



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8612

BY REPRESENTATIVES PLEYTO, ACIDRE, DAZA, LIBANAN, RODRIGUEZ (R.), FRESNEDI, ORETA, ESCUDERO, ALANO, AGYAO, CORVERA, GARCIA (K.H.), SAGARBARRIA, LUMAYAG, GATCHALIAN, CENDAÑA, DIOKNO, MONTES, LOPEZ, BAUTISTA (J.M.), AMANTE, RODRIGUEZ (E.), CALDERON, AMATONG, SAN FERNANDO, SALVADOR, VERGARA, ELAGO, ROMAN, CO AND SUANSING (M.A.)

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "STA. MARIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Sta. Maria Polytechnic*
2 *Institute Act*".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established in the Municipality of Sta. Maria,
5 Province of Bulacan, a polytechnic institution under the supervision and administration of the
6 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It shall be known as the
7 "Sta. Maria Polytechnic Institute (SMPI)", hereinafter referred to as the Institute.
8

9 **SEC. 3. General Mandate.** – The Institute shall restructure its technical-vocational
10 education and training (TVET) programs to become the provider of leading edge technical-
11 vocational skills for the local and international labor market, and ensure alignment with the
12 standards of the industry.
13

14 To this end, the Institute shall upgrade its curricular standards and provide higher level
15 competency qualifications for instruction in TESDA-registered TVET programs and certificate
16 courses. It shall provide a wide array of relevant skills training and trade specialization
17 courses to facilitate the acquisition by the citizenry of the necessary technical-vocational skills
18 that shall enhance their access to gainful employment, practical livelihood, and
19 entrepreneurial opportunities, and thus hasten the development of the host area and the
20 adjacent localities in the Province of Bulacan into human resource and productivity hubs.
21

22 Priority admission to the Institute, including availment of scholarships, grants-in-aid
23 and other forms of student financial assistance, shall be given to the most economically
24 disadvantaged students, out-of-school youths, persons with disabilities, and indigenous
25 peoples of the Municipality of Sta. Maria and the adjacent localities to ensure their
26 development into productive, self-reliant and globally competitive skilled labor assets.

1 The Institute shall serve as a TESDA-accredited assessment center, subject to the
2 accreditation requirements under the Philippine TVET Competency Assessment and
3 Certification System for acquired competencies in TVET programs in the Province of
4 Bulacan.

5
6 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings and Training Programs.** – The Institute shall offer
7 TESDA-registered TVET programs, postsecondary short-term and undergraduate
8 certificate/diploma courses, and modular trainings in preferred technical-vocational skills
9 specialization.

10
11 To this end, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade
12 and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of
13 Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of
14 Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), business-industry partners, and other
15 relevant agencies and instrumentalities, both local and international, shall provide the
16 necessary assistance so the Institute can produce skilled manpower to supply the needs of
17 a robust and inclusive economy.

18
19 The Institute may establish research and technology hubs, technology development
20 farms, satellite or extension campuses, promote mobile training programs, and strengthen
21 linkages with industry partners and the academe.

22
23 It shall also adopt the use of innovative training modes such as information
24 technology-assisted instruction, dual training system pursuant to Republic Act No. 7686 or the
25 “Dual Training System Act of 1994”, open distance learning pursuant to Republic Act No.
26 10650 or the “Open Distance Learning Act”, community laboratory, virtual and blended
27 learning modes, and such other instructional programs that shall allow local residents greater
28 access to the TVET program offerings of the SMPI.

29
30 Course completion at the Institute shall be credited through skills competency
31 assessment under National Certification Levels III to V of the Philippine Qualifications
32 Framework (PQF) pursuant to Republic Act No. 10968 or the “PQF Act”. The TVET
33 competency of the student may also qualify for academic degree recognition pursuant to
34 Republic Act No. 10647 or the “Ladderized Education Act of 2014”: *Provided*, That the
35 requirements of the Commission on Higher Education for credit transfer are complied with.

36
37 The Institute shall offer skills development for higher competency qualifications in
38 areas relating to technical industrial education, trade technology, tourism, agricultural
39 technology, business literacy, and innovation in TESDA-registered skills, as follows:

- 40
41 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and steelwork,
42 machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive
43 mechanical assembly, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of
44 power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;
45
46 (b) Tourism and hospitality-related courses relating to hotel, restaurant, and tourism
47 development management;

- 1 (c) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in such areas as
2 farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming and home-based
3 aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farming, fishing tools and
4 equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and innovations, and
5 relevant training seminars for farmers and fisherfolk to encourage entrepreneurship
6 and thus increase their productivity;
7
8 (d) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and small-scale
9 entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts, workmanship
10 and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture, livestock
11 raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary arts and
12 commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

13 (e) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing, accountancy,
14 bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application procedures
15 including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and intellectual
16 property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities sourcing, import-
17 export accreditation, online home-based business operation, and social media
18 business marketing;
19
20 (f) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry, masonry,
21 plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive servicing,
22 electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant practical
23 skills courses;
24
25 (g) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, web development,
26 animation (3D Digital), game development, and computer-aided design application;
27
28 (h) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English and other
29 languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job
30 placement;
31
32 (i) Seminars on personality development, career counseling, job placement, and work
33 ethic and values; and
34
35 (j) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people of the
36 Municipality of Sta. Maria and the adjacent localities to enhance their capacities for
37 practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.
38

39 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act
40 notwithstanding, the establishment of the Institute shall become operational only upon the
41 issuance by the TESDA of a formal recommendation and certificate of compliance attesting
42 that the Institute has satisfactorily complied with the minimum standards of quality it has
43 prescribed governing the following: (a) standard procedures and guidelines for the conversion
44 and operation of a TESDA polytechnic institute; (b) operational sustainability of the Institute in
45 terms of licensed faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities,
46 instructional materials, and other standard requirements of a TESDA-accredited and
47 supervised school; (c) sustainable funding source and regular allocation of budgetary
48 requirement for TESDA-operated schools; (d) full alignment of the training programs offered
49 with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational technology
50 skills and the needs of the host area and adjacent localities served within the context of the

1 ASEAN integration and the PQF for TVET; and (e) compliance with such other TESDA
2 conditionalities and standards, as may be necessary and applicable, on the establishment of
3 the Institute.
4

5 **SEC. 6. Administration.** – The Institute shall be headed by a Vocational School
6 Superintendent under the supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time service and
7 be responsible for its administration and operation. The Vocational School Superintendent
8 shall be appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with the rules and
9 regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the qualification requirements for such
10 office.
11

12 The Vocational School Superintendent shall enter into agreement with locally-based
13 private and public counterpart agencies or instrumentalities and persons, and seek such
14 assistance as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act, subject to the approval of
15 the TESDA Director General.
16

17 The academic and administrative staff of the Institute shall be organized following the
18 staffing pattern of the TESDA for such type of schools, pursuant to existing laws, rules and
19 regulations of the CSC.
20

21 **SEC. 7. Assets, Property, and Records.** – All parcels of land belonging to the
22 government to be occupied by the Institute, together with all buildings, facilities, and
23 improvements thereon, are hereby declared as property of the Institute and shall be titled
24 under that name: *Provided*, That should the Institute cease to exist or such parcels of land
25 be no longer needed by the Institute, the same shall revert to the concerned local government
26 unit (LGU) or to the Province of Bulacan.
27

28 All movable assets, training equipment, tools, furniture, instructional materials, and
29 other properties procured from government funds or transferred or donated for the
30 establishment and operation of the Institute shall be the property of the Institute, subject to
31 applicable laws, and rules and regulations.
32

33 All records and documents pertaining to the establishment and initial organization of
34 the Institute in the custody of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
35 (TESDA) and other concerned government offices shall be transferred to the Institute upon
36 its organization.
37

38 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
39 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
40

41 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the
42 approval of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST, DA,
43 Department of Budget and Management, DILG, DEPDev, the concerned LGUs, and such
44 other relevant agencies and industry-business partners of the host locality, prepare and issue
45 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
46

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

1 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and
2 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed
3 or modified accordingly.
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5 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,