



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10625

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BY REPRESENTATIVES VILLA, GO (M.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), VIOLAGO, PUMAREN, KHONGHUN, SUANSING (M.A.), ABUNDA, EUDELA, CHATTO, CASTRO (F.), MERCADO-REVILLA, SACDALAN, DALOG, CARI, PADIERNOS, BUHAIN, ROQUE, SUAN, BALINDONG, MAGSINO, CAGAS, COLLANTES, VERZOSA, LUMAYAG, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, GULLAS, BULUT-BEGTANG, GUINTU, CORVERA, HERNANDEZ, YULO, ALVAREZ (M.), CAJAYON-UY, SOLON, EMANO, ALBA, ROMUALDO, CHAN, ZAMORA (M.C.), GALEOS, GARCIA (D.), NAVA, CARDEMA, CO-PILAR, ABALOS, GARDIOLA, LARA, FERRER (A.), AGARAO, ECLEO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), ADIONG, ORDANES, ORTEGA, REGENCIA, YU (J.V.), CO (E.) AND SALCEDA

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AN ACT

**CONVERTING THE SIQUIJOR STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LARENA, PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR, INCLUDING ITS EXTENSION CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAZI, PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Conversion.** – The Siquijor State College (SSC) in the Municipality  
2 of Larena, Province of Siquijor, including its extension campus in the Municipality of Lazi,  
3 Province of Siquijor known as the Siquijor State College-Lazi Campus (formerly the Lazi  
4 Skills Development Center), is converted into a state university to be known as the State  
5 University of Siquijor (SUS). The main campus shall be in the Municipality of Larena.  
6

7           **SEC. 2. General Mandate.** – The SUS shall primarily provide advanced  
8 instruction and professional training in education, law, art and science, public  
9 administration, information technology, accountancy, business and industry, agriculture,  
10 forestry, maritime education, engineering, nursing and health allied courses, and other  
11 fields of study. It shall promote research and extension services and shall provide  
12 progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

13  
14           **SEC. 3. Curricular Offerings.** – The SUS shall offer short-term technical-  
15 vocational, undergraduate, and graduate courses in the fields of education, law, art and  
16 science, public administration, information technology, accountancy, business and industry,  
17 agriculture, forestry, maritime education, engineering, nursing and health allied courses,  
18 and other degree courses, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its  
19 objectives, and those which respond to the human resource development needs of the  
20 Province of Siquijor and Region VII.

21  
22           **SEC. 4. Administration.** – The SUS shall have the general powers of a corporation  
23 as set forth in the Republic Act (RA) No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised

1 Corporation Code of the Philippines”. The administration of the SUS and the exercise of its  
2 corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of  
3 the SUS.  
4

5 **SEC. 5. *The Board of Regents.*** – The governing body of the SUS shall be the  
6 Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired by the  
7 Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and vice-chaired by the  
8 President of the SUS, and with the following as members:  
9

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

23 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list  
24 of at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of Siquijor, as recommended by a  
25 Search Committee constituted by the President of the SUS, in consultation with the  
26 Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the standards and  
27 qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years  
28 from the date of appointment.  
29

30 The terms of office of the Presidents of the federation of faculty associations,  
31 federation of student councils, federation of alumni associations, and the Representative of  
32 the nonteaching personnel shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided  
33 under their respective constitutions and bylaws.  
34

35 **SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board.*** – The administration of the SUS and the  
36 exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board, which shall have the following  
37 specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the  
38 exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a Corporation under  
39 Section 35 of RA No. 11232:  
40

41 (a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State  
42 policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education,  
43 agriculture, science and technology, and the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED  
44 under RA No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;  
45

46 (b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline  
47 drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils, as herein provided;  
48

49 (c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the SUS, the vice  
50 presidents, chancellors, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and  
51 other officials and employees of the SUS;

1 (d) Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials, and  
2 employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position  
3 Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours  
4 of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; grant them, at its  
5 discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of  
6 existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance  
7 with the requirements of the civil service rules and regulations and due process of law;  
8

9 (e) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation  
10 fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after  
11 due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government  
12 subsidies and other income generated by the SUS, shall constitute its special trust funds and  
13 shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall  
14 accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the SUS;  
15

16 Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding,  
17 any income generated by the SUS from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the  
18 operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the SUS and may be  
19 disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension services, and other programs or  
20 projects of the SUS: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific  
21 purposes for which these are collected: *Provided, however*, That if, for reasons beyond its  
22 control, the SUS shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been  
23 appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may  
24 authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be  
25 necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the SUS;  
26

27 (f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for  
28 greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931, otherwise  
29 known as the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”;  
30

31 (g) Establish professorial chairs in the SUS and provide fellowships for qualified  
32 faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;  
33

34 (h) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided for by law for the support of  
35 the SUS, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out  
36 the purposes and functions of the SUS;  
37

38 (i) Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;  
39

40 (j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding  
41 contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, sports  
42 and human kinetics or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the  
43 SUS, and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and  
44 nontraditional courses;  
45

46 (k) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with  
47 appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint  
48 experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or  
49 researchers, as the case may be;

1 (l) Adopt modern and innovative modes of transferring knowledge to allow greater  
2 access to education such as the use of information technology, online programs, the dual  
3 training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;

4  
5 (m) Absorb non-chartered tertiary education institutions within the Province of Siquijor  
6 and Region VII as branches, extension campuses, and external centers, in coordination with  
7 the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM),  
8 and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing  
9 equal access to educational opportunities;

10  
11 (n) Authorize an external management audit of the SUS, to be financed by the  
12 CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute  
13 reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and  
14 recommendations;

15  
16 (o) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government  
17 units, as well as public, private, local or foreign institutions and agencies for the furtherance  
18 of the purposes and objectives of the SUS;

19  
20 (p) Import economic, technical, and cultural books and publications;

21  
22 (q) Enter into joint ventures with business industry for the profitable growth and  
23 management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development  
24 and strengthening of the SUS;

25  
26 (r) Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal  
27 properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the  
28 benefit of the SUS and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor,  
29 if any;

30  
31 (s) Extend the term of the President of the SUS beyond the age of retirement, but  
32 not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines on qualification standards set  
33 by the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as  
34 outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon  
35 by the Search Committee;

36  
37 (t) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the  
38 SUS, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the  
39 SUS;

40  
41 (u) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent  
42 decision-making within the SUS;

43 (v) Where most advantageous to the SUS, privatize the management of  
44 nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance,  
45 and such other similar activities;

46  
47 (w) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and  
48 other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary  
49 supplies, materials, and equipment; and

1 (x) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the  
2 purposes and functions of the SUS.

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

8  
9 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members holding office  
10 at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the  
11 President of the SUS is among those present in the meeting.

12  
13 In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a  
14 CHED Commissioner duly designated by Chairperson of the CHED as representative to the  
15 meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That  
16 during the meeting, the President of the SUS, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding  
17 officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the  
18 CHED may designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in  
19 which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

20  
21 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and  
22 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall  
23 not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives  
24 who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

25  
26 The members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than  
27 reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to  
28 the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by  
29 resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

30  
31 **SEC. 8. The University President.** – The SUS shall be headed by a President who  
32 shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualification standards, and  
33 based on the recommendation of a Search Committee duly constituted for the purpose of  
34 selecting the President. The President of the SUS shall render full-time service for a term of  
35 four (4) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

36  
37 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent  
38 President of the SUS, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency.

39  
40 The powers and duties of the President of the SUS, in addition to those specifically  
41 provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of  
42 universities and those delegated by the Board.

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

47  
48 In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory  
49 retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the  
50 functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the SUS,

1 pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That the OIC shall serve only  
2 during the unexpired portion of the term.

3  
4 The President of the SUS shall be assisted by the following officials: Vice President  
5 for Academic Affairs; Vice President for Administration, Planning, and Finance; and Vice  
6 President for Research, Development, and Extension. They shall all be appointed by the  
7 Board upon the recommendation of the President of the SUS from a list submitted by the  
8 Search Committee.

9  
10 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary.*** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as  
11 such for both the Board and the SUS and shall keep all records and proceedings of the  
12 Board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary of the SUS shall serve  
13 upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings.

14  
15 **SEC. 10. *The Treasurer.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio*  
16 Treasurer of the SUS.

17  
18 **SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.*** – There shall be an Administrative Council  
19 consisting of the President of the SUS, as Chairperson, and the vice-president, deans,  
20 director, and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duty is to review and  
21 recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration, management, and  
22 development planning of the SUS.

23  
24 **SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council  
25 consisting of the President of the SUS, as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank  
26 of at least an assistant professor, as members, which shall formulate academic policies.

27  
28 The Academic Council shall review and recommend the curricular offerings and  
29 rules on student discipline, fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for  
30 their graduation and conferment of degrees, exercise disciplinary power over the students  
31 and formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the review and  
32 approval of the Board through the President of the SUS.

33  
34 It shall have disciplinary power over the students of the SUS and shall formulate  
35 rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

36  
37 **SEC. 13. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** – The SUS shall enjoy  
38 academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article  
39 XIV of the Constitution.

40  
41 **SEC. 14. *The Faculty.*** – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or  
42 community affiliation, ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of  
43 inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the SUS: *Provided*, That the appointment  
44 shall be subject to the guidelines on qualification standards set by the Board: *Provided*,  
45 *further*, That a member of the faculty shall not criticize, vouch for, recruit members in  
46 behalf of, or preach about any particular church or religious sect.

47  
48 **SEC. 15. *Head of the Campus.*** – A campus shall be headed by a Campus Director  
49 who shall render full-time service. The Campus Director shall be appointed by the Board,  
50 upon the recommendation of the President of the SUS, subject to the guidelines on

1 qualification standards set by the Board. The Campus Director shall serve a term of two (2)  
2 years without reappointment.

3  
4 **SEC. 16. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** – The SUS shall provide  
5 scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving  
6 students who qualify for admission to the SUS. No student shall be denied admission to the  
7 SUS by reason of sex, religion, political, cultural or community affiliation, and ethnic  
8 origin.

9  
10 **SEC. 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer of Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies,***  
11 ***and Detail of Personnel.*** – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national  
12 government are authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of the SUS,  
13 such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the SUS and to detail  
14 employees for duty therein when, in the judgement of the head of the bureau of office, the  
15 apparatus, equipment, supplies or service of such employees can be spared without serious  
16 detriment to public service. The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as  
17 required of them by the President of the SUS and the time so employed shall be counted as  
18 part of their regular service.

19  
20 **SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.*** – All assets, both real and personal,  
21 personnel and records of the SSC, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be  
22 transferred to the SUS: *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of  
23 faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the  
24 conversion into a University shall be respected.

25  
26 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the SSC and its  
27 extension campus are declared as property of the SUS, and titled under its name: *Provided*,  
28 That should the SUS cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels  
29 of land be no longer needed by the SUS, the same shall revert to the Municipality of Larena  
30 or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

31  
32 **SEC. 19. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** – The importation of books or  
33 publications, which are for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, philosophical,  
34 historical, legal or cultural purposes made by the SUS, upon certification by the CHED,  
35 shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863,  
36 otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

37  
38 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used  
39 actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the SUS, shall be exempt  
40 from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross  
41 income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the  
42 provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

43  
44 **SEC. 20. *Compliance with the CHED Requirements.*** – Notwithstanding the  
45 provisions of this Act, the conversion of the SSC to a state university shall become  
46 effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the  
47 recommendation of a panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the SSC has  
48 complied with the requirements for a university status based on the CHED Memorandum  
49 Order No. 46, series of 2012 or the Policy Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance in  
50 Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-Based and Typology-Based Quality

1 Assurance: *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the SSC has  
2 substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of university status.

3  
4 The following operational requirements for a university, as established by the  
5 CHED, shall be complied with:

6  
7 (a) Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant  
8 degrees in their areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have  
9 participated in research and development activities in their respective disciplines, as  
10 evidenced by refereed publications and other scholarly outputs;

11  
12 (b) Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs in all levels, from basic  
13 postsecondary to doctorate programs;

14  
15 (c) Conduct of viable research programs in specific disciplinal and multidisciplinary  
16 areas of study that produce new knowledge, as evidenced by refereed publications,  
17 citations, inventions, and patents, among others;

18  
19 (d) Establishment of comprehensive learning resources and support structures, to  
20 include libraries, practicum laboratories, relevant educational resources, and linkages with  
21 relevant disciplinal and professional sectors, so as to allow students to explore basic,  
22 advance, and even cutting-edge knowledge in a wide range of disciplines or professions;

23  
24 (e) Maintenance of linkages and affiliation with other research institutions in various  
25 parts of the world to ensure that the research activities of the SUS are functioning at current  
26 global standards; and

27  
28 (f) Conduct of outreach activities to allow the students, faculty, and research staff to  
29 apply the new knowledge they generate to address specific social development problems.

30  
31 The CHED shall, through its regional office, regularly provide technical assistance  
32 to the SUS and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the CHED.

33  
34 The SSC shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is able to  
35 comply with the requirements provided herein.

36  
37 **SEC. 21. *Development Plan and Organizational Structure.*** – Within one hundred  
38 twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the SUS shall accomplish the following:

39  
40 (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program  
41 budget to the CHED and the DBM;

42  
43 (b) Submit the revised Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan in  
44 accordance with RA No. 11396, otherwise known as the “SUCs Land Use Development  
45 and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act”;

46  
47 (c) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

48  
49 (d) Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure,  
50 including the designation of the key officials and other administrative personnel of  
51 the SUS.

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

6  
7           **SEC. 23. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial  
8 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the  
9 SSC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
10 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11  
12           **SEC. 24. *Supplementary Application.*** – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise  
13 known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

14  
15           **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
16 approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and  
17 regulations to implement its provisions.

18  
19           **SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act  
20 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in  
21 full force and effect.

22  
23           **SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive  
24 orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
25 are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

26  
27           **SEC. 28. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
28 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,