## NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Senate Of the Secretary

First Regular Session

<sup>22</sup> JUL 18 P5:07

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SENATE

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S.B. No. 742

### Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

# AN ACT PROVIDING CAMPUS HOUSING TO TENURED PERSONNEL IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Currently, some state colleges and universities in the Philippines provide housing for tenured personnel. However, these individuals lose the privilege when they retire, resign or are terminated from the service. This situation gives rise to a heartbreaking situation where retired personnel lose their "home" in their old age.

For example, in the University of the Philippines, retired employees are required to return the unit they are occupying within six months from their retirement from the University. This same policy is also existing in other state universities and colleges (SUCs), such as Mindanao State University, among others.

In order to remedy this situation, this bill mandates SUCs to provide in-campus housing to tenured teaching and non-teaching personnel at affordable rental charges and in accordance with the criteria and standards set by the Board of Regents of the SUC. Subject to certain exemptions, qualified personnel may stay in in-campus housing units during their lifetime to ensure that they will be able to live comfortably in the home they grew accustomed to. This measure also seeks to protect them from inconvenience of looking for alternative housing and moving somewhere else during their old age.

In addition, in recognition of the fact that SUC in-campus housing may be limited, this bill also mandates SUCs to establish partnerships with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), and other government agencies, to assist qualified beneficiaries in the rental and/or acquisition of off-campus housing and in the availment of soft loans for the acquisition of housing units outside of the premises of the university or college, respectively.

Lastly, this bill also mandates all SUCs to develop a Housing Development Program to ensure that tenured personnel shall have affordable housing options, whether in-campus or off-campus.

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

SENATOR JØEL VILLANUEVA

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

**SECTION 1.** Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) Tenured Personnel Housing Act."

**SEC. 2.** Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the right of teachers to professional advancement, to adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment. Towards this end, the State shall provide decent and high-quality housing at equitable terms and conditions for tenured SUC personnel who have dedicated their lives to a lifelong pursuit of teaching and education.

**SEC. 3.** Coverage. – The provisions of this Act shall apply to all tenured teaching and non-teaching personnel in all SUCs in the Philippines. For the purpose of this Act, tenured teaching personnel refers to members of the faculty of SUCs who have attained permanent status according to the standards and criteria set by the SUC.

SEC. 4. Mandatory Campus Housing for Tenured SUC Personnel. – All SUCs shall provide in-campus housing to qualified tenured SUC personnel at affordable rental charges and in accordance with the criteria and standards set by the Board of Regents of the concerned SUC; Provided, That the term of the lease agreement may be co-terminous with the lifetime of the beneficiary, regardless of the beneficiary's retirement from the SUC concerned, unless sooner revoked or terminated by the beneficiary, or when the beneficiary resigns or is terminated from service prior to his/her retirement, or due to gross violations of the housing rules and regulations of the SUC or due to other causes as may be set in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

a) Housing Assistance. The SUC shall establish partnerships and coordinate with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and other relevant government agencies in assisting the qualified beneficiaries under this Act in the rental and/or acquisition of off-campus housing.

b) Soft Loan programs. The SUC shall establish partnerships with the Land Bank of the Philippines and other qualified Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) for the creation of a soft loan program specifically for qualified beneficiaries under this Act to facilitate the acquisition of off-campus housing, with terms and conditions favorable to the borrower-qualified beneficiary.

SEC. 6. SUC Housing Development Program. – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, all SUCs shall develop a Housing Development Program to ensure that tenured personnel shall have affordable housing options, whether incampus or off-campus.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with DHSUD and Land Bank of the Philippines, SUCs, including teaching and non-teaching personnel who stand to benefit under this Act, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 8.** *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budgets of the particular SUCs.

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**SEC.** 9. Separability Clause. – Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

**SEC. 10.** Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,