

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7862



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

State universities and colleges play a vital role in operationalizing the Constitutional mandate to make quality education accessible to all. However, SUCs continue to face persistent challenges, chief among them the adequacy of school infrastructure.

SUC administrators relay that while the funding they receive can cover regular operations, it is not enough to pursue their goals of becoming globally competitive, such as through infrastructure development.¹ SUCs also struggle with having limited budgets for capital outlay, thus delaying the implementation of some priority infrastructure projects.² Some SUCs have expressed concern over inadequate funding for facilities and equipment upgrades, resulting in the prioritization of essential expenses like utilities instead of facility rehabilitation for a more conducive learning environment. The need for additional infrastructure is heightened by the increasing number of student enrollment.³

In the 2026 General Appropriations Act, the total allocation for SUCs is P137.9 billion, including P5.64 billion in capital outlay to support the construction, rehabilitation, and

¹ Flores, H. (2025). Strengthening the Financing of State Universities and Colleges: Challenges and Opportunities. EDCOM II Discussion Paper Series No. 2025-16, June 2025. Available at https://edcom2.gov.ph/media/2025/09/11_FLORES-Strengthening-the-Financing-of-State-Universities-and-Colleges-Challenges-and-Opportunities.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

completion of classrooms, academic buildings, and multi-purpose facilities in 112 SUCs and P70 million for facility repairs.⁴

This bill aims to build on the progress made by the 2026 education-focused budget by requiring the Commission on Higher Education to identify priority educational infrastructure for SUCs and establish a priority five-year plan. The establishment of this plan will ensure that the government's limited resources are strategically directed to SUCs with the most urgent needs. Further, the plan will be an important tool in determining which SUCs require expanded facilities to accommodate a growing student population, or rehabilitated structures to improve the learning spaces. While it may not be feasible to construct additional buildings or repair facilities at the same time, we can identify SUCs with the most urgent infrastructure needs, and ensure that all SUCs are gradually able to address their facility requirements over the next few years.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN

Representative

2nd District of Parañaque

⁴<https://www.congress.gov.ph/media/press-releases/view/?content=9579&title=Acidre+welcomes+increased+SUC+funding+in+2026+National+Budget>

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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 “Priority Infrastructure for SUCs Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. To this end, the State shall ensure the development of adequate, safe, resilient, and inclusive physical learning environments in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), recognizing that appropriate educational infrastructure is essential to the intellectual, social, and holistic development of learners.

SECTION 3. Priority Educational Infrastructure. – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall identify priority educational infrastructure for SUCs and shall establish a priority five-year plan, taking into consideration the needs of each SUC.

SECTION 4. Inter-Agency Committee. - There is hereby established an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) for the monitoring of the implementation of this Act. The IAC shall be headed by the Chairperson of the CHED, with the President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges as Vice-Chairperson, and the following as members:

(a) Department of Budget and Management;

- (b) Department of Public Works and Highways; and
- (c) Department of Economy, Planning, and Development.

The IAC shall issue implementing guidelines, monitor project implementation, and submit an annual progress report to Congress.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall automatically be included in the annual appropriation of CHED for the next five years for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative orders, rules or regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,