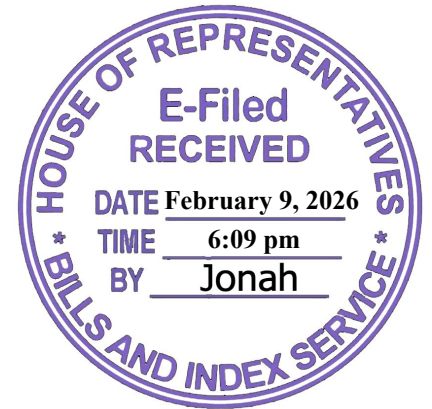




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7693



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

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MARITIME STUDIES AT THE
EASTERN SAMAR STATE UNIVERSITY GUIUAN CAMPUS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GUIUAN, PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Eastern Samar is a coastal province strategically located along the Pacific seaboard with a strong historical, cultural, and economic connection to the sea. The municipality of Guiuan in particular has long served as an important maritime community where fishing, seafaring, and marine related livelihoods play a central role in the daily life of its people. Its geographic location facing major sea routes and its proximity to important fishing grounds make it an ideal area for the development of maritime education and training.

Despite this natural advantage, there remains limited access in the province to formal maritime education that would prepare students for careers in seafaring, marine transportation, ship operations, and related maritime industries. Many aspiring students from Eastern Samar who wish to pursue maritime careers are compelled to study in distant urban centers, resulting in additional financial burden and reduced accessibility for families of modest means.

The establishment of a College of Maritime Studies at the Eastern Samar State University Guiuan Campus will provide accessible and affordable quality education in maritime fields. It will serve as a center for instruction, training, and research in navigation, marine engineering, maritime safety, and coastal resource

management. It will also create opportunities for local youth to enter the maritime profession, one of the most significant contributors to employment and foreign exchange in the country.

Given Guiuan's coastal setting, its exposure to maritime activity, and the province's strong connection to the sea, the creation of a College of Maritime Studies is both practical and necessary. It will support national goals of strengthening the maritime workforce while contributing to local economic development, job creation, and community resilience. It will also help produce skilled professionals who can serve in both domestic and international maritime industries and support sustainable use of marine resources.

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



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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of a College of Maritime Studies.* - There is hereby established a College of Maritime Studies at the Eastern Samar State University Guiuan Campus in the Municipality of Guiuan, Province of Eastern Samar.

Sec. 2. *General Mandate.* - The College of Maritime Studies shall primarily provide professional and technical instruction and training in maritime education. It shall offer undergraduate and other relevant programs in the fields of marine transportation, marine engineering, maritime safety, and other related maritime disciplines. It shall also promote research, extension services, and community engagement in support of maritime development and coastal sustainability.

Sec. 3. *Objectives.* - The College of Maritime Studies shall aim to:

- a) Produce competent and globally competitive maritime professionals;
- b) Provide accessible and affordable maritime education to students from Eastern Samar and nearby provinces;

- c) Support the development of the local and national maritime industry;
- d) Strengthen the capacity of coastal communities through education, training, and research on maritime and marine related fields; and
- e) Promote safe, responsible, and sustainable maritime practices.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* - The College of Maritime Studies shall be placed under the supervision and administration of the Eastern Samar State University. The University shall ensure that the academic programs and standards of the College are consistent with the requirements of the Commission on Higher Education and other relevant government agencies.

Sec. 5. *Academic Programs.* - The Eastern Samar State University shall develop and offer degree and non degree programs relevant to maritime studies, subject to the approval of the Commission on Higher Education. It shall likewise establish partnerships and linkages with appropriate government agencies, maritime institutions, and industry partners to ensure quality training and instruction.

Sec. 6. *Compliance with Regulatory Standards.* - The Eastern Samar State University shall ensure that the College of Maritime Studies complies with all applicable standards and requirements set by the Commission on Higher Education, the Maritime Industry Authority, and other appropriate regulatory bodies.

Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Eastern Samar State University shall also include in its budget the funds necessary for the continuous operation and maintenance of the College.

Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety days after the approval of this Act, the Eastern Samar State University, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and other concerned agencies, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,