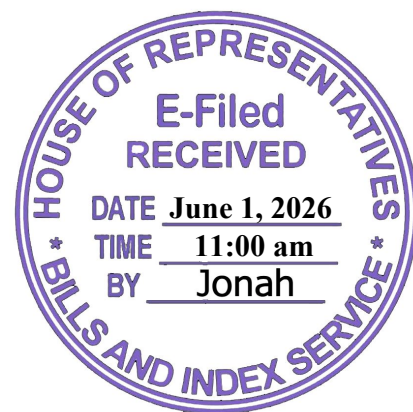




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9571



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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines recognizes the indispensable role of women in nation-building and mandates the State to ensure substantive equality between women and men. In furtherance of this constitutional policy, the government continues to strengthen programs that empower women through education, livelihood, and employment opportunities.

Despite existing laws promoting gender equality and women's welfare, many women in the Province of Tarlac—particularly those from rural communities, low-income households, solo-parent families, indigenous groups, and displaced workers—continue to face limited access to technical-vocational training and sustainable sources of livelihood. Economic barriers, lack of accessible training facilities, and insufficient industry-linked programs hinder many Tarlaqueñas from fully participating in the local economy.

Tarlac is strategically positioned as a growing center for agriculture, commerce, logistics, tourism, and emerging industries in Central Luzon. However, there remains a need for a dedicated institution that will equip women with specialized technical skills responsive to the present and future demands of industry and entrepreneurship within the province.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a TESDA Women's Center in the Province of Tarlac to serve as a specialized training and development hub focused on

women empowerment, skills enhancement, and economic inclusion. The Center shall provide accessible and gender-responsive technical-vocational education and training programs designed to improve employability, encourage entrepreneurship, and expand livelihood opportunities for women across the province.

The proposed TESDA Women's Center shall prioritize programs in areas such as digital technology, food processing, agri-based enterprises, tourism services, creative industries, renewable energy, dressmaking, wellness services, and other in-demand sectors identified by local labor market studies. It shall likewise provide entrepreneurship training, financial literacy seminars, career counseling, and employment facilitation services in coordination with local government units, educational institutions, and private sector partners.

Moreover, the Center shall create a safe and inclusive learning environment for women by integrating support mechanisms, including gender-sensitive policies, psychosocial support, and community-based outreach programs, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

By investing in the skills and capabilities of women in Tarlac, this measure aims to strengthen local economic development, reduce unemployment and underemployment, and promote greater participation of women in productive and leadership roles within their communities.

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



**MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES**  
*Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Tarlac*



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9571

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Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE TESDA WOMEN'S TRAINING AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC,**  
**PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATIONS, AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “*Tarlac TESDA Women’s*  
2 *Center Act.*”
- 3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 uphold the rights and welfare of women by promoting equal access to education, skills  
5 development, employment, and livelihood opportunities.
- 6 Toward this end, the State shall support programs that strengthen the economic  
7 participation of women, particularly those belonging to disadvantaged and  
8 marginalized sectors, through accessible and gender-responsive technical-vocational  
9 education and training.
- 10 The State likewise recognizes the important role of local development initiatives in  
11 empowering communities and improving the quality of life of women and their  
12 families in the Province of Tarlac.

1 **SECTION 3. Objectives.** – The TESDA Women’s Training and Development Center  
2 in Tarlac shall pursue the following objectives:

- 3 a. Provide accessible technical-vocational education and specialized skills  
4 training programs for women in the Province of Tarlac;
- 5 b. Enhance women’s employability, productivity, and entrepreneurial capability  
6 through competency-based training;
- 7 c. Encourage women’s participation in emerging industries, digital technology,  
8 agribusiness, tourism, manufacturing, and other high-growth sectors;
- 9 d. Promote gender-sensitive and safe learning environments for women trainees;
- 10 e. Develop community-based livelihood opportunities and sustainable income-  
11 generating activities; and
- 12 f. Strengthen partnerships among TESDA, local government units, educational  
13 institutions, industries, and other stakeholders for employment generation and  
14 enterprise development.

15 **SECTION 4. Establishment of the TESDA Women’s Training and Development**  
16 **Center.** – There shall be established in the Province of Tarlac a TESDA Women’s  
17 Training and Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the “Center,” which shall  
18 serve as the primary technical-vocational training institution dedicated to the  
19 education, empowerment, and economic advancement of women in the province.

20 The Center shall be established in coordination with the Provincial Government of  
21 Tarlac and concerned local government units.

22 **SECTION 5. Functions of the Center.** – The Center shall perform the following  
23 functions:

- 24 a. Conduct technical-vocational education and training programs consistent with  
25 TESDA competency standards and local industry requirements;
- 26 b. Offer skills upgrading, retraining, entrepreneurship, and livelihood  
27 development programs for women;
- 28 c. Provide competency assessment and certification services for graduates and  
29 trainees;
- 30 d. Facilitate job placement, employment referrals, and career development  
31 assistance;
- 32 e. Establish linkages with private enterprises, cooperatives, and government  
33 agencies for apprenticeship and employment opportunities;
- 34 f. Implement gender-responsive programs and support services, including  
35 counseling and community outreach activities;
- 36 g. Maintain records and databases of trainees and graduates for monitoring and  
37 employment tracking purposes; and

1       h. Perform such other functions necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

2       **SECTION 6. *Administration and Management.*** — The Technical Education and Skills  
3       Development Authority (TESDA) shall serve as the lead implementing agency  
4       responsible for the supervision, administration, and operation of the Center.

5       TESDA shall coordinate with the Provincial Government of Tarlac, local government  
6       units, state universities and colleges, and other concerned agencies in the  
7       implementation of programs and services under this Act.

8       **SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary for the initial implementation  
9       of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of TESDA. Thereafter,  
10      such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall  
11      be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12      **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60) days from the  
13      effectivity of this Act, TESDA, in consultation with the Philippine Commission on  
14      Women (PCW), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade  
15      and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD), local  
16      government unit (LGUs), and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary  
17      rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

18      **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared  
19      unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
20      full force and effect.

21      **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and  
22      regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23      **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24      publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
25      circulation.

*Approved,*