – The Board of Regents of the University is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the National Center for Cooperative Studies shall aim at the speedy realization and execution of its objectives as stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, and size of the Center’s faculty and staff.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

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