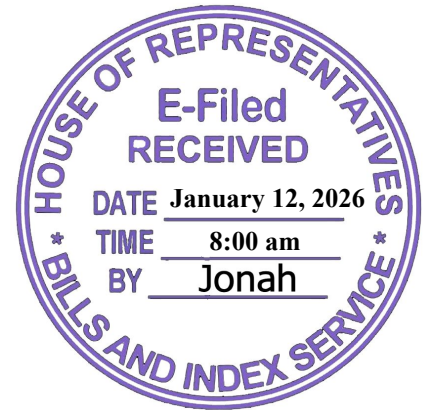




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7071

Introduced by Representative MARLESA “DOC MARLY” HOFER-HASIM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality healthcare remains a critical concern in many parts of the country, particularly in underserved areas such as the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay and the wider Region IX. The persistent shortage and unequal distribution of physicians in these areas continue to hinder the effective delivery of essential health services and deepen health disparities.

Mindanao State University (MSU), as a premier state university system in Mindanao, is well-positioned to help address this challenge. The establishment of a College of Medicine under MSU in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay will contribute to the development of locally rooted and community-oriented physicians who are more likely to serve in the region, thereby strengthening the local healthcare system.

This bill seeks to establish the **Mindanao State University– Zamboanga Sibugay College of Medicine**, which shall offer a Doctor of Medicine program anchored on a learner-centered, competency-based, and community-oriented curriculum. The College shall likewise undertake research, extension, and outreach programs in support of public health improvement and medical education responsive to regional needs.

The measure further provides for the governance and administration of the College, the recruitment of qualified faculty, scholarship and financial assistance programs, the protection of academic freedom, and compliance with the standards and regulations of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), to ensure the effective, sustainable, and equitable operation of the institution.

By strengthening regional medical education, this measure aims to improve healthcare delivery, address human resource gaps in the medical profession, and promote inclusive

development in Zamboanga Sibugay and neighboring areas. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARLESA “DOC MARLY” HOFER-HASIM
Representative, 2nd District of Zamboanga Sibugay



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE MINDANAO STATE
UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE
KNOWN AS THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY- ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Establishment.*** - There is hereby established a medical school in the
2 Mindanao State University (MSU) located in the Municipality of Ipil, Province of Zamboanga
3 Sibugay, to be known as the "Mindanao State University- Zamboanga Sibugay College of
4 Medicine".

5
6 **SECTION 2. *General Mandate.*** - The Mindanao State University- Zamboanga Sibugay
7 College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the "College", shall primarily offer a Doctor of
8 Medicine Program, including an Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine Program, consisting of basic
9 science and clinical courses, and using a learner-centered, competency-based, and community-
10 oriented approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop a corps of professional

1 physicians to help strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the
2 human resource development needs of the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay and Region IX.

3 The College is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide
4 progressive leadership in these areas.

5
6 **SECTION 3. *Governance.*** - The governance of the College shall be vested in the Board
7 of Regents of the MSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and other applicable laws and
8 regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

9
10 **SECTION 4. *Administration.*** - The administration of the College shall be vested in the
11 Dean of the College insofar as may be authorized by its Board.

12
13 **SECTION 5. *The College Dean .*** - The College shall be headed by a Dean who shall be
14 appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board,
15 and upon the recommendation of the President, following a process of consultation with the
16 constituents of the College. The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years,
17 and may be reappointed to another term.

18 Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the MSU shall
19 constitute the search committee for the deanship.

20 The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically provided
21 for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state
22 universities and colleges and those delegated by the President.

23 The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466,
24 otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws amendatory
25 thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted and shall be comparable to that being received by the
26 Deans of similar educational institutions.

27 In case of vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement,
28 resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the office,

1 the Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President, designate an Officer-in-Charge of the
2 College, pending the appointment of a new Dean: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve
3 only during the unexpired portion of the term.

4 The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be appointed
5 by the Board.
6

7 **SECTION 6. *The Faculty.*** - The Board shall, upon the recommendation by the President
8 of the University, appoint the faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That no political belief,
9 sex, gender, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation
10 shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: *Provided*,
11 *further*, That said appointment standards shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and
12 standards set by the Board: *Provided*, finally, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or
13 against any particular religious denomination.
14

15 **SECTION 7. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** - The College shall provide
16 scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who
17 qualify for admission to the College. Students who have availed themselves of the scholarship
18 program under Republic Act No. 11509, otherwise known as the "Doktor Para sa Bayan Act",
19 shall render a return service in accordance with the said law. Students availing themselves of other
20 nationally-funded scholarship programs to complete the medicine degree program under the
21 College may be required to render a return service depending on the contract to be signed between
22 the student and the College.

23 No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, gender, religion,
24 cultural or community affiliation, physical disability, ethnic origin, or any other forms of
25 discrimination.
26

27 **SECTION 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** - The College shall enjoy
28 academic freedom and institutional authority, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV
29 of the Constitution.

1
2 **SECTION 9.** *Loan or Transfer of Supplies, Apparatuses, or Equipment, and Detail of*
3 *Personnel to the College.* - Heads of national government agencies and instrumentalities may,
4 upon the request of the Board through the President of the MSU, loan or transfer supplies,
5 apparatuses, or equipment, and detail personnel to the College: *Provided*, That such loan, transfer
6 or detail shall not be detrimental to public service.

7 The personnel to be detailed to the College shall perform such duties as may be deemed
8 required by the Dean of the College and the time spent for such duties shall be counted as part of
9 the detailed personnel's regular service.

10
11 **SECTION 10.** *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.* - All appropriations, assets, both real and
12 personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be
13 titled or named after the MSU.

14 All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College shall be the
15 property of the MSU, and titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the MSU cease to exist or
16 be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the MSU, the
17 same shall revert to Zamboanga Sibugay or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

18
19 **SECTION 11.** *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* - The importation by the College of medical
20 books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory, or
21 scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), be
22 exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863,
23 otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

24 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually,
25 directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor's
26 tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of
27 computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National
28 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

1 **SECTION 12.** *Compliance with CHED Requirements.* - The MSU, prior to the
2 establishment of the College and the offering of new and revised courses and programs related
3 thereto, shall ensure compliance with the applicable policies, standards, and guidelines of the
4 CHED.

5
6 **SECTION 13.** *Suppletory Application.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
7 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this
8 Act.

9
10 **SECTION 14.** *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
11 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12
13 **SECTION 15.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the
14 approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and regulations,
15 to implement the provisions of this Act.

16
17 **SECTION 16.** *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part or provisions of this Act
18 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full
19 force and effect.

20
21 **SECTION 17.** *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and
22 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended,
23 repealed, or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SECTION 18.** *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
26 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27 *Approved,*
28