

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 800



Submitted by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education, Appropriations, and Ways and Means on September 26, 2023

Re: House Bill No. 9319

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6550

Sponsors: Representatives Mark O. Go, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, and Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Higher and Technical Education, Appropriations, and Ways and Means, to which was referred House Bill No. 6550, introduced by Representatives Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, and Emerson D. Pascual, entitled:

“AN ACT
CONVERTING THE NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTO A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS NUEVA ECIJA STATE UNIVERSITY, EXPANDING AND RATIONALIZING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, AND STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9319, entitled:

“AN ACT
RENAMING THE NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS THE NUEVA ECIJA STATE UNIVERSITY, EXPANDING ITS MANDATE AND CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”


be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 6550 and with Representatives Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Emerson D. Pascual, Mark O. Go, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Eric Go Yap, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Ambrosio C. Cruz, Jr., Arnie B. Fuentebella, Sergio C. Dagooc,

Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Michael B. Gorriceta, Lordan G. Suan, Wilter Y. Palma, Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon- Uy, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Midy N. Cua, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Leody “Odie” F. Tarriela, Ching B. Bernos, Roy M. Loyola, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Ricardo T. Kho, James “Jojo” A. Ang, Jr., Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel, and Allan U. Ty as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZALDY S. CO
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations


MARK C. GO
Chairperson
Committee on Higher and Technical Education


JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
 Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9319
(In substitution of House Bill No. 6550)

Introduced by Representatives Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Emerson D. Pascual, Mark O. Go, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Eric Go Yap, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Solomon R. Chungalao, Ambrosio C. Cruz, Jr., Arnie B. Fuentebella, Sergio C. Dagooc, Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Michael B. Gorriceta, Lordan G. Suan, Wilter Y. Palma, Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon-Uy, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Midy N. Cua, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Leody “Odie” F. Tarriela, Ching B. Bernos, Roy M. Loyola, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Ricardo T. Kho, James “Jojo” A. Ang, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel, and Allan U. Ty

AN ACT

RENAMING THE NUEVA ECIJA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS THE NUEVA ECIJA STATE UNIVERSITY, EXPANDING ITS MANDATE AND CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Renaming.*** – The Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology
 2 (NEUST) in the City of Cabanatuan, Province of Nueva Ecija, is renamed as the Nueva
 3 Ecija State University (NESU). All references to NEUST in Republic Act (RA) No. 8612
 4 are now referred to as the NESU. The campuses in Gabaldon, San Isidro, Fort Magsaysay,
 5 Atate, Sumacab, General Tinio Street, Sto. Domingo, and Nampicuan are integrated into
 6 the university system to be known as NESU. Its main campus shall be in Cabanatuan City.

7
 8 **SEC. 2. *General Mandate.*** – As a comprehensive university, the NESU shall
 9 primarily provide advanced instruction and professional training in arts, science,
 10 agriculture, engineering, technology, education, health, business, communications, and
 11 other relevant fields of study. It shall also promote advanced research and extension
 12 services and shall provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

13
 14 **SEC. 3. *Curricular Offerings.*** –The NESU shall offer short-term technical-
 15 vocational, undergraduate, and graduate courses in the fields of agriculture, engineering,
 16 technology, education, health, business, communications, and other courses, as the Board
 17 of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, and those which respond to the
 18 human resource development needs of the Province of Nueva Ecija and Region III.

1
2 The existing reasonably-sized laboratory high school shall continue to operate
3 under the supervision of the College of Education of the NESU to serve the in-campus
4 requirements of its students.

5
6 **SEC. 4. Administration.** – The NESU shall have the general powers of a
7 corporation set forth in RA 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of
8 the Philippines”. The administration of the NESU and the exercise of its corporate powers
9 shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the NESU.

10
11 **SEC. 5. The Board of Regents.** – The governing body of the NESU shall be the
12 Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board. The Chairperson of the Board shall
13 be the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Vice-
14 Chairperson shall be the President of the NESU. The following shall be the members:

- 15
16 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
17 of the Senate;
18 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House
19 of Representatives;
20 d. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
21 e. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
22 f. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
23 g. President of the federation of faculty associations of the NESU;
24 h. President of the federation of student councils of the NESU;
25 i. President of the federation of alumni associations of the NESU;
26 j. Representative of the nonteaching or personnel association of the NESU; and
27 k. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished
28 themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

29
30 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list
31 of at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of Nueva Ecija, as recommended by
32 a Search Committee constituted by the President of the NESU, in consultation with the
33 Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the guidelines on
34 qualification standards and for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of
35 two (2) years from the date of appointment.

36
37 The terms of office of the Presidents of the federation of faculty associations,
38 federation of student councils, federation of alumni associations, and the Representative of
39 the nonteaching personnel shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided
40 under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

41
42 In case of vacancy among appointive positions in the Board, the vacancy shall be
43 filled by the Board following the guidelines set by it, and the appointee shall hold office
44 only for the unexpired portion of the term.

45
46 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board.** – The administration of the NESU and
47 the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board, which shall have the following
48 specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the
49 exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a Corporation under Section
50 35 of RA No. 11232:

51

1 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on
2 education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science
3 and technology, and the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under RA No. 7722,
4 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994";

5
6 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn by
7 the Administrative and Academic Councils, as herein provided;

8
9 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the NESU, the vice presidents,
10 chancellors, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other officials
11 and employees of the NESU;

12
13 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials, and employees,
14 subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System
15 and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service, and such
16 other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; grant them, at its discretion, leaves of
17 absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the
18 contrary notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements
19 of the civil service rules and regulations and due process of law; and

20
21 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees,
22 graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due
23 consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government
24 subsidies and other income generated by the NESU, shall constitute its special trust funds
25 and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. All interests that
26 shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the NESU.

27
28 Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding,
29 any income generated by the NESU from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the
30 operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the NESU and may be
31 disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension services and other programs or
32 projects of the NESU: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific
33 purposes for which these are collected: *Provided however*, That if, for reasons beyond its
34 control, the NESU shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been
35 appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may
36 authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be
37 necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the NESU;

38
39 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater
40 access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931, otherwise known
41 as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";

42
43 g. Establish professorial chairs in the NESU and provide fellowships for qualified faculty
44 members, and scholarships to deserving students;

45
46 h. Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the
47 NESU, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the
48 purposes and functions of the NESU;

49
50 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;

51

1 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in
2 the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, sports and human
3 kinetics or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the NESU, and
4 authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional
5 courses;

6
7 k. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate
8 institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint experts or
9 specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or
10 researchers, as the case may be;

11
12 l. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transferring knowledge to allow greater access to
13 education such as the use of information technology, online programs, the dual training
14 system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;

15
16 m. Absorb non-chartered tertiary education institutions within the Province of Nueva Ecija
17 and Region III as branches, extension campuses, and external centers, in coordination with
18 the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM),
19 and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing
20 equal access to educational opportunities;

21
22 n. Authorize an external management audit of the NESU, to be financed by the CHED,
23 subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms,
24 including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and
25 recommendations;

26
27 o. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units, as
28 well as public, private, local or foreign institutions and agencies for the furtherance of the
29 purposes and objectives of the NESU;

30
31 p. Import economic, technical, and cultural books and publications;

32
33 q. Enter into joint ventures with business industry for the profitable growth and
34 management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development
35 and strengthening of the NESU;

36
37 r. Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all
38 kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the benefit of the NESU
39 and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any;

40
41 s. Extend the term of the President of the NESU beyond the age of retirement but not
42 beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines on qualification standards set by
43 the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as
44 outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon
45 by the Search Committee;

46
47 t. Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the NESU, as
48 it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the NESU;

49
50 u. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent decision-
51 making within the NESU;

1
2 v. Where most advantageous to the NESU, privatize the management of nonacademic
3 services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such other
4 similar activities;

5
6 w. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other
7 facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary
8 supplies, materials, and equipment; and

9
10 x. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and
11 functions of the NESU.

12
13 **SEC. 7. *Meetings of the Board.*** – The Board shall regularly convene once every
14 three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special meeting
15 whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) days
16 prior to the conduct of said meeting.

17
18 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members holding office
19 at the time of the meeting: *Provided however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the
20 President of the NESU is among those present in the meeting.

21
22 In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a
23 CHED Commissioner duly designated by Chairperson of the CHED as representative to the
24 meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That
25 during the meeting, the President of the NESU, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding
26 officer: *Provided further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the
27 CHED may designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in
28 which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

29
30 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and
31 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall
32 not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives
33 who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

34
35 The members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than
36 reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to
37 the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by
38 resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

39
40 **SEC. 8. *The University President.*** – The NESU shall be headed by a President
41 who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualification standards,
42 and based on the recommendation of a Search Committee duly constituted for the purpose
43 of selecting the President. The NESU President shall render full-time service for a term of
44 four (4) years, and may be reappointed to another term: *Provided*, That in order to effect a
45 smooth transition of NEUST to a comprehensive university, the incumbent President of the
46 NEUST shall serve as the first President of the NESU until the end of the first term, subject
47 to reappointment: *Provided further*, That if the incumbent President has already served a
48 term of four years and has been reappointed to another term, the incumbent President shall
49 only serve as NESU President for the remaining period of the current term and shall be
50 disqualified for any further reappointment.

51

1 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent
2 President of the NESU, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency.

3
4 The powers and duties of the President of the NESU, in addition to those
5 specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the
6 President of universities and those delegated by the Board.

7
8 The salary of the President of the NESU shall be in accordance with RA No. 11466,
9 otherwise known as the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and such other laws
10 amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and on the joint circular for state
11 universities and colleges’ leveling instruments, and guidelines of the CHED and the DBM.

12
13 In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory
14 retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the
15 functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the NESU,
16 pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That the OIC shall serve only
17 during the unexpired portion of the term.

18
19 The President of the NESU shall be assisted by Vice Presidents, as may be allowed
20 under the existing guidelines of Joint Circular No. 2, Series of 2003 of the DBM and the
21 CHED. They shall all be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President
22 of the NESU.

23
24 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the NESU.*** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who
25 shall serve as such for both the Board and the NESU and shall keep all records and
26 proceedings of the board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary of
27 the NESU shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board
28 meetings.

29
30 **SEC. 10. *The Treasurer of the NESU.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be
31 the *ex officio* Treasurer of the NESU.

32
33 **SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.*** – There shall be an Administrative Council
34 consisting of the President of the NESU, as Chairperson, and the vice-president, deans,
35 director, and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duty is to review and
36 recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration, management, and
37 development planning of the NESU.

38
39 **SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council
40 consisting of the President of the NESU, as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the
41 rank of at least an assistant professor, as members, which shall formulate academic
42 policies.

43
44 The Academic Council shall review and recommend the curricular offerings and
45 rules on student discipline, fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for
46 their graduation and conferment of degrees, exercise disciplinary power over the students
47 and formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the review and
48 approval of the Board through the President of the NESU.

49

1 **SEC. 13. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** – The NESU shall
2 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of
3 Article XIV of the Constitution.

4
5 **SEC. 14. *The Faculty.*** – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
6 community affiliation, ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of
7 inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the NESU: *Provided*, That the
8 appointment shall be subject to the guidelines on qualification standards set by the Board:
9 *Provided further*, That a member of the faculty shall not criticize, vouch for, recruit
10 members in behalf of, or preach about any particular church or religious sect.

11
12 **SEC. 15. *Heads of Campuses.*** – A campus shall be headed by a campus director
13 who shall render full-time service. All campus directors shall be appointed by the Board,
14 upon the recommendation of the NESU President, subject to the guidelines on qualification
15 standards set by the Board.

16
17 **SEC. 16. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** – The NESU shall provide
18 scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving
19 students who qualify for admission to the NESU. No student shall be denied admission to
20 the NESU by reason of sex, religion, political, cultural or community affiliation, and ethnic
21 origin.

22
23 **SEC. 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer of Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies,***
24 ***and Detail of Personnel.*** – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national
25 government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of
26 the NESU, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the NESU and to
27 detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgement of the head of the bureau or
28 office, the apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared
29 without serious detriment to public service. The employees so detailed shall perform such
30 duties as required of them by the President of the NESU and the time so employed shall be
31 counted as part of their regular service.

32
33 **SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.*** – All assets, both real and personal,
34 personnel and records of the NEUST, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be
35 transferred to the NESU: *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of
36 faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the
37 conversion into a university shall be respected.

38
39 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the NEUST and all its
40 satellite campuses are declared as property of the NESU, and shall be titled under its name:
41 *Provided*, That should the NESU cease to exist or be abolished or should such
42 aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the NESU, the same shall revert to
43 local government unit of Cabanatuan City or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case
44 may be.

45
46 **SEC. 19. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** – The importation of books or publications,
47 which are for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, legal, and
48 cultural purposes made by the NESU, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt
49 from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863, otherwise known
50 as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

51

1 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used
2 actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the NESU, shall be exempt
3 from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross
4 income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the
5 provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

6
7 **SEC. 20. *Development Plan and Organizational Structure.*** - Within one hundred
8 twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the NESU shall accomplish the following:

9
10 a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to
11 the CHED and the DBM;

12
13 b. Submit the revised Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan in accordance with
14 RA 11396, otherwise known as the "SUCs Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan
15 (LUDIP) Act";

16
17 c. Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

18
19 d. Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including the
20 designation of the key officials and other administrative personnel of the NESU.

21
22 **SEC. 21. *Filing of Report.*** – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second
23 (2nd) month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed
24 report on its compliance with the requirements for a university status with the Office of the
25 President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the Chairperson of the
26 CHED.

27
28 **SEC. 22. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial
29 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the
30 NEUST. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of
31 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

32
33 **SEC. 23. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise
34 known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this Act.

35
36 **SEC. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** –Within sixty (60) days of the
37 approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and
38 regulations to implement its provisions.

39
40 **SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
41 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in
42 full force and effect.

43
44 **SEC. 26. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
45 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,