

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7459



Introduced by Representatives EDVIC G. YAP and ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Philippine High School for the Creative Arts System (PHSCA) to nurture and develop artistically gifted Filipino youth through a publicly funded secondary education. It mandates the development of a specialized curriculum covering various creative fields, complemented by financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property education to prepare students for long-term careers in the creative sector.

In recent years, the Philippines' creative industries have emerged as a significant contributor to cultural identity, employment, and economic growth. However, access to formal, high-level arts education remains limited and concentrated in a few institutions. Many talented students, particularly those from underserved regions, lack opportunities for training, mentorship, and exposure. This measure responds to these gaps by creating a nationally coordinated system of creative arts high schools that fosters artistic excellence.

This proposed legislation establishes the PHSCA System as a network of secondary schools offering full scholarships to deserving students with demonstrated artistic potential. Furthermore, it authorizes the creation of regional and extension campuses to expand access nationwide, allows the engagement of foreign educators when local expertise is unavailable, and promotes partnerships with creative industries to enhance employability of graduates.

Ultimately, this bill affirms the State's commitment to cultivating world-class Filipino artists and cultural leaders, strengthening national identity, and positioning the creative arts as a dynamic force for inclusive development and social transformation.

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



HON. EDVIC G. YAP



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS
SYSTEM 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 “*The Philippine High School for the Creative Arts System Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Moreover, the government is committed to fulfill its constitutional mandate to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression and to place arts, design and other intellectual creative creation under the patronage of the State.

To this end, the State shall promote creative arts education, encourage arts programs, national art competitions, and strengthen education for the development of creative industries. This shall include a complete system geared towards the development of a citizenry who can contribute most meaningfully towards the creation and enhancement of a democratic, just, and humane society imbued with national identity and pride.

The State shall provide adequate training for students with artistic abilities, with the end goal of producing world-class artists with solid academic background and strong patriotic ideals. In line with this, an educational system to foster the holistic development of the youth and to prepare the students for a long-term career in the various fields of creative industry is hereby established.

SEC. 3. *Creation and Establishment.* — There is hereby established a Philippine High School for the Creative Arts (PHSCA) System, which are secondary schools offering full scholarships to deserving students with considerable potential in the fields of performing arts, creative writing, visual arts, and applied arts.

Admitted students shall be trained under a special curriculum oriented in the fields of architecture and allied arts, cinema, dance, dramatic arts, literary arts, music, visual arts, design, digital fabrication and new media, along with financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, and basic knowledge on intellectual property rights, with the end in view of providing quality education to students while preparing them for various creative industry-related careers as well as a readiness for entrepreneurial endeavors or employment.

It will, thus, provide a continuing source of artists of excellence and leaders in the preservation and promotion of culture, arts and the creative industry in the Philippines.

The PHSCA System shall be administratively attached to the Department of Education (DepEd) in consultation with the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) for program implementation.

SEC. 4. *Board of Trustees.* — The PHSCA System shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”, which shall be composed of the following members:

- a. Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the DepEd, as Chairperson;
- b. Chairperson or the Executive Director of the NCCA as Co-chairperson;
- c. Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as member;
- d. Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the Department of Information and Communication Technology, as member;
- e. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, as member;
- f. President or the Artistic Director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), as member;
- g. President of the Creative Economy Council of the Philippines (CECP), as member;
- h. Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), as member; and
- i. Executive Director of the PHSCA System, as created in Section 9 of this Act.

The Board shall also include as members, two (2) representatives from the fields of performing arts, visual arts and applied arts who may either be a respected member of the academe in the field of culture and the arts or a representative from

the creative industries of known expertise, integrity and probity, all of whom shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board, subject to the confirmation of the members of the Board.

The members from the academe and creative industry community shall have a term of three (3) years, renewable for another three (3) years, and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

All members who are not receiving regular compensation from the government shall receive reasonable *per diem* to be determined by the Board, subject to current practices, for every meeting of the Board.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The exercise of the corporate powers of the PHSCA System is hereby vested exclusively to the Board.

It shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under Section 35 of Republic Act (RA) No. 11232, otherwise known as the “*Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines*”:

- a. To formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the PHSCA System;
- b. To determine the site of the first PHSCA campus as well as other sites for future expansion of the PHSCA System;
- c. To approve the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline drawn up by the Executive Council as hereinafter provided;
- d. To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the PHSCA;
- e. To formulate policies on personnel organization, appointment, promotion, retention or renewal of contracts, fixing of their compensations, subject to the Compensation and Position Classification System, removal for just cause, rewards, incentives and other conditions of employment for administrators, faculty and staff of the PHSCA;
- f. To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Executive Director in connection with the employment of administrative officers, teachers, lecturers and other employees of the school;
- g. To provide and approve fellowship grants and trainings for administrators, faculty members and staff;
- h. To approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such other allowances to deserving students based on the guidelines and implementing rules;

- i. To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall include national competitive auditions and examinations;
- j. To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;
- k. To call on creative industries sector and establish partnership to ensure employability of the PHSCA graduates;
- l. To receive, in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the PHSCA or for aid to any of its students;
- m. To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the PHSCA; and
- n. To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

SEC. 6. *Hiring of Foreign Educators and Consultants.* — In addition to the powers and functions vested to the Board under Section 5 of this Act, the Board shall be allowed to approve the hiring of foreign educators and consultants: *Provided, That* the NCCA shall certify the necessity of hiring such educators and consultants, including their competence and skills which are not available locally or proved to be incomparable with their local counterparts: *Provided, further, That* the hiring of foreign educators and consultants shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations set by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Immigration.

The Board shall provide guidelines and mechanisms to ensure that the new knowledge and training methods introduced by the foreign educators and consultants shall be passed on to the student-artists and local educators, trainers and consultants of the PHSCA.

SEC. 7. *Campuses.* — The Board shall provide for policies for the organization of regional nationally funded high schools for creative arts. The Board shall also provide for policies to enter into a memorandum of agreement with existing locally funded high schools for the arts for consideration as extension campuses or branches of the PHSCA System.

The extension campuses shall be organized in coordination with the concerned local government unit and the DepEd, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SEC. 8. *Meetings of the Board.* — The Board shall regularly convene at least once every quarter of the PHSCA school calendar: *Provided, That* within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall immediately convene and

conduct monthly meetings for purposes of determining the site for the first PHSCA campus, choosing and appointing the Executive Director, the three (3) members of the Board from the academe and/or creative arts community, and plan for the effective organization of the PHSCA System.

The Chairperson or the Co-Chairperson of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to said meeting.

A majority of all members holding office in person or virtually shall constitute a quorum for board meetings: *Provided*, That the Chairperson or the Co-Chairperson of the Board are among those present in the meeting.

SEC. 9. *Executive Director.* — The PHSCA System shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall serve for a fixed term of six (6) years. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board, subject to the approval of the members, based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and regulations.

The Board shall also fix the compensation of the Executive Director in accordance with the Compensation and Position Classification System, subject to the review and approval of the DBM. The Executive Director shall coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines set by the Board. As a member of the Board, the Executive Director shall articulate to the Board the mutual concern of all the campuses.

The Executive Director shall perform the following functions:

- a. Coordinate curriculum planning activities for the PHSCA System;
- b. Coordinate exchange programs with other educational institutions for creative arts, both local and foreign;
- c. Coordinate the implementation of the program for the identification and selection of scholars for the PHSCA System; and
- d. Provide legal, technical support and secretariat for the PHSCA System.

SEC. 10. *Executive Council.* — There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director as created in Section 11 of this Act, and the Campus Directors, as created in Section 12 of this Act.

The Executive Council shall be responsible for the development of the artistic potential of every student with a strong academic base and for providing programs for the students with the end goal of training gifted youths in various fields of creative art. The Council shall implement and execute the policies laid down by the Board and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as the Board may prescribe.

SEC. 11. *Deputy Executive Director.* — There shall be a Deputy Executive Director who shall assist the Executive Director. In the absence of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director shall assume the administrative and supervisory functions of the Executive Director.

The Deputy Executive Director, who shall have a fixed term of four (4) years, renewable for another four (4) years, shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board subject to the approval of the same Board, which shall also fix the compensation of the Deputy Executive Director in accordance with the Compensation and Position Classification System subject to the review and approval of the DBM.

SEC. 12. *Campus Director.* — Each PHSCA shall be headed by a Campus Director who shall be appointed by the Board, upon recommendation of the Executive Director on the basis of a search process. The Campus Director shall have a fixed term of six (6) years and shall not be removed from office except for cause.

The Campus Director shall be the administrative and academic head of the campus assigned to, and will be responsible for its effective and efficient operations. The Campus Director may constitute a management committee which may act as a consultative body for the educational needs, standard of living in campus and other related services for the students, faculty and staff of the campus.

SEC. 13. *Civil Service Coverage.* — The personnel of the PHSCA shall be classified into:

- a. Career service personnel, namely, those of the finance, administrative, and personnel staff and the general education faculty, who shall be covered by civil service examinations and regulations; and
- b. Non-career service personnel, consisting of the members of the faculty specializing in the various fields of creative industry, who shall be exempt from civil service examinations and regulations.

Career and non-career service personnel shall be subject to Compensation and Position Classification System. They shall be entitled to retirement benefits enjoyed by all government personnel, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Provisions for retirement shall be included in the annual budget of the PHSCA.

SEC. 14. *Annual Report.* — The Board shall submit to the Office of the President of the Philippines and Congress a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the PHSCA two (2) months prior to the opening of every school year.

SEC. 15. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* — There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the PHSCA System to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act.

The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate and from the House of Representatives, including the chairpersons of the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Finance in the Senate, and Appropriations in the House of Representatives. The membership of the Committee for each House shall have at least one (1) member from the minority.

SEC. 16. *Tax Exemptions.* — The importation of equipment relating to creative industry, books, art-related supplies, musical instruments, materials and goods, including those donated to the PHSCA System shall, upon certification by the DepEd be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863, otherwise known as the “*Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)*”: *Provided, That* these are of international standards and are not available from local manufacturers: *Provided, further, That* the importation shall only be in such numbers as may be required in the development programs and/or training of the students: *Provided, finally, That* all importations shall be made in the name of PHSCA System as recipient and shall be immediately registered in the name of PHSCA System.

SEC. 17. *Tax Exemption on Donations.* — All grants, bequest, endowments, donations and contributions made to the PHSCA, to be used actually, directly and exclusively used by the PHSCA, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 18. *Creative Arts School Fund.* — All donations, contributions, grants, bequests, or gifts, in cash or in-kind, received by the PHSCA from various sources shall be placed into a fund, to be known as the Creative Arts School Fund. This fund shall be expended as authorized by the Board exclusively for the purpose of this Act in accordance with existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

A similar fund may also be established for the regional high school for creative arts, which may hereinafter be created subject to the existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 19. *Appropriation.* — The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the DepEd budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 20. *The Philippine High School for the Arts.* — The Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), reorganized and existing under Executive Order No. 420, issued on 7 September 1990, shall continue to exist and operate according to law. It shall continue to be attached to the DepEd, in close coordination with the CCP.

SEC. 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DepEd, NCCA, DTI, TESDA and CECP shall promulgate not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective

implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SEC. 22. *Separability Clause*. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 23. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 24. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,