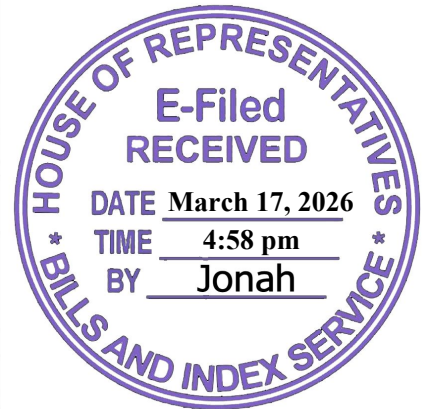




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 8624



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and mandates the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to encourage and support the development of arts and culture. Consistent with these policies, there remains a continuing need to expand access to specialized secondary education that nurtures artistic excellence, cultural identity, and creative industries, particularly in the regions.

Baybay City, located in the Fifth District of Leyte, is home to talented learners and vibrant local traditions, yet opportunities for formal, specialized arts education at the secondary level remain limited. Many families are constrained by distance and cost in seeking comparable programs outside the district. Establishing a dedicated national high school for the arts in Baybay City will help address this gap by providing a structured and accessible public institution that integrates the K to 12 basic education curriculum with intensified training in the arts.

Baybay City likewise possesses a distinctive historical richness in the arts, reflected in its enduring cultural practices, community celebrations, and creative expressions passed on across generations. Its local heritage, shaped by indigenous roots, faith traditions, and the shared experiences of coastal and upland communities, has long found expression through varied forms of artistic practice. A national high school for the arts in Baybay City will help preserve, strengthen, and professionalize this cultural legacy by providing young Baybayanons a formal institution where local artistry can be honed and brought to wider audiences.

This proposed measure seeks to establish the Baybay City National High School for the Arts as a national high school for the arts in Baybay City, Fifth District of Leyte. The school will serve as a hub for developing young artists and creative learners, support the preservation and advancement of local and regional culture, and contribute to human capital development aligned with the growing creative economy. The bill further authorizes the appropriation of funds necessary for the establishment and sustained implementation of the school's programs and facilities.

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

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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HOUSE BILL No. 8624

Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN THE CITY OF
BAYBAY, FIFTH DISTRICT OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BAYBAY CITY
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* There is hereby established, under the supervision and administration of the Department of Education (DepEd), a national secondary school for the arts in the City of Baybay, Fifth District of Leyte, to be known as the Baybay City National High School for the Arts, hereinafter referred to as the "School".

SECTION 2. *Nature and Mandate.* The School shall be a public secondary school that shall offer basic education curriculum, with a specialized program in the arts. It shall provide intensified instruction and training in appropriate disciplines in the arts, consistent with DepEd standards, and shall promote cultural heritage, artistic excellence, and creative skills development among learners.

SECTION 3. *School Head and Key Personnel.* The School shall be headed by a School Principal. The Principal and other key personnel shall be appointed and selected in accordance with DepEd qualification standards, staffing patterns, and applicable civil service rules. The DepEd may designate an Arts Program Coordinator or an Assistant Principal, as may be necessary, to oversee the implementation of the specialized arts program.

SECTION 4. *Advisory Board.* There is hereby created an Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," which shall provide guidance on the development and continuous improvement of the School's specialized arts program, partnerships, and student support initiatives, consistent with DepEd policies.

The Board shall be composed of the following:

- A. The Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's duly authorized representative, as Chairperson;
- B. The DepEd Regional Director concerned, or the Regional Director's duly authorized representative, as Vice Chairperson;
- C. The Schools Division Superintendent concerned, or the Superintendent's duly authorized representative;
- D. The City Mayor of Baybay, or the Mayor's duly authorized representative;
- E. The School Principal; and



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- F. One (1) representative each from the fields of music, dance, theater arts, and visual arts, to be appointed by the DepEd Secretary from a list of nominees submitted by the DepEd Regional Office in consultation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

SECTION 5. *Functions of the Advisory Board.* The Board shall have the following functions: (a) to recommend to the DepEd policies, plans, and priorities for the School's specialized arts program; (b) to advise on partnerships with cultural institutions, higher education institutions, the private sector, and the local government unit, consistent with existing laws and DepEd policies; (c) to recommend standards for student admissions and support mechanisms, consistent with Section 6 of this Act; (d) to recommend resource mobilization initiatives, including the acceptance of donations and grants, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations; and (e) to perform such other advisory functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Admissions, Student Support, and Equity Measures.* Admission to the School shall be based on demonstrated aptitude and potential in the arts, to be determined through auditions, portfolio review, or other talent screening mechanisms, together with academic readiness and other eligibility requirements to be set by the DepEd. The DepEd shall ensure equitable access through outreach, appropriate assessment arrangements, and other measures to enable qualified learners, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to compete for admission. Subject to applicable laws and the availability of funds, the DepEd may provide scholarships, stipends, and other learner support to deserving students.

SECTION 7. *School Academic Council.* The DepEd shall constitute a School Academic Council, chaired by the School Principal and composed of the heads of departments, the Arts Program Coordinator (if any), and such other faculty members or officials as may be designated by the DepEd. The Council shall recommend to the DepEd the School's specialized arts curriculum components consistent with the recent curriculum, implement standards on teaching and learning, and develop student discipline rules consistent with DepEd child protection and student discipline policies.

SECTION 8. *Donations and Grants.* The School, through the DepEd, may receive donations, grants, endowments, and other forms of assistance from domestic or foreign sources, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, and to government accounting and auditing rules. All donations and grants shall be used solely for the purposes of this Act and shall be recorded and reported in accordance with Commission on Audit (COA) rules.

SECTION 9. *Annual Report.* The DepEd shall include, in its annual report to Congress on basic education programs, a section on the status of implementation of this Act, including the School's enrollment, program offerings, performance indicators, and funding utilization.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the School shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the NCCA, the CCP, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Finance (DOF), the COA, and the City Government of Baybay, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.



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SECTION 12. *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.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,