

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

S.B. No. 2629

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**AN ACT**  
**PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE**  
**ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The academic regalia of state colleges and universities of the Philippines is based on the Western toga. In the 1990s, the University of the Philippines, initiated the use of the so-called "*sablay*" bearing the university's insignia and colors as the academic regalia for UP graduates instead of the conventional black toga. The primary motivation includes the comfort factor where black togas for temperate countries are rather uncomfortable and impractical in Philippine settings. Moreover, the need to distinguish UP as a Philippine university from other universities in the world and other official academic activities could not be over-emphasized.

In this regard, this bill seeks to establish the Philippine Academic Regalia Council (PARC) which shall formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy which shall review, standardize, and adopt academic regalia for graduates, administrators, faculty, and awardees of state universities and colleges. The proposed bill will also allow these educational institutions to give back to the community by using and wearing academic costumes made of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles within their locality. The academic regalia of the Philippines must have a mark of Filipino culture worthy of a trophy by being an authentic Philippine textile, reflective and proud of the heritage and ethnicity of the community where it came from. This will then nurture and perpetuate the production of these textiles in the countryside, preserve culture, provide jobs, and loop the cycle of goodwill within and among the graduates who were "sent" to school by the same Filipino people who will directly benefit from the energized textile sector. In sum, the proposed measure will ensure rural development, cultural preservation, inclusive growth, women empowerment, and sustained production of truly neo-ethnic Philippine textiles.

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

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

SENATE

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Office of the Secretary

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PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE  
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

*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 “Philippine Academic  
2 Regalia Act of 2015”.

3  
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to instill  
5 patriotism and nationalism among the people, particularly young graduates of  
6 state colleges and universities who, at all times, shall be loyal to the Republic  
7 and the Filipino people.

8  
9 **SEC.3. Definition of Terms.**  
10 (a) Academic regalia - the official garb worn by university officials,  
11 faculty, graduates, and awardees during commencement exercises  
12 and other academic functions; and  
13 (b) Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles - those made of or containing natural or  
14 indigenous materials, sourced and/or produced in the Philippines  
15 using updated, relevant, and green scientific and technological  
16 approaches and innovations, while integrating and/or retaining  
17 traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs and/or approaches, and  
18 thus, contributing to livelihood generation and sustaining the local  
19 handloom weaving and textile heritage.

20  
21  
22 **SEC.4. Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council.**— The  
23 Philippine Academic Regalia Council (PARC), hereinafter referred to as the  
24 “Council”, is hereby created, which shall be headed by the Chairperson of the  
25 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as Chairperson and the Head of the  
26 Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and  
27 Technology (DOST), as Co-Chairperson. The following shall be its members:

- 28 (a) a representative of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts  
29 (NCCA);  
30  
31 (b) a representative of the Philippine Association of State Universities and  
32 Colleges (PASUC);  
33  
34 (c) a representative of the University of the Philippines System (UP); and  
35

1 (d) a representative of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

2  
3 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the PARC.**– The Council shall have the  
4 following powers and functions:

5 (a) Formulates the National Academic Regalia Policy;

6  
7 (b) Reviews, standardizes and adopts academic regalia for graduates,  
8 administrators, faculty, and awardees of state universities and colleges;

9  
10 (c) Ensures sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes,  
11 and loom parts;

12  
13 (d) Proposes ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;

14  
15 (e) Formulates a handbook for the academic regalia for appropriate use,  
16 protection, trade and management;

17  
18 (f) Protects intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile  
19 pattern, color, and textile specification for the academic regalia; and

20  
21 (g) Oversees the adoption of this bill and studies its sustainability while also  
22 addressing issues regarding quality control, supply, appropriate use,  
23 protection, trade and management, and intellectual property security.

24  
25 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**– Within sixty (60) days from  
26 the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in  
27 consultation with the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) of the  
28 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Commission on  
29 Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the University of the Philippines (UP), and the  
30 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall issue the necessary Rules and  
31 Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.  
32

33 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.**–To implement the provisions of this Act, the initial  
34 amount of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be  
35 appropriated from the National Treasury. Such other amounts as may  
36 subsequently be necessary for its operation shall be included in the annual  
37 General Appropriations Act (GAA).  
38

39 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.**– If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or  
40 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
41 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.  
42

43 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.**– All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof,  
44 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified  
45 accordingly.  
46

47 **SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.**– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
48 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
49

50 Approved,