


S E N A T E

18 SEP 17 P 6:30

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 456

Submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on SEP 17 2018 

Re: **Senate Bill No. 1669**

Recommending its approval with amendments, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1703

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to which were referred Senate Bill No. 1669, introduced by Sen. Vicente Sotto III, entitled:

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

taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1703, introduced by Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson, entitled:

"AN ACT RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY, INCORPORATED AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

has considered the same and has the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that Senate Bill No. 1669, be approved with the following amendments:

1. ON PAGE 1, LINE 6, SECTION 2, BEFORE THE WORD "SHALL", INSERT THE PHRASE **"WAS ESTABLISHED BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND MISSION BOARDS AND"**
2. ON THE SAME PAGE, BETWEEN LINES 8 AND 9, SECTION 2, INSERT A PARAGRAPH TO READ:
"THE ACADEMY, HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED PRIMARILY FOR FOREIGN MISSIONARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND FOR OTHER TEMPORARY RESIDENTS, SHALL BE COVERED BY THE EXEMPTIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4 (2), ARTICLE XIV, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINES."

SECTION 2 SHALL NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

"FAITH ACADEMY, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE "ACADEMY", **WAS ESTABLISHED BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND MISSION BOARDS AND** SHALL BE GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE "BOARD", ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CORPORATE CHARACTER.

THE ACADEMY, HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED PRIMARILY FOR FOREIGN MISSIONARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND FOR OTHER TEMPORARY RESIDENTS, SHALL BE COVERED BY THE EXEMPTIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4 (2), ARTICLE XIV, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINES."

3. ON PAGE 1, LINE 9, REPLACE THE WORD "FAITH" WITH "**THE**";
4. ON PAGE 1, SECTION 3 PARAGRAPH A, DELETE THE ENTIRE LINE 16;
5. ON PAGE 2, STILL ON SECTION 3, DELETE LINES 1 TO 3;
6. ON PAGE 2, LINE 7, REPLACE THE WORD "FAITH" WITH "**THE**";
7. ON PAGE 2, LINE 11, REPLACE THE WORD "FAITH" WITH "**THE**";
8. ON PAGE 2, LINE 26, REPLACE THE WORD "EMPLOY" WITH "**CONTRACT**";
9. ON PAGE 2, LINE 32, REPLACE THE WORD "FOR" WITH "**FROM**".

Respectfully submitted:

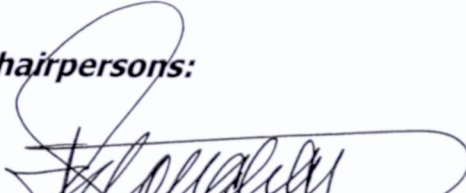


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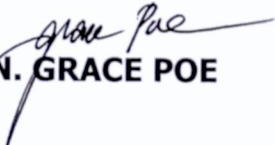
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Members:

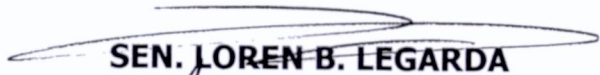


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SEN. EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO

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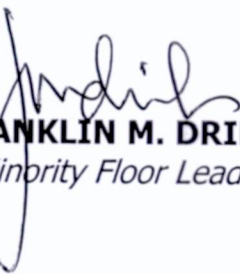
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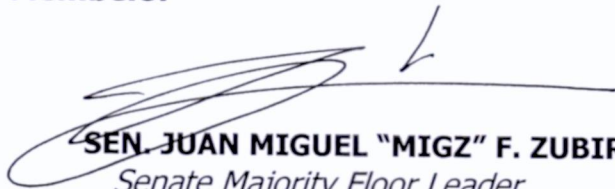
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Senate President Pro-Tempore

HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President

**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



JAN 29 2018

SENATE
S.B. No. 1669

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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.

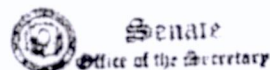
9 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Education, in consultation with Faith Academy,
10 Inc. and the members of the Board, shall formulate the rules and
11 regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

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,*

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



'18 FEB 21 P2:11

SENATE
SB. No. 1703

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LACSON

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY, INCORPORATED AS AN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN
PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Faith Academy is an International Christian School offering K-12 education for missionary, national, and international students. It offers a globally-recognized English language curriculum and provides a progressive and well-rounded education. Faith Academy's teaching staff and its students represent more than 20 nationalities. It operates as a *day-and-boarding school* where approximately twenty percent (20%) of the high school student body lives in boarding homes provided by the Academy.

The Academy began its operations on July 15, 1957 in a rented old house at V. Mapa Street in Manila which served as classrooms and dormitory to six (6) teachers and forty-seven (47) students. Today, the campus sits in an 8.14-hectare parcel of land in Valley Golf Hills Subdivision in Cainta, Rizal.

In 2005, Faith Academy was formally recognized by the Department of Education as an International School in conjunction with its charter as an alien school. As a result, the school can accept students of any nationality, including Filipinos. Today, Filipinos comprise the third largest population of students in the Academy.

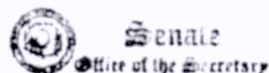
It currently maintains a joint accreditation status with the Western Association of School & Colleges and the Association of Christian Schools International. Through the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) program, the school has been one of the few institutions in the Philippines which are accredited by United Kingdom-based Cambridge International Examinations as a Cambridge International Centre. Faith Academy is also one of the few schools in Asia and the only school in the Philippines that has been approved to offer the AP Capstone program.

For over six (6) decades of its operation, Faith Academy has competently served and adequately responded to the educational needs of its students. It is high time that the Philippine Government extend its formal recognition to Faith Academy as a distinguished educational institution of international character, granting it certain prerogatives conducive to its growth.

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


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator

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



'18 FEB 21 P2:11

SENATE
SB. No. 1703

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LACSON

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING FAITH ACADEMY, INCORPORATED AS AN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN
PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Official Recognition.** — Faith Academy Incorporated, herein referred to as
2 the "School", is hereby declared and officially recognized as an educational institution of
3 international character authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally
4 adhere to universally-accepted and -recognized educational policies.

5 **SECTION 2. Members of the School.** — The School shall have as its members the
6 school management and the parents or guardians, whether of Philippine or foreign nationality, of
7 the children who have enrolled and attended the School for at least one (1) school year:
9 *Provided*, that the School shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the
10 "Board", elected in accordance with its corporate charter.

11 **SECTION 3. Grant of Prerogatives.** — To enable the School to continue carrying out its
12 educational program, to improve its standard of instruction, and to meet the special needs of the
13 foreign temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

- 14 (a) Be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess the qualifications
15 prescribed by the Board of Trustees;
- 16 (b) Accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own
17 eligibility standards and rules for admission and grade placement: *Provided*, That no

- 1 single alien nationality shall consist more than thirty percent (30%) of the entire student
2 population in a given school year, as stated in the records of the School;
- 3 (c) Upon consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd),
4 determine its own curriculum, teach whatever language or languages it may deem
5 proper, set their calendar of studies and work schedule, and determine the amounts,
6 categories and kinds of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its
7 students and the compensation of its teachers, consultants, employees and necessary
9 personnel to maintain or conform to the School's standard of education;
- 10 (d) Maintain standards of education compatible with those obtaining in similar schools of
11 generally recognized standing;
- 12 (e) Determine the kind and number of personnel it will utilize, and define their respective
13 designations and qualifying requirements. Foreign nationals selected, appointed,
14 employed or designated shall be exempted from laws that impose nationality restrictions
15 on control and administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or
16 will be enacted for the protection of employees: *Provided*, That such exception shall not
17 extend to their liability from income taxes; and,
- 18 (f) Promote international friendship, goodwill, and understanding among members of the
19 foreign community and citizens of the Philippines.

20 **SECTION 4. *Visa Status.*** — Foreign scholars, trainees, participants, students, fellows or
21 professors appointed, selected, hired, employed or otherwise by Faith Academy, Inc. shall be
22 allowed entry as special non-immigrants under Section 47 (a) (2) of the Philippine Immigration
23 Act of 1940, as amended, and as such shall be exempted from the payment of visa and
24 immigration fees; *Provided*, however, that such persons are holders of valid passports and are not
25 otherwise disqualified from entering the Philippines.

26 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules.*** — The DepEd Secretary shall issue such rules as may
27 be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** — If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this
2 Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof
3 shall remain in full force and effect.

4 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette.

6 *Approved,*