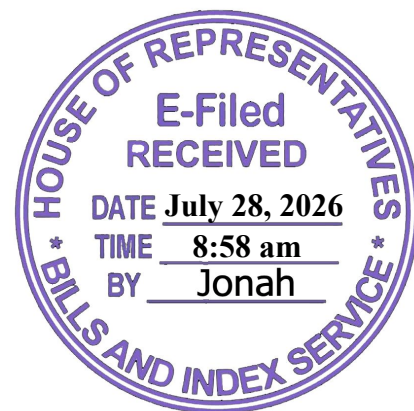


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10256



Introduced by Representative **MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11192 consolidated the public technical-vocational institutions of the Cordillera Administrative Region into the Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education (CSITE). While this integration was a significant administrative achievement, the resulting institute continues to operate under structural limitations that prevent it from fully meeting the region's need for high-level, industry-responsive technical education. The present organizational and governance structure of the Institute is inadequate to meet the increasing demands of higher education, research, innovation, and industry-responsive skills development.

This measure then seeks to amend Republic Act No 11192 to incorporate critical reforms that will transform the institute into a true polytechnic institution, to be known as the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute (CSPI). The bill likewise grants the Institute greater institutional and fiscal autonomy, establishes a Board of Trustees as its highest policymaking body, and authorizes the collection and retention of reasonable fees and other lawful income to strengthen its financial sustainability and improve the delivery of academic and support services

These reforms are intended to empower the Institute to pursue excellence in technical, technological, professional, and applied higher education, research extension, and innovation while ensuring accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the educational and developmental priorities of the Cordillera Region and the nation. It is a deliberate and necessary shift in institutional identity, academic scope, and societal aspiration.

A polytechnic institute is distinguished by its comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to technical education. It moves beyond a singular focus on isolated trade skills toward the integration of theoretical knowledge with high-

level practical application across a broad spectrum of technologies, including engineering technology, applied sciences, and industrial arts. The CSPI will offer a seamless continuum of programs, from foundational skills training to advanced technical diplomas, and foster an environment of applied research, innovation, and technology incubation. The institute will not only produce skilled workers, but technologist, supervisors, and innovators who can drive the region's economic development and attract higher-value industries, hence, ensuring the Cordillera workforce to possess analytical capability, practical mastery, and creative problem-solving required by the contemporary labor market.

To operationalize and sustain this enhanced institutional identity, this measure provides for a genuine fiscal autonomy. The present financial management of the Institute being directly supervised and controlled by TESDA hampers the timely maintenance of advanced polytechnic facilities, the acquisition of modern industrial-grade equipment, and the swift implementation of curricular improvements that require immediate funding. By establishing CSPI as a corporate body with a dedicated revolving fund, it will be liberated from this restrictive financial framework and empowered to retain and deploy its income directly toward strategic institutional priorities, responding rapidly to industry demands without wholly dependent on the annual national budget cycle. Furthermore, the creation of an autonomous Board of Trustees composed of multi-sectoral stakeholders replaces the exclusive supervision of the TESDA. This governance body will bring together representatives from government, industry, labor, and the local community to ensure that the Institute's strategic direction is deeply rooted in the socioeconomic realities and development priorities of the Cordillera Region.

Moreover, the bill establishes an unequivocal statutory basis for the assessment and collection of reasonable fees for all program offerings. This will provide a steady supplementary resource stream that will directly support the continuous upgrading of curriculum, the professional development of its faculty-trainers, and the provision of scholarships for the youth of the Cordillera, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring that access to high quality polytechnic education remains equitable.

This measure also addresses a critical gap in the current educational architecture of the region by providing a clear statutory mandate for CSPI to develop and implement ladderized diploma to degree programs. Under the trifocalized education system, the articulation between technical-vocational education and higher education has long been hampered by the absence of enforceable mechanisms that require higher education institutions to recognize and credit TVET qualifications. The Philippine Qualifications Framework and

the Ladderized Education Act provide the policy foundation for seamless progression between TESDA and CHED qualifications, yet the implementation of credit transfer arrangements remain largely dependent on the willingness of individual institutions. By explicitly mandating CSPI to integrate its TESDA-registered diploma programs with CHED-recognized baccalaureate degree offerings, this bill creates a tangible, institution-based model for ladderization. This provision established CSPI as a singular institution where a student may enter a technical-vocational track, earn a TESDA diploma, and progress toward a full baccalaureate degree within the same system, with the institute seeking the appropriate recognition from each trifocal agency for its respective programs. This approach does not disturb the trifocalized structure but instead operationalizes it within a single, coherent institution, providing the youth of the Cordillera with clear, accessible, and structured pathways for upward educational and social mobility.

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



MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

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Introduced by Representative **MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11192, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “CORDILLERA STATE INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL
EDUCATION ACT” RENAMING THE INSTITUTE AS THE
CORDILLERA STATE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (CSPI),
GRANTING IT GREATER INSTITUTIONAL AND FISCAL
AUTONOMY, ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND
PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF FEES AND OTHER
PURPOSES**

*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 “Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute Charter Amendments Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen public higher education institutions by promoting academic excellence, institutional autonomy, fiscal sustainability, research and innovation, and industry-responsive technical and professional education. Towards this end, the Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education shall be recognized and strengthened as the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute.

SEC. 3. Renaming of the Institute and Establishment of the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute (CSPI). The Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education (CSITE) created under Republic Act No 11192 is hereby renamed and established as the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute (CSPI), hereinafter referred to as the Institute. All references to the Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education in Republic Act No 11192 and other laws, executive issuances, rules and regulations shall hereafter refer to the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute.

The Institute shall be a body corporate, possessing all the powers of a corporation under the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines, and shall enjoy academic freedom, fiscal and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution. It shall integrate the CSITE Main Campus, CSITE extension campuses at Abra, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Kalinga, and all other LGU-run and State-run Provincial Training Centers in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

SEC. 4. Polytechnic Identity and Objectives. – The Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute is established as a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary polytechnic institution. It shall:

- a. Integrate theoretical knowledge with high-level practical application across engineering technology, applied sciences, industrial arts, and other technical fields;
- b. Offer a seamless continuum of programs from foundational skills training to advanced technical diplomas and as may be authorized, higher-level credentials;
- c. Foster an environment of applied research, innovation, and technology incubation in partnership with industry and local communities;
- d. Produce technologists, supervisors, and innovators capable of driving regional economic development and adapting to the demands of the evolving global economy;
- e. Serve as the apex instruction of the regional technical-vocational education and training (TVET) system, ensuring that the Cordillera workforce possesses analytical capability, practical mastery, and creative problem-solving skills.

SEC. 5. Governing Board; Composition. – The governance of the Institute is vested exclusively in a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall replace the direct supervisory control of the TESDA. The Board shall be composed of the following;

- a. The Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), as chairperson;
- b. The Executive Director of the Institute, as vice-chairperson;
- c. The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, as member;

d. The Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, as member;

e. The Regional Director of TESDA- Cordillera Administrative Region, as member;

f. The Regional Director of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDEV) – CAR, as member;

g. The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – CAR, as member;

h. The President of the Cordillera Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or a duly recognized regional business organization, as member;

i. One (1) representative from the labor/workers sector;

j. One (1) representative from the employer/industry sector; and

k. One (1) representative from the Student Body Organization.

The representatives from the labor and employer sectors, as well as the students shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of a Search Committee. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to honoraria and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, subject to existing accounting and auditing laws.

SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board of Trustees. – In addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of corporate powers, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties;

a. To promulgate and implement policies consistent with the polytechnic character of the Institute and the national thrusts of TESDA under Republic Act. No. 7796, otherwise known as the “Technical Education and Skills Development Act of 1994”;

b. To approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline;

c. To fix, assess, and collect reasonable fees for all program offerings as provided in Section 12 of this Act, including tuition/training fees, and other necessary school charges such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and other laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the involved sectors and authorities and concerned government agencies;

d. To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment, and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

e. To enter into Memorandum of Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding, locally and internationally, with business, industry, local government units, and other educational institutions for the development and management of the Institute's economic assets and the enhancement of its academic programs;

f. To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the Institute;

g. To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the Institute, in the matter it may determine in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Institute;

h. To delegate any of its powers and duties to the Executive Director and other officials of the Institute as it may deem appropriate, to expedite the administration of the affairs of the Institute;

i. To promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act; and

j. To exercise such other powers as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act

SEC. 7. Meetings of the Board. – The Board shall meet at least twice a year. Whenever necessary, the Chairperson of the Board shall call special meetings with written notices sent at least three (3) days prior to the date of the special meeting.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of the majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting; *Provided*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the Executive Director of the Institute is among those present in the meeting.

In the absence of the chairperson of the Board, the Director General of TESDA shall designate a TESDA representative with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member; *Provided*, however, that during the said meeting, the Executive Director of the Institute as the Vice Chairperson shall be the presiding officer.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to honorarium or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other

official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 8. – The Executive Director – The Institute shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall render fulltime service and who shall be appointed by the Board in accordance with the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board and Civil Service rules and regulations, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the Executive Director by reason of death, retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the Executive Director to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an officer-in-charge of the Institute pending the appointment of a new Executive Director.

SEC. 9. – Directors for General Administration and Services and Academic Affairs and Development – The Executive Director of the Institute shall be assisted by the Directors for General Administration and Services and Academic Affairs and Development. They shall render fulltime service and shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Search Committee and the Executive Director in accordance with the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board and Civil Service rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. Campus Sites and Directors. – The main campus and extension campuses shall be headed each by a Campus Director who shall render fulltime service. They shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Search Committee and the Executive Director in accordance with the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board and Civil Service rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. – Secretary of the Board. – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and the Institute and who shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. The Secretary shall serve the appropriate notice of Board meetings upon each member of the Board.

SEC. 12. Collection of Fees for Program Offerings; Revolving Fund. – The Board of Trustees is expressly authorized to fix, assess, and collect reasonable fees for all curricular and training program offerings, including but not limited to tuition, training fees, laboratory fees, assessment fees, and other necessary school charges. The proceeds from such fees shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank and shall constitute a Revolving Fund, which the Institute may use exclusively for the construction of physical facilities, improvement of instruction, applied research, extension services, maintenance

and upgrading of polytechnic facilities, acquisition of modern industrial-grade equipment; professional development of faculty trainers, scholarship programs, and other priority programs or projects of the Institute. The assessment and collection of these fees shall be subject to the pertinent accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Commission on Audit (COA). The Board shall ensure that the fee structure remains accessible and equitable and shall provide for scholarship programs and fee subsidies for economically disadvantaged but deserving students. Any provision of existing laws, rules, or regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, the income generated by the Institute from the collection fees authorized under this section shall be retained by the Institute.

SEC. 13. Ladderized Diploma-to- Degree Programs. – In accordance with Republic Act No. 10968, otherwise known as the “Philippine Qualifications Framework Act”, and Republic Act No. 10647, otherwise known as the “Ladderized Education Act of 2014, the Cordillera State Polytechnic Institute (CSPI) is hereby mandated to develop and implement ladderized programs that integrate TESDA-registered technical-vocational diploma programs with baccalaureate degree offerings. Credits earned from the technical-vocational component shall be recognized and credited toward relevant degree programs, consistent with the Philippine Credit Transfer System. The Institute shall seek appropriate recognition from TESDA for its diploma programs and shall be authorized to confer the corresponding diploma and baccalaureate degree upon completion of the respective requirements.

The Board of Trustees shall ensure that these ladderized curricular pathways are competency-based, industry-responsive, and aligned with the Philippine Qualifications Framework. The specific guidelines governing the development, implementation, and articulation mechanisms of the ladderized programs, including the detailed credit transfer arrangements and coordination protocols between CSPI, TESDA, and CHED, shall be prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 14. Duty and Tax Exemptions. – The provisions of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding;

a. All revenues and assets received by the Institute, of whatever source, which are actually, directly, and exclusively used for instruction, research, extension, production, or in furtherance thereof, as well as purchases and other transactions entered into by the Institute through the Board, shall be exempt from all kinds of taxes and duties, whether imposed by the National Government or

any of its agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, and by local government units.

b. All importation of technical, vocational, and scientific books and publications, equipment, instruments, and apparatuses by the Institute, upon certification by TESDA, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

c. All donations, bequests, and grants to the Institute shall be exempt from donor’s tax and shall be considered allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor for income tax purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 15. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of TESDA and the integrated institutions. The amount for Capital Outlay shall be a continuing appropriation. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 16. Transitory Provisions. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Trustees shall be constituted. The Executive Director of CSITE under Republic Act No. 11192 shall serve as the Acting Executive Director of CSPI until a permanent appointment is made by the Board. All existing contracts, agreements, and obligations of the former CSITE shall be honored by CSPI.

SEC. 17. Retention of Existing Provisions. – All provisions of Republic Act No. 11192, otherwise known as the “Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education Act,” which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 18. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Trustees, in coordination with CHED, TESDA and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 19. Repealing Clause. – all laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 21. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,