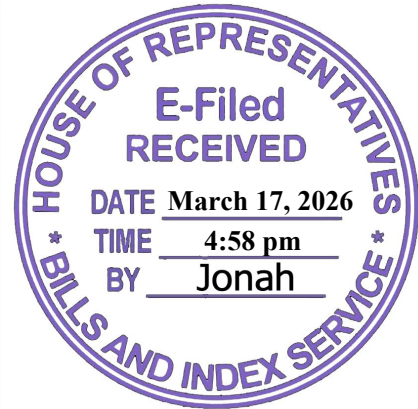




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 8625



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

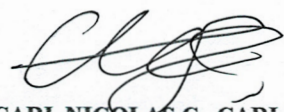
The Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to give priority to education, science, technology, and research. In pursuit of these directives, there is a continuing need to expand access to specialized secondary education that develops scientific literacy, research capability, and technical competence—particularly in the regions.

Baybay City, in the Fifth District of Leyte, has a growing population of academically capable learners with strong potential in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). However, opportunities for a rigorous, science-focused public secondary education remain limited and often require families to send students to distant schools, imposing additional financial and logistical burdens. Establishing a science high school in Baybay City will address this gap by providing a dedicated public institution that delivers an enriched STEM curriculum, promotes research and innovation, and cultivates future scientists, engineers, health professionals, educators, and technology leaders.

Baybay City is likewise transitioning toward a smart city framework—strengthening the use of digital systems and data-driven solutions in governance, public services, mobility, and community development. This transition necessarily requires a strong local pipeline of future-ready human capital with competence in science, mathematics, technology, coding, data analytics, and applied research. The establishment of the Baybay City Science High School directly supports this strategic direction by institutionalizing advanced STEM education and research training at the secondary level, thereby equipping Baybayanon learners with the competencies needed to participate in, sustain, and lead smart city initiatives.

This measure seeks to establish the **Baybay City Science High School** as a science-oriented public secondary school in Baybay City, Fifth District of Leyte, under the supervision of the Department of Education. The proposed school will serve as a hub for advanced instruction in science and mathematics, research training, academic excellence, and partnerships with universities, research institutions, and industry to strengthen local human capital and contribute to national development. The bill further authorizes the appropriation of funds necessary for the establishment, operationalization, and sustained implementation of the school's programs, facilities, laboratories, and learning resources to ensure the delivery of quality and accessible science education.

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


CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



Republic of the Philippines
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Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 8625

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

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN BAYBAY CITY, FIFTH DISTRICT OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BAYBAY CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, 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 science high school in Baybay City, Fifth District of Leyte, to be known as the Baybay City Science High School, 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 an enriched science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program. It shall provide intensified instruction in science and mathematics, research-oriented learning, and laboratory-based activities, consistent with DepEd standards, to develop scientific literacy, innovation, and technical competence 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 a Science/Research Program Coordinator or an Assistant Principal, as may be necessary, to oversee the implementation of the enriched STEM program.

SECTION 4. *Admissions, Student Support, and Equity Measures.* Admission to the School shall be through a transparent and merit-based screening process to be prescribed by the DepEd, which may include a competitive entrance examination, evaluation of academic performance, and other indicators of aptitude in science and mathematics. The DepEd shall ensure equitable access through outreach and appropriate assessment arrangements 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, or other learner support to deserving students.

SECTION 5. *Facilities, Laboratories, and Partnerships.* The DepEd shall plan, establish, and maintain adequate classrooms, laboratories, equipment, learning resources, and related facilities necessary for the effective operation of the School, in accordance with applicable safety and quality standards. The DepEd may enter into partnerships and collaborative arrangements with state universities and colleges, higher education institutions, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), research institutions, the private sector, and the local government unit to support instruction, research exposure, mentorship, competitions, and capacity-building, subject to existing laws and DepEd policies.



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SECTION 6. *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 7. *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 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the COA, the City Government of Baybay, and the DepEd Regional and Schools Division Offices concerned, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *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 10. *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 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,