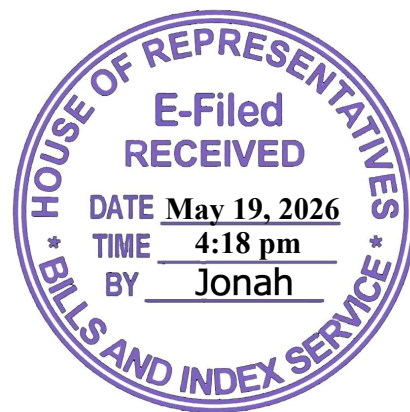


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9333**



Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

1 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF**
2 **SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBUNGAN,**
3 **PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN**
4 **MINDANAO-LIBUNGAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

6 Access to quality education is a main driving force of sustainable national development.
7 The Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote and protect the right of all citizens to
8 quality education and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.¹
9 However, accessible education provided by State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) is still
10 limited. In Region XII, only 22% of the A.Y. 2022-2023 higher education enrollees availed of the
11 SUC educational facilities and other services.² Based on the CHED 2023 data, there are only four
12 SUCs within Region XII and the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is still the only SUC
13 available in the province of North Cotabato³ and with only one satellite campus in Kidapawan
14 City.⁴ There is a need for opening new satellite campuses within North Cotabato to address the
15 underlying problem of lack of accessibility and affordable quality education.

16 This bill seeks to establish an extension campus of the USM in the Municipality of
17 Libungan, Province of Cotabato, to be known as the University of Southern Mindanao-Libungan
18 Campus (USM-Libungan Campus). This campus is imperative considering Libungan's
19 geographic distance from USM's main campus, 42 kilometers. As such, this campus offers
20 access to USM's top education to constituents of the First District of Cotabato. USM-Libungan
21 shall offer graduate and undergraduate programs for priority areas aligned with local and
22 regional development needs, particularly of Cotabato Province. This bill is consonant with the
23 constitutional right of all citizens to quality education and to make quality education accessible
24 to all.

¹ PHIL. CONST. art. XIV, § 1.

² 2023 Higher Education Facts and Figures, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, Available at:
26 <https://ched.gov.ph/2023-higher-education-facts-and-figures/> (Accessed: 23 June 2025).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Satellite Campuses, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO, Available at:
25 <https://www.usm.edu.ph/about-usm/satellite-campuses/>

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

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29

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Hon. Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

Representative 1st District of Cotabato



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9333**

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

29 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF**
30 **SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBUNGAN, PROVINCE**
31 **OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO–**
32 **LIBUNGAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

35 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “University of Southern Mindanao–
36 Libungan Campus Act.”

37 **Section 2. Establishment of Libungan Extension Campus.** It is hereby established an
38 extension campus of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in the Municipality of
39 Libungan, Province of Cotabato, to be known as the University of Southern Mindanao–Libungan
40 Campus (USM–Libungan Campus).

41 **Section 3. Mandate.** The USM–Libungan Campus shall offer graduate and undergraduate
42 programs within fields determined by the Board of Regents (BOR) of USM, and other priority
43 areas aligned with local and regional development needs, particularly of Cotabato Province. The
44 campus shall also undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in
45 its areas of specialization.

46 **Section 4. Campus Administration.** The USM–Libungan Campus shall be headed by a
47 Campus Administrator who shall render full-time service and shall be appointed or designated by
48 the BOR of USM upon the recommendation of a search committee and the University President,
49 subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the BOR.

50 **Section 5. Compliance with CHED Requirements.** The establishment of the USM–
51 Libungan Campus shall ensure that the minimum requirements for its operation and program
52 offerings, including faculty qualifications, facilities, and academic standards, are complied with as
53 prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

54 **Section 6. Post-Enactment Institutional Requirements.** In coordination with the main
55 campus of USM, and within a period of one year after the approval of this Act, the USM–Libungan
56 Campus shall:

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- 57 (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget, to
58 CHED for appropriate recommendation to the Department of Budget and Management
59 (DBM);
60 (b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with CHED; and
61 (c) Organize its administrative, academic, and operational structure, including the appointment
62 or designation of key officials.

63 **Section 7. *Governing Law and Applicability of Existing Laws.*** All relevant laws and
64 jurisprudence regulating higher education remain applicable to USM–Libungan Campus. All other
65 powers, functions, privileges, responsibilities, and limitations to state universities and/or their
66 officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the USM–Libungan
67 Campus and/or its officials whenever and to the extent they are appropriate.

68 **Section 8. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
69 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

70 **Section 9. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
71 Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

72 *Approved,*