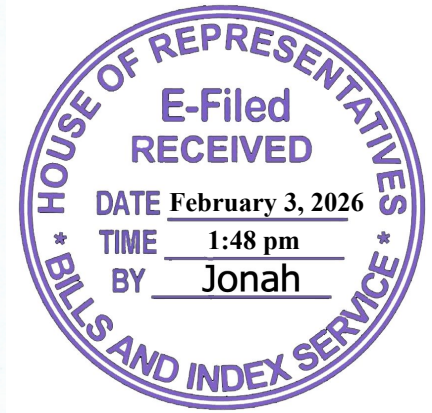




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7578



Introduced by Representatives **MARCELINO C. LIBANAN** and
CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE EASTERN SAMAR STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW, PROVIDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND
ACADEMIC SUPPORT, AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF
REGULAR FACULTY POSITIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This House Bill seeks to strengthen the Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) College of Law by institutionalizing comprehensive institutional and academic support necessary to ensure compliance with the standards set by the Legal Education Board (LEB) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and to deliver quality legal education in the Province of Eastern Samar.

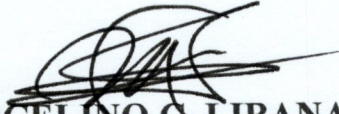
The College of Law was established in the early 2000s, even before the enactment of Republic Act No. 9312, which created ESSU. As the principal author of R.A. 9312, the undersigned Hon. Marcelino C. Libanan was also involved in establishing the College of Law, believing that access to quality legal education should be available to our people in the province.

At present, however, the College of Law operates without permanent faculty positions, a duly appointed dean, and a dedicated budget. These long-standing structural limitations impede academic planning, faculty development, and sustained compliance with regulatory standards for legal education.

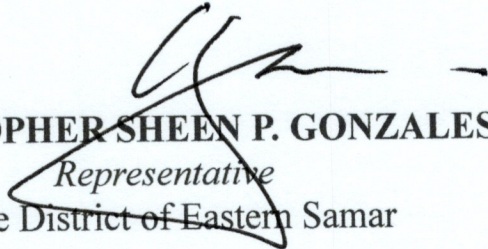
The measure therefore authorizes the creation of regular faculty positions and provides institutional and academic support for the recruitment, development, and retention of competent and highly qualified law professors. It likewise supports the upgrading of classrooms and libraries through modern instructional technologies, advanced legal research tools, and updated learning resources, consistent with LEB and CHED requirements.

By addressing these institutional gaps, this Bill aims to elevate the standards of legal education at ESSU, promote regional equity in access to quality legal training, and increase the number of well-trained lawyers who can serve not only Eastern Samar but the whole country and contribute meaningfully to local governance, access to justice, and national development.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



MARCELINO C. LIBANAN
Representative
4Ps Partylist



CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES
Representative
Lone District of Eastern Samar



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7578**

Introduced by Representatives **MARCELINO C. LIBANAN** and
CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE EASTERN SAMAR STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW, PROVIDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND
ACADEMIC SUPPORT, AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF
REGULAR FACULTY POSITIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “ESSU College of Law Strengthening Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen public higher education institutions offering legal education, particularly in provinces and regions with limited access to legal services. The State shall support law schools in producing competent, ethical, and socially responsive members of the legal profession and shall ensure the provision of adequate institutional support necessary for their effective and sustainable operation.

SEC. 3. Eastern Samar State University College of Law. – The Eastern Samar State University College of Law, hereinafter referred to as the College of Law, is hereby strengthened as an academic unit of Eastern Samar State University. The

College of Law shall continue to offer the Juris Doctor program and such other law related programs as may be authorized under existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 4. *Mandate and Functions.* – The College of Law shall have the following functions: (a) Provide quality legal education in accordance with national standards; (b) Develop graduates imbued with professional competence, ethical responsibility, and commitment to public service; (c) Undertake legal research, law reform initiatives, and extension services responsive to regional and national needs; (d) Implement clinical legal education and legal aid programs in coordination with courts, government agencies, and local government units.

SEC. 5. *Institutional and Academic Support.* – To strengthen the College of Law, the State shall ensure the provision of institutional and academic support, including, but not limited to: (a) The improvement, upgrading, and maintenance of classrooms, law libraries, research facilities, and information and communications technology resources; (b) The acquisition, updating, and maintenance of legal references, learning materials, and digital databases; (c) Support for academic programs, research initiatives, extension activities, and clinical legal education.

SEC. 6. *Faculty and Staffing.* – The Eastern Samar State University is hereby authorized to create and fill regular faculty plantilla positions for the College of Law, subject to existing civil service, budgetary, and compensation laws, rules, and regulations. The University shall ensure that faculty appointments meet applicable standards for legal education and shall provide opportunities for continuing legal education, research, and professional development, consistent with policies governing state universities and colleges.

SEC. 7. *Administration and Supervision.* – The College of Law shall be headed by a Dean, who shall be appointed in accordance with existing laws and the policies of the Board of Regents of Eastern Samar State University. The Dean shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over the College of Law and shall be responsible for the effective implementation of its programs.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of Eastern Samar State University. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Regents of Eastern Samar State University,

in coordination with concerned government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,