

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session**



JAN 29 2018

**SENATE
S.B. No. 1669**

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

**AN ACT
RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS ON
THE GRANT OF CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS
GROWTH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Faith Academy, Inc., a private, non-stock, non-profit educational institution, has been continuously in operation in the Philippines since its establishment in 1957. From its humble beginnings of two classrooms with 47 students, it now has an average enrollment of over 525 students – composed of 22 nationalities. The three largest ethnic groups are Korean, American and Filipino. The school offers a progressive Pre-K through Grade 12 international education in a Christ environment, primarily for the children of missionaries working in Southeast Asia.

Faith Academy, Inc. values a strong commitment to a school improvement process that keeps student learning and a Christian ethos at its core. In support of these values, Faith Academy maintains joint accreditation status with the Western Association of School & Colleges (WASC), and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The school also offers a robust Advanced Placement program and was approved in 2015 to offer the AP Capstone Diploma program. Through the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) program, the school is also one of only four institutions in the Philippines that is

accredited with United Kingdom based Cambridge International Examinations as a Cambridge International Center.

Faith Academy first received recognition to operate by the Bureau of Private Schools, a division of the Department of Education, in 1957. When revised government regulations went into effect coinciding with the new Philippine Constitution, a new document was effected by the Department of Education & Culture on June 3, 1974 (Kindergarten Course – Government Recognition No. 151 s. 1974; Complete Elementary Course – Government Recognition No. 152 s. 1974; and Complete Secondary Course – Government Recognition No. 153 s. 1974) certifying Faith Academy, Inc. to operate as an Alien School using an American curriculum. A third endorsement was issued on March 22, 2001 when Faith Academy, Inc. revised its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. A further updated document was executed on December 15, 2004 (N-K-P of the Pre-Elementary Course – Government Recognition No. E-059 s. 2004; Grades I-VI of the Elementary Course – Government Recognition No. E-040 s. 2004) and February 22, 2005 (Complete Secondary Course – Government Recognition No. 051 s. 2005).

Considering Faith Academy, Inc.'s existence for six decades, their invaluable service in evangelizing their students to be better citizens of our country, and its aid in promoting our country as more and more students are coming to the Philippines to study; it is high time that our government, through Congress, extends its formal recognition to Faith Academy, Inc. as an educational institution of international character by granting certain prerogatives conducive to its growth.

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


VICENTE C. SOTTO III

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }



Senate
Office of the Secretary

JAN 29 2018

SENATE
S.B. No. 1669

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

**AN ACT
RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS ON
THE GRANT OF CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS
GROWTH**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Faith Academy, operated by Faith Academy, Inc., is
2 hereby declared and officially recognized as an educational institution of
3 international character authorized to operate educational programs that
4 primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized
5 educational policies.

6 **SEC. 2.** Faith Academy, herein referred to as the "Academy", shall be
7 governed by a Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the "Board", elected in
8 accordance with its corporate charter.

9 **SEC. 3.** To enable Faith Academy to continue carrying out its
10 educational program, improve its standard of instruction, and meet the
11 special needs of the foreign temporary resident community for quality
12 education, it shall:

13 a. accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in
14 accordance with its own eligibility standards and rules for admission
15 and grade placement;

16 Faith Academy, having been established primarily for foreign

1 missionary personnel and their dependents and for other temporary
2 residents, shall be covered by the exemptions provided in Section 4
3 (2), Article XIV, of the Constitution of the Philippines.

4 b. be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess
5 the qualifications prescribed by the Board;

6 c. be able to accept provisions and donations of every kind to carry out
7 the purposes of Faith Academy and be entitled to use properties, real
8 or personal, so donated and to construct and own buildings thereon
9 exclusively for educational purposes;

10 Whenever necessary to carry out its objectives, allow the Christian
11 Education Assistance Foundation (CEAF), the owner of Faith
12 Academy's properties, the right to obtain leases on real properties,
13 acquire personal properties, tangible or intangible, or any interests in
14 such properties either real, by purchase, lease, barter, donation, gift
15 or otherwise, and dispose of, mortgage or encumber them for the
16 benefit of the Academy.

17 d. upon consultation with the Secretary of Education, determine its own
18 basic education curriculum, calendar of studies, and work schedule,
19 and teach whatever language or languages it may deem appropriate
20 and determine the reasonable amount of fees and assessments which
21 shall be imposed upon its students and the compensation of its
22 teachers, consultants, employees and necessary personnel to
23 maintain and conform to Faith Academy's standard of education;

24 e. maintain standards of education compatible with those obtaining in
25 similar schools of generally recognized standing;

26 f. employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by Faith
27 Academy's administration either locally or abroad, from the
28 Philippines or other nationalities; such foreign personnel being
29 exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and
30 administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been
31 or will be enacted for the protection of employees: Provided, That such
32 exemption shall not extend to their liability for income taxes; and

33 g. be granted benefits and privileges under the law as a non-stock, non-

1 profit educational institution.

2 **SEC. 4.** Foreign scholars, trainees, participants, students, fellows or
3 professors appointed, selected, hired, employed or otherwise by Faith
4 Academy, Inc. shall be allowed entry as special non-immigrants under
5 Section 47 (a) (2) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, As Amended,
6 and as such shall be exempted from the payment of visa and immigration
7 fees; Provided, That such persons are holders of valid passports and are not
8 otherwise disqualified from.

9 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Education, in consultation with Faith Academy,
10 Inc. and the members of the Board, shall formulate the rules and
11 regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

12 **SEC. 6.** If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the
13 other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

14 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
15 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

16 *Approved,*