

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10979



Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, the State is mandated to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Furthermore, Section 2 (1) of the same Article provides that the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Access to quality, affordable, and relevant higher education remains a fundamental driver of local development and inclusive growth. In the Province of Surigao del Norte, many deserving students, particularly those from geographically isolated and economically disadvantaged areas continue to face financial and logistical challenges in pursuing tertiary education.

The establishment of a campus of the Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU) in the Municipality of Alegria seeks to address these barriers by bringing quality instruction, research, and extension services closer to the people. As a state university mandated to provide advanced education, technological and professional instruction, and to promote research and community engagement, SNSU plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of the province and the Caraga Region.

The proposed SNSU Alegria Campus will expand access to degree and non-degree programs aligned with local development priorities, including agriculture, fisheries, environmental sustainability, tourism, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies. It will likewise serve as a hub for skills training, innovation, and community-based research responsive to the needs of local industries and stakeholders.

By establishing this campus, the State affirms its constitutional commitment to make quality education accessible to all and to promote equitable opportunities for lifelong learning. The measure is envisioned to empower the youth, strengthen the local workforce, stimulate economic activity, and contribute to long-term regional progress.

Moreover, the institutional recognition of SNSU Alegria Campus through legislation would provide a legal basis for regular national funding and infrastructure development, support the expansion of academic offerings aligned with local industry and regional development goals, and ensure operational stability, staffing, and long-term sustainability of the campus.

The establishment will promote inclusive growth and development which will encourage the expansion of its services and facilities to provide quality education to more students and will give wider latitude to learning. This legislative measure is consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997” and aims to promote the State’s policy to provide access to quality tertiary education for all.

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



HON. BERNADETTE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10979

Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE SURIGAO DEL NORTE STATE
UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALEGRIA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO
DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU) Alegria Campus Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Establishment of a Campus.* – There is hereby established a campus of the Surigao del Norte State University in the Municipality of Alegria, Province of Surigao del Norte, to be known as the “*Surigao del Norte State University – Alegria Campus.*”

SEC. 3. *General Mandate.* – The SNSU Alegria Campus shall primarily provide degree programs such as Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Secondary Education as well as Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management and other academic offerings aligned with local industry and regional development goals that may later be offered once established into a regular campus. The academic offerings shall be pursuant to the mandates of the SNSU, and the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the needs of the Municipality of Alegria and the local populace of its neighboring communities.

SEC. 4. *Supervision and Management.* – The SNSU Alegria Campus shall be headed by a Campus Director who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents, subject to its institutional guidelines, qualifications, and standards, and upon the recommendation of the search committee and the University President.

SEC. 5. *Compliance with the Requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).* – The SNSU shall ensure the compliance of the SNSU Alegria Campus with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of the campus, including those related to the offering of course and the introduction of new or revised programs prior to the conversion.

SEC. 6. *Management of Assets, Personnel, and Records of the Campus.* – All assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations shall be titled or named after the SNSU Alegria Campus. All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the SNSU Alegria Campus shall be titled under

its name: *Provided*, That should the campus cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the SNSU, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned or the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Suppletory Applications.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.