



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8873

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality medical education and adequate healthcare services remains uneven across many parts of the Philippines, particularly in the provinces. The Province of Bohol and the broader Central Visayas Region continue to face challenges in the availability of medical professionals, especially in rural and underserved communities. This gap underscores the urgent need to expand opportunities for medical education outside major urban centers.

This bill seeks to establish a School of Medicine in the Bohol Island State University (BISU) in the City of Tagbilaran. The proposed Bohol Island State University-School of Medicine will primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine program anchored on a learner-centered, competency-based, and community-oriented curriculum. By integrating liberal arts, basic sciences, and clinical training, the School aims to produce well-rounded physicians equipped to respond to the evolving healthcare needs of the country.

The creation of this School is aligned with the State's mandate to promote the right to health of the people and to strengthen the healthcare system through the development of a sufficient and competent health workforce. It also complements existing initiatives such as Republic Act No. 11509, or the "Doktor Para sa Bayan Act," which encourages medical graduates to serve in underserved areas.

Moreover, establishing a medical school within BISU will make medical education more accessible to deserving students from Bohol and nearby provinces, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through scholarship and affirmative action programs, the measure ensures that financial limitations will not hinder qualified students from pursuing a medical degree, while fostering a sense of social responsibility through return service mechanisms.

The bill likewise empowers the institution to undertake research and extension services that are responsive to local health concerns, thereby contributing to evidence-based policy-making and community development.

Ultimately, the establishment of the Bohol Island State University-School of Medicine is envisioned to help address the shortage of physicians, promote equitable distribution of healthcare professionals, and improve health outcomes in Bohol, the Central Visayas Region, and the nation as a whole.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Yap', with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.

HON. ARTHUR C. YAP
Murang Kuryente Party-List

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8873

Introduced by **HONORABLE ARTHUR C. YAP**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN THE BOHOL ISLAND
STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN, PROVINCE OF BOHOL
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. - There is hereby established a School of Medicine in the Bohol Island State University (BISU), City of Tagbilaran, Province of Bohol, which shall be known as the "Bohol Island State University-School of Medicine".

SEC. 2. General Mandate. - The Bohol Island State University (BISU)- School of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the "School", shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine Program, including an Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine Program consisting of basic science and clinical courses and using a learner-centered, competency-based, and community-oriented approach. The primary goal of the School shall be to develop a corps of professional physicians to strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Bohol and the Central Visayas Region.

The School is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 3. Governance. -The governance of the School shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the BISU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers and functions are defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9722, entitled, "An Act Converting the Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Forestry and Technology, its Units and Satellite Campuses in the City of Tagbilaran and in the Municipalities of Bilar, Candijay, Clarin, Calape and Balilihan, all Located in the Province of Bohol to be Known as the Bohol Island State University (BISU) and Appropriating Funds Therefor," and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

SEC. 4. Administration. - The administration of the School shall be vested in the Dean of the School insofar as may be authorized by its Board.

SEC. 5. The School Dean. - The School shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines on qualification and standards set by the Board, and upon the recommendation of the President of the BISU, and pursuant to the policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the BISU shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

The powers and duties of the Dean of the School, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the President.

The salary of the Dean of the School shall be in accordance with RA 11466, or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President, designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the School, pending the appointment of a new Dean: Provided, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The Dean of the School shall be assisted by a School Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Board.

SEC. 6. The Faculty. - The Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President of the BISU, appoint the faculty of the School: Provided, That no political belief, sex, gender, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of the faculty of the School: Provided further, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines on qualification standards set by the Board in accordance with the policies of the CHED: Provided finally, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular religious denomination.

SEC. 7. Scholarship Programs and Admission. - The School shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor, but deserving students who qualify for admission to the School. Students who have availed themselves of the scholarship program under RA 11509, or the "Doktor Para sa Bayan Act", shall render a return service in accordance with the said law. Students availing themselves of other nationally-funded scholarship programs to complete the medicine degree program under the School may be required to render a return service depending on the contract to be signed between the student and the School.

No student shall be denied admission to the School by reason of sex, gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability, ethnic origin, or any other forms of discrimination.

SEC. 8. Academic Freedom. - The School shall enjoy academic freedom pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

SEC. 9. Loan or Transfer of Supplies, Apparatuses, or Equipment, and Detail of Personnel to the School. - Heads of national government agencies and instrumentalities may, upon the request of the Board through the President of the BISU loan or transfer supplies, apparatuses, or equipment, and detail personnel to the School: Provided, That such loan, transfer or detail shall not be detrimental to public service.

The personnel to be detailed to the School shall perform such duties as may be required by the Dean of the School and the time spent for such duties shall be counted as part of the detailed personnel's regular service.

SEC. 10. Assets, Liabilities, Records, and Personnel. - All appropriations, assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the School, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the Bohol Island State University (BISU). All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the School shall be the property of the BISU and titled under its name: Provided, That should the BISU cease to exist or be abolished or such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the BISU, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 11. Duty and Tax Exemptions. - The importation by the School of medical books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA 10863, or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the School shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 12. Compliance with the CHED Requirements. - The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the establishment of the medical program shall become effective only upon determination and declaration by the CHED that the institution has substantially complied with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the Doctor of Medicine Program.

SEC. 13. Suppletory Application. - The provisions of RA 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 14. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHeD, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,