

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILLNO. 7448

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is constitutionally tasked with ensuring that quality higher education is both accessible and equitable. To fulfill this mandate, the Commission's administrative presence must be felt not just in regional centers, but in provincial hubs where student populations are rapidly expanding.

Through the years, Sorsogon has grown into a vibrant center for higher learning, anchored by Sorsogon State University (SorSU) and a network of private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The province now manages a substantial volume of Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) applicants, Student Financial Assistance Programs (STUFAPs), and faculty development and accreditation requirements, highlighting the need for a more localized approach to educational governance.

Establishing a CHED Satellite Office in Sorsogon City would serve as a strategic "southern anchor" for the Bicol Region, improving efficiency by expediting the processing of Special Orders, certifications, and authentication of records, and enhancing responsiveness through more frequent monitoring and evaluation of HEIs to uphold academic standards. Moreover, a local CHED presence would strengthen Sorsogon's unique economic profile by fostering tailored academic-industry linkages that support its maritime and eco-tourism sectors.

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


HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **Section 1. Establishment of CHED office.**— There shall be established in
2 Sorsogon City, Province of Sorsogon, an office of the Commission on Higher Education
3 (CHED) to be known as the CHED-Sorsogon Provincial Office. It shall be headed by a
4 Provincial Director.
5

6 **SEC. 2. Period.**— Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the
7 CHED shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern for the CHED-
8 Sorsogon Provincial Office and submit the same to the Secretary of the Department
9 of Budget and Management for approval.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Operationalization.**— The Chairperson of the CHED shall immediately
12 include in the CHED's program the operationalization of the CHED-Sorsogon Provincial
13 Office.
14

15 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
16 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
17

18 **Sec. 5. Separability Clause.** — If, for any reason, part of this Act shall be
19 rendered unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not
20 thereby affected shall continue to be in effect and full force.
21

1 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations,
2 and other issuances or parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act
3 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **Sec. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

Approved,