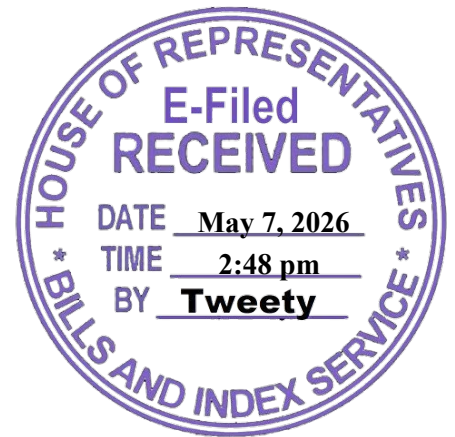


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9161



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cooperatives are recognized under Republic Act No. 9520 as vital instruments for promoting social justice, economic development, and people empowerment. The law affirms the State's policy to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as practical vehicles for self-reliance and grassroots development, particularly among marginalized and underserved sectors.

Complementing this mandate, Republic Act No. 11364 strengthened the institutional framework for cooperative regulation and development through the reorganization of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). The CDA is tasked with registration, regulation, and capacity-building initiatives; however, persistent sectoral gaps remain in higher-level education, advanced research, and professionalization of cooperative management.

Furthermore, Republic Act No. 7722 mandates the State to promote quality higher education and research, while Republic Act No. 10931 expands access to tertiary education for Filipino students. These laws collectively underscore the State's obligation to invest in human capital formation, particularly in specialized fields that support national development.

Despite this robust legal framework, many cooperatives continue to face structural constraints, including weak governance systems, limited managerial expertise, inadequate research support, and insufficient access to continuing education. These challenges hinder their ability to fully realize the developmental objectives envisioned under RA 9520 and related laws.

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), with its long-established leadership in cooperative education, is strategically positioned to address these gaps. Its historical role as a training center for non-agricultural cooperatives and pioneer of the Bachelor in Cooperatives program provides a strong institutional foundation for expanded national engagement.

This measure therefore proposes the establishment of the National Center for Cooperative Development (NCCD) within PUP. The Center shall serve as a specialized national institution dedicated to advancing cooperative education, research, and extension services in support of the policy objectives enshrined in RA 9520 and other related laws.

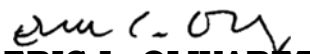
Specifically, the NCCD shall:

- a) Provide degree and non-degree programs aligned with the competency standards and development priorities identified under the Cooperative Development Authority framework;
- b) Deliver continuing education and certification programs to enhance the capabilities of cooperative officers, in line with the governance and training requirements under RA 9520;
- c) Conduct applied research to support policy development, legislative initiatives, and evidence-based interventions for the cooperative sector;
- d) Extend technical assistance and consultancy services, particularly for micro and small cooperatives, to strengthen compliance, sustainability, and growth; Promote linkages among academic institutions, government agencies, and cooperative organizations to ensure coordinated sectoral development.

The establishment of the NCCD likewise complements national development strategies, including the Philippine Development Plan, Ambisyon Natin 2040, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by strengthening inclusive economic institutions and promoting equitable access to opportunities.

By institutionalizing a dedicated national center for cooperative development within a state university, this measure operationalizes the State's commitments under RA 9520, RA 11364, and related laws—bridging the gap between policy, education, and practice. It ensures that cooperatives are supported not only through regulation, but through sustained investments in knowledge, innovation, and leadership development.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9161

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF
THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Polytechnic University of the Philippines National Center for Cooperative Development Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – Consistent with Republic Act No. 9520, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the viability, growth, and sustainability of cooperatives as vital instruments of economic development, social equity, and democratic participation. The State recognizes these institutions as transformative vehicles that embody the principles of self-help, mutual aid, and collective empowerment that contribute to advancing inclusive growth, addressing structural poverty, and fostering community resilience.

Pursuant to this policy, the State shall institutionalize mechanisms for cooperative education, research, and capacity-building to ensure the continuing development of competent, values-driven, and socially committed cooperative leaders and practitioners.

The State likewise affirms the importance of providing an enabling environment where cooperatives may thrive free from external interference, while enjoying the benefits of technical, academic, and policy support from public institutions.

In recognition of the indispensable role of knowledge production and human capital in the cooperative movement, the State shall support the establishment of a dedicated national center that will advance cooperative studies, strengthen academic and research linkages, and provide integrated services for the benefit of cooperatives and cooperative development stakeholders.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the National Center for Cooperative Development. – There is hereby established in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) the National Center for Cooperative Development, hereinafter referred to as the “Center.”

The Center shall establish and expand program offerings focused on training poor but deserving Filipino youth to become the next generation of cooperative leaders and managers, thereby enhancing the resilience and sustainability of registered cooperatives in the country and contributing to economic recovery and national development.

It shall likewise serve as a centralized national hub providing integrated services to the cooperative sector, where their activities can be centralized in order to fulfill a much greater responsibility to address the needs of the cooperative sector in the Philippines and the Southeast Asian (SEA) region.

The program trajectory of the Center shall be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), International Cooperative Development Agenda, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), and Ambisyon Natin 2040, as it endeavors to address poverty, pursue economic development, promote empowerment, resiliency, and social innovation through cooperative social enterprise.

SECTION 4. Functions of the Center. – The Center shall have the following functions:

- (a) Offer a Bachelor of Science in Cooperatives degree program, which shall be a four-year course with specializations in Cooperative Social Enterprise Management and Cooperative Education and Community Development, designed to produce globally competitive graduates equipped with values-based managerial competence in cooperative organizing, leadership, and technopreneurship;
- (b) Implement field deployment programs through on-the-job training (OJT) that assign students and staff to micro, small, and medium cooperatives to provide support as research enumerators, marketing personnel, and administrative assistants;
- (c) Provide modular certificate programs and continuing education services for cooperative directors, officers, managers, and support staff through regional partnerships nationwide to enhance professional competencies;
- (d) Conduct applied research addressing gaps in cooperative literature and supporting legislative development, policy formulation, and evidence-

based cooperative advancement through a dedicated cooperative research group;

- (e) Develop instructional modules, audio-visual materials, and popular education tools for elementary, junior high school, senior high school, higher education covering cooperative enterprise, social economy, and social entrepreneurship;
- (f) Operate a student laboratory cooperative facility where participants access cooperative products and services and earn OJT credits through documented volunteer work;
- (g) Host annual cooperative congresses, international conferences, and training workshops in collaboration with government agencies, industry partners, and SEA cooperative alliances;
- (h) Deliver consultancy services assisting cooperative in strategic planning, performance auditing, and organizational development by leveraging faculty expertise;
- (i) Establish partnerships facilitating local to international knowledge exchange on best practices, pandemic resilience strategies, and community development initiatives in accordance with cooperative principles; and
- (j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and objectives of the Center.

The Center shall coordinate with the Cooperative Development Authority, Commission on Higher Education, and other relevant agencies in the implementation of its programs.

SECTION 5. Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents. – The Board of Regents of the PUP is hereby authorized to establish the Center under the direct supervision of the Office of the President of the University. The Center shall have cooperative specialists with a high degree of competence and expertise in the disciplines of business management, financial management, and community development, who may be appointed from within or outside the University, subject to applicable civil service and procurement laws.

SECTION 6. Implementing Authority. - The Board of Regents shall promulgate the necessary implementing guidelines to carry out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the Center shall aim at the speedy realization and execution of its functions and

objectives as stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, and size of the Center's faculty and staff.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. - The initial amount of One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (₱150,000,000.00) which shall be charged against available appropriations of the National Government shall be added to the annual budget of PUP for the purpose of carrying out the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, implementing rules and regulations, issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.