

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Batasan Hills, Quezon City
4

5 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
6 Second Regular Session
7

8 **HOUSE BILL NO. 10821**
9



10 Introduced by
11 **REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT FRANCO D. FRASCO**

12 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

13 The Camotes Islands, consisting of the Municipalities of Poro, San Francisco, Tudela, and
14 Pilar in the Province of Cebu, are geographically separated from the mainland. Currently, its
15 primary and secondary schools are under the administrative supervision of the Cebu Province
16 Schools Division Office, located in Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City. Reaching the Schools Division
17 Office from the Camotes Islands requires travel by both land and sea, which can take more than
18 three (3) hours under normal conditions. Travel is further complicated by the limited availability
19 of transportation and by inclement weather and rough sea conditions, which cause delays,
20 disruptions, or the suspension of sea travel.

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22 Further, this geographic separation has created significant accessibility and operational
23 challenges that affect the timely delivery of administrative services, technical assistance, and other
24 forms of institutional support necessary for the effective governance of basic education. These
25 constraints place an undue burden on school heads, teachers, and education personnel and hamper
26 the efficient implementation of educational programs and services across the islands.

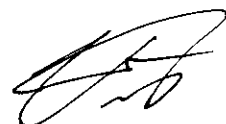
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28 Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and
29 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps
30 to make such education accessible to all." It is, therefore, the responsibility of the State to enact
31 measures that promote greater access to quality education and strengthen the effective delivery
32 and administration of basic education services, particularly in geographically isolated areas.

33
34 Thus, this measure seeks to create the Camotes Islands Schools Division Office under the
35 Department of Education. The establishment of a separate Schools Division will strengthen the
36 delivery of basic education services and ensure a more accessible, responsive, and efficient
37 governance structure that is better suited to the needs of the Camotes Islands. It seeks to ensure
38 that every learner, teacher, school personnel, and stakeholder in the Camotes Islands receives

1 timely, accessible, and effective educational governance consistent with the constitutional mandate
2 to make quality education available to all.
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4 While Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act
5 of 2001, provides that a schools division may consist of a province or a city, the creation of a
6 separate Schools Division for the Camotes Islands is justified by its unique geographical
7 circumstances and the need to ensure the effective administration of basic education. Notably,
8 Congress has previously recognized similar circumstances by enacting laws that established
9 separate island-based schools divisions to improve educational governance and service delivery.¹
10 It is for this reason that this measure is founded on the same policy consideration of bringing
11 education governance closer to the communities it serves.
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13 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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19 **VINCENT FRANCO D. FRASCO**
20 *Representative, 5th District of Cebu*
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¹ Republic Act No. 5477, An Act Creating A Separate Public School Division Under A Separate Division Superintendent Of Schools In The Island Of Dinagat, Province Of Surigao Del Norte, And Authorizing The Appropriation Of Funds Therefor.

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10
11 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAMOTES ISLANDS SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE**
12 **AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
13

14 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
15 *assembled:*
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17 **SECTION 1. *Establishment of the Camotes Islands Schools Division.*** – There is hereby
18 established the Camotes Islands Schools Division under the Department of Education, with
19 territorial jurisdiction over the Municipalities of Poro, San Francisco, Tudela, and Pilar, Province
20 of Cebu, and which shall be headed by a Schools Division Superintendent.
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22 Its principal office shall be established at such location within the Camotes Islands as may
23 be determined by the Department of Education, taking into consideration accessibility, availability
24 of government facilities, disaster resilience, and operational efficiency.
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26 **SEC. 2. *Organizational Structure, Staffing, and Transition.*** – The Department of
27 Education shall determine and approve the organizational structure, staffing pattern, and
28 operational requirements of the Camotes Islands Schools Division and is hereby authorized to
29 create, fill, transfer, reassign, or reclassify positions as may be necessary for the implementation
30 of this Act.
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32 Upon the operationalization of the Camotes Islands Schools Division, the Department of
33 Education shall ensure the orderly transfer of records, personnel, assets, appropriations, and other
34 resources necessary for its operation.
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36 **SEC. 3. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
37 shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter,
38 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation and operation of the Camotes
39 Islands Schools Division shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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2 **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Education, in
3 coordination with other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules
4 and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.
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6 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** — If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently
7 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in
8 full force and effect.
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10 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules,
11 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this
12 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
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14 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
15 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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18 *Approved,*
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