

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session

'04 JUN 30 P6:58

SENATE

S. No. 547RECEIVED BY: Ardu

 INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Las Piñas has come a long way from being one of the sleepy suburbs of Manila to being the fastest growing city in the country today. Posting annual population growth rate of more than 5%, the City has truly become one of the important urban centers of Metro Manila. Since formally assuming cityhood status in 1997, the community has long become a premier city with a distinctive historical legacy as the home of the world-famous Bamboo Organ, the original Sarao jeepney factory, centuries-old salt-making fields (irasan), and other historical and cultural points of interests.


With its strategic position as a gateway to the industrializing south, Las Piñas is making a tremendous headway in its total income. From total revenues of only about P86.2 million in 1992, the city's total income steadily rose to P115.8 million in 1993, P210.3 million in 1994, P229.7 million in 1995, P322.7 million in 1996, P598.2 million in 1997 to P626.9 million in 1998.

In meeting the challenge of its growing urbanization, its local government has made great strides as well in delivering basic services to the people. It has won various prestigious awards such as being an Awardee for the United Nations Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement 2000, the first for a local government unit in the country. From the Department of Interior and Local Government, it has become the Cleanest and Greenest City Hall of Fame Awardee from 1997 to 1999. It was outstanding winner in nutrition services from the Department of Agriculture and National Nutrition Council last year and got the highest award for delivery of health services from the Health Department in 1999.

Yet for all its good governance, the City finds itself lacking in one critical mission: that of offering its youth, especially the highly talented ones, an educational institution that nurtures scientific discipline and expertise. In the light of the rapid technological and scientific revolution going on around the world today, this mission has become imperative. In fact, this has become a realized fact in at least four cities of the Metro Manila - their realized vision of having a science high school for their community.

In the light of the foregoing, this bill is filed, to provide the City of Las Piñas a science high school for its talented youth and students.

Immediate passage of this measure is urged.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAS PINAS CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL
IN LAS PINAS CITY**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established in Las Piñas City, Metro Manila, a high school to be known as the Las Piñas City Science High School, under the direct administrative supervision of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

SEC. 2. The purpose of the said high school shall be to offer on a free scholarship basis a secondary course with special emphasis on subjects pertaining to the sciences with the end in view of preparing its students for a science career.

SEC. 3. The high school shall be headed by a Director whose appointment shall be in accordance with prescribed Civil Service law, rules and regulations. His compensation shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees. He shall not be removed from his position except for cause. His functions, powers and duties, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the principal of a public high school.

SEC. 4. The Las Piñas City Science High School Board of Trustees shall be composed of:

- (a) The Regional Director, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, National Capital Region as Chairman;
- (b) The Director of the Las Piñas City Science High School as Vice-Chairman;
- (c) Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology, Regional Operations, as Member; and
- (d) Deputy Director-General, National Economic Development Authority, Regional Development Office, as Member; and
- (e) A representative named by the Las Piñas City Congressional Representative.

SEC. 5. The Board of Trustees shall exercise for the Las Piñas City Science High School all the powers and prerogatives of the board of directors of a corporation. It shall also have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To fix the of the Las Piñas City Science High School within Las Piñas City;
- (b) To receive and appropriate to the ends specified by law sums as may be provided by law for the support of the high school;
- (c) To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Director in connection with the employment of faculty members, lecturers, and other employees of the high school, subject to the provisions of Section 12 of this Act; to determine academic ranks; to fix compensation and other conditions of employment; and to remove them for cause in accordance with due process;
- (d) To approve the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline drawn up by the Executive Council as hereinafter provided;

(e) To provide fellowships for faculty members and approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such allowances to deserving students;

(f) To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;

(g) To provide its own rules of procedure and to prescribe for the administration of the high school such general rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with the purpose of the high school as defined in Section 2 of this Act;

(h) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same in accordance with the directions and instructions of the donor and, in default thereof, in such manner as the Board of Trustees may in its discretion determine for the benefit of the high school or for aid to any of its students; and

(i) To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall include, among others, competitive examinations.

SEC. 6. A quorum of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a majority of all the members holding office at the time the meeting of the Board is called. All processes against the Board of Trustees shall be served on the Director or Secretary thereof.

SEC. 7. The Board of Trustees may fix per diems, allowances and honoraria for members of the Board for each meeting subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. On or before the beginning of each school year, the Board of Trustees shall file with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports a detailed report setting forth the progress, condition, and needs of the high school.

SEC. 9. There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the Director, the heads of departments, and such other ranking faculty members or officials of the high school as may be determined by the Director.

The Council shall have the power to screen and select the students to be admitted to the high school, to select students who shall be recipients of scholarships, stipends and other allowances; and to develop the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline, all subject to the approval of the Board. The Council shall have the exclusive power to recommend students eligible for graduation. Through the Director, it shall have disciplinary power over the students.

The Council shall implement and execute the policies laid down by the Board of Trustees and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as the Board may prescribe.

SEC. 10. There shall be a Registrar of the Las Piñas City Science High School, who shall act as Secretary of the Board to be appointed by the Director with the approval of the Board of Trustees. He shall keep such records as may be prescribed by the Board.

SEC. 11. There shall be a Treasurer of the Las Piñas City Science High School who shall be appointed by the Director with the approval of the Board of Trustees. All accounts and expenses shall be subject to the usual government auditing.

SEC. 12. The faculty members of the high school and others holding academic positions shall be selected in accordance with such criteria as may be established by the Board of Trustees consistent with law which shall include, if necessary and practicable, screening and competitive examination.

Said faculty members shall be exempt from the provisions of laws, rules and regulations on wage and position classification. The members of the school's administrative staff may be paid at rates higher than those of equivalent positions covered by laws on wage and position classification.

SEC. 13. All legacies, gifts and donations for the benefit of the high school or for its support and maintenance or for aid to any of its students shall be tax-exempt and shall be an allowable deduction from the gross income of the donors. For purposes of

income tax, the high school shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes, fees, assessments and other charges of the Government, its branches and subdivisions.

SEC. 14. All incomes and donations to the high school created under this Act shall constitute a special fund to be known as the Las Piñas City Science High School Fund. This fund shall be expended by the Board of Trustees exclusively for the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 15. The head of bureaus or offices of the National Government and regional offices in NCR are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon request by the Director of the high school, such apparatus, supplies and other properties as may be needed by the high school, and to detail employees to duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of the bureau or office, they can be spared without serious detriment to the public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as are required under such detail, and the time employed shall be counted as part of their regular official hours, all laws, rules and regulations limiting the detail of government employees notwithstanding.

Any officer or employee of the Government whose services are required by the high school may receive an honorarium in addition to his salary at the rate to be fixed by the Board subject to applicable laws and regulations on the matter.

SEC. 16. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 17. The Secretary of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall issue such rules and regulations with as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act within sixty (60) days after effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 18. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,