

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



22 JUL 11 P4:06

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 251**

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Introduced by Senators **PIA S. CAYETANO** and **ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR STATE**  
**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Studies show that quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction and leads to the improvement of student outcomes.<sup>1</sup> However, our State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in a great number of areas grieve for educational infrastructure and facilities. During the annual deliberations on the budget, SUCs lament the dismal funding given to them and lobby for additional capital outlay for the construction or improvement of their facilities, such as classrooms, dormitories, libraries, laboratories, and sports facilities. Without such facilities, the conditions in which the youth are expected to learn the skills that will allow them to thrive and actively participate in designing their futures is not optimal for knowledge and skills acquisition. In fact, poor educational infrastructure is believed to impede learners' holistic growth and overall well-being.

This proposed measure, thus, aims to establish a five- (5-) year priority infrastructure plan for SUCs, which shall be consistent with the national priorities, goals, and objectives as well as regional needs as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Land Use Development and

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<sup>1</sup> Navarro, A. (2020, March). *School infrastructure in the Philippines: Where are we now and where should we be heading?*. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2210.pdf>

Infrastructure Plan of each SUC. This bill also provides a fixed annual budget of twenty-five billion (25,000,000,000) pesos for the next five years for the implementation of this priority infrastructure plan.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill and approval of the same is earnestly sought.

*Pia S. Cayetano*  
PIA S. CAYETANO

  
ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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*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 "*Priority Infrastructure*  
2 *for State Universities and Colleges Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State under the  
4 1987 Constitution to protect and promote the rights of all students to quality education  
5 at all levels. This was further emphasized in Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal  
6 Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act", where quality education is declared an  
7 inalienable right of all Filipinos. However, in addition to providing access, achieving  
8 universal quality education necessitates guaranteeing adequate and appropriate  
9 education infrastructure. Towards this end, the State shall identify and fund priority  
10 infrastructure for education.

11 Sec. 3. *Priority Infrastructure Plan for State Universities and Colleges.* – Upon  
12 the passage of this Act, all state universities and colleges (SUCs) shall submit to the  
13 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) their yearly priority infrastructure projects,  
14 which shall be consistent with their Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan as  
15 provided under Republic Act No. 11396 otherwise known as the SUCs Land Use  
16 Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act.

1           Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall submit  
2 to Congress and other relevant agencies a five- (5-) year priority infrastructure plan  
3 based on the submissions of the SUCs, which shall include an annual plan allocating  
4 funds for every compliant SUC. The priority infrastructure plan shall be consistent with  
5 the national priorities, goals, and objectives and regional needs as determined by the  
6 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the LUDIP of each SUC.  
7 The priority infrastructure plan may be subject to annual adjustments and  
8 modifications, as may be necessary.

9           After the five- (5-) year implementation period, the CHED, in coordination with  
10 the SUCs will come up with another five- (5-) year plan with the corresponding annual  
11 budgetary requirement.

12           *Sec. 4. Inter-Agency Committee.* – There is hereby established an Inter-Agency  
13 Committee for the monitoring of the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall  
14 be composed of the Chairperson of the CHED, Secretary of the Department of Budget  
15 and Management, Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, and  
16 Director General of the NEDA, or their respective authorized representatives.

17           *Sec. 5. Appropriation.* – The amount of twenty-five billion pesos  
18 (P25,000,000,000) shall automatically be included yearly in the annual appropriation  
19 of the CHED for the next five years for the implementation of the first *Priority*  
20 *Infrastructure Plan for SUCs* under Section 3 of this Act. The funding necessary for any  
21 subsequent priority infrastructure plans shall be included in the succeeding annual  
22 General Appropriations Act.

23           *Sec. 6. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*