

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

22 JUL 18 A9:38

SENATE

S. No. 676

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, REPEALING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1994", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides promotes the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education. Article XIV, Section 2 (1) specifically provides that, "The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society."

Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", created the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to pursue the policies of the State for education, especially to ensure that state-supported institutions of higher learning will gear their programs to national, regional or local development plans, and that all institutions of higher learning shall exemplify through their physical and natural surroundings the dignity and beauty of, as well as their pride in, the intellectual and scholarly life.

In the ensuing years after the passage of R.A. No. 7722, several laws were enacted related to higher education, most of which gave additional mandates to CHED without creating the necessary structures and systems to properly implement them.

Hence, the need to amend the law to strengthen CHED and enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate.

The "Revised Higher Education Act of 2022" seeks to strengthen CHED by incorporating all its mandated in one law and to expand its mandate to cover sports development, supervision and regulation of higher education programs offered by local universities and colleges (LUCs), developing common standards for accrediting agencies, internationalization of higher education institutions, establishment of a national registry for academic information and mobility, and strengthening quality assurance. It creates the necessary offices in CHED that will enable it to fulfill its added mandates and the increases the personnel that will ensure their effective and efficient implementation.

This measure was previously endorsed by the CHED and was reported out by the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education in the 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is highly recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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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 "*Revised Higher*
2 *Education Act of 2022*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall protect, foster, and promote the
4 right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to
5 ensure that education shall be accessible to all. The State shall likewise ensure and
6 protect academic freedom and shall promote its exercise and observance for the
7 continuing intellectual growth, the advancement of learning and research, the
8 development of responsible and effective leadership, the education of high-level
9 professionals, and the enrichment of our historical and cultural heritage.

10 State-supported institutions of higher learning shall design their programs to
11 support national, regional, and local development plans.

12 All institutions of higher learning shall exemplify, through their physical and
13 natural surroundings, the dignity and beauty of, as well as their pride in, the
14 intellectual and scholarly life.

15 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

1 (a) *Commission en banc* refers to the policy-making body of the Commission on
2 Higher Education (CHED) composed of the Chairperson and Commissioners
3 sitting as a collegial body, which shall exercise the powers and discharge
4 the functions mandated under this Act;

5 (b) *Higher education institution/s (HEI)* refers to universities and colleges,
6 whether private or public, undertaking operations of higher education
7 program/s recognized by the CHED;

8 (c) *Private HEIs* refer to universities and colleges that have been duly
9 incorporated, organized, and established in accordance with the provisions
10 of Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the "Revised Corporation
11 Code of the Philippines";

12 (d) *Public HEIs* refer to state and local universities and colleges established by
13 law or ordinance that offer higher educations programs recognized by the
14 CHED.

15 Sec. 4. *Commission on Higher Education.* – The Commission on Higher
16 Education, hereinafter referred to as the Commission or CHED, created under Republic
17 Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", shall continue
18 in the exercise of its powers and functions in accordance with the provisions of this
19 Act.

20 The Commission shall be independent and separate from the Department of
21 Education (DepEd) and attached to the Office of the President for administrative
22 purposes only. It shall exercise oversight powers and reasonable supervision over all
23 public and private HEIs, degree-granting programs in all public and private post-
24 secondary educational institutions, and foreign HEIs, where applicable, except those
25 to which the law has given the status of National University, those which are under
26 the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)
27 as provided under Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the "Organic Law for
28 the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao", and those expressly
29 removed by Congress from its jurisdiction: *Provided*, That the passage of this Act shall
30 not diminish, reduce, or prejudice the support and funding from the national
31 government enjoyed by all public HEIs in the BARMM prior to the passage of this Act.

1 All public HEIs shall remain to be governed by their own charters and existing
2 laws.

3 Sec. 5. *Composition of the Commission en banc.* – The Commission *en banc*
4 shall be composed of five (5) full-time members consisting of the Chairperson and the
5 four (4) Commissioners, sitting as a collegial body, and who shall be appointed by the
6 President of the Philippines.

7 The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall have the following qualifications:

8 (a) Holders of earned doctorate degrees, defined as Level 8 in the Philippine
9 Qualifications Framework (PQF);

10 (b) Actively engaged in higher education for at least ten (10) years, with at least
11 five (5) years of managerial experience;

12 (c) Must not have been candidates for any elective positions in the national or local
13 election immediately preceding their appointment;

14 (d) Known to possess the highest degree of professionalism and integrity; and,

15 (e) Have distinguished themselves as authorities in their chosen fields of learning
16 as professors, researchers, managers, administrators, professional
17 practitioners, or other similar undertakings that can contribute to efficient and
18 effective higher education governance.

19 The members of the Commission shall belong to different academic
20 specializations.

21 Except as provided by law or otherwise herein provided, in no case shall the
22 Chairperson or any or all of the Commissioners appoint representatives to act on their
23 behalf.

24 Sec. 6. *Term of Office.* – The Chairperson and Commissioners shall serve for
25 a term of four (4) years, without prejudice to one (1) reappointment.

26 They shall hold office until their successors shall have been appointed and
27 qualified. In case a member of the Commission fails to complete a term, the successor
28 shall be appointed by the President for a full four (4) year term without prejudice to
29 one (1) reappointment. In case of a re-appointee, time served in an acting or holdover
30 capacity shall be counter as part of the new four (4)-year term.

31 The reappointment of the Chairperson and Commissioners shall be based on
32 merit and track record of performance during his or her term of office.

1 Sec. 7. *Rank and Emoluments.* – The Chairperson shall have the equivalent
2 rank of a Department Secretary and shall be a regular member of the Cabinet. The
3 Commissioners shall have the rank of Undersecretaries. They shall be entitled to
4 receive the corresponding compensation and other emoluments and shall be subject
5 to the same conditions or disqualifications. Consistent with the provisions of Executive
6 Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Revised Administrative Code of 1987", they
7 shall be allowed to receive honoraria and other benefits, subject to existing rules and
8 regulations prescribed by the Commission on Audit.

9 Sec. 8. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Chairperson.* – Subject to pertinent
10 laws and the policies and rules adopted by the Commission, the Chairperson shall:

- 11 (a) Act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission;
- 12 (b) Act as the Presiding Officer of the Commission *en banc*;
- 13 (c) Submit to the Office of the President the rules and regulations adopted by
14 the Commission which require Presidential attention or action, including
15 annual or other periodic reports;
- 16 (d) Direct the Executive Director, the Secretariat, and the Regional Directors in
17 the performance or execution of the decisions and policies of the
18 Commission *en banc*;
- 19 (e) Appoint focal persons and representatives of the Commission to advisory
20 boards, councils, and similar bodies where the Commission is identified by
21 law as an *ex officio* member; and,
- 22 (f) Subject to the approval of the Commission *en banc*, appoint advisers and
23 create advisory bodies to advise and provide support to the office of the
24 Chairperson and the Commission as a whole.

25 Sec. 9. *Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The Commission shall
26 exercise the following powers and functions:

- 27 (a) Formulate a roadmap for Philippine higher education that sets the general
28 direction for its development, including the formulation of educational policies
29 and standards that ensure the accessibility and continuing improvement of
30 tertiary education services, thereby ensuring the creation and development of
31 locally responsive, innovative, and globally competitive graduates and lifelong
32 learners;

- 1 (b) Engage in active coordination and dialogues with the DepEd and the Technical
2 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) with the aim of ensuring
3 the consistency of policies, plans, and programs of each education subsector
4 for the progressive and coherent development and improvement of the entire
5 Philippine education system;
- 6 (c) Prepare and implement development plans, policies, priorities, and programs
7 on higher education and research consistent with national and regional
8 development goals and international human resource requirements to address
9 job skills mismatch between education and industry requirements;
- 10 (d) Broaden access to quality higher education through programs and services,
11 particularly for the disadvantaged students, such as but not limited to,
12 indigenous peoples, poor and deserving students, and students from depressed
13 areas, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10931, or the "Universal Access to Quality
14 Tertiary Education Act", and other related laws on student financial assistance;
- 15 (e) Direct the development and reform of higher education towards world-class
16 standards, harmonization with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
17 (ASEAN) education plan, and international conventions and agreements;
- 18 (f) Enable the development of non-traditional higher education programs and
19 delivery modes, including, but not limited to, flexible learning modalities,
20 ladderized education, the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and
21 Accreditation Program, and other programs and modes of delivery as may be
22 subsequently developed;
- 23 (g) Facilitate the development of sports and wellness programs in HEIs to produce
24 globally competitive student-athletes, in coordination with the Philippine Sports
25 Commission;
- 26 (h) Set the minimum standards and guidelines for programs and institutions for
27 HEIs as recommended by panels of experts in their respective fields and subject
28 to public hearing, and enforce the same;
- 29 (i) Review, monitor and evaluate the curricula and other academic programs of
30 HEIs vis-à-vis their performance in various government licensure examinations
31 and certifications;

- 1 (j) Identify, support, and develop centers of excellence in program areas needed
2 for the development of world-class scholarships, including provision for faculty
3 academic development in HEIs, nation-building, and national development;
- 4 (k) Accelerate the establishment of transnational higher education programs, the
5 internationalization of higher education in the country, and the development of
6 transnational higher education sector, consistent with Republic Act No. 11448,
7 otherwise known as the "Transnational Higher Education Act";
- 8 (l) Exercise quasi-judicial powers in the pursuit of the mandate of the Commission;
- 9 (m) Develop and enforce a system of program compliance and impose
10 necessary sanctions for cause provided by law and only after due process, such
11 as imposition of fines or penalties, downgrading to permit status, non-
12 recognition of accreditation, termination by closure or phase-out of higher
13 education programs, or cessation of operations of HEIs which are not in
14 compliance with the prescribed minimum policies, standards and guidelines
15 (PSGs) set by the Commission or international conventions, whenever
16 applicable: *Provided*, That no restraining orders or injunctions shall be issued
17 upon Commission actions in the exercise of its quasi-judicial functions, except
18 by the appellate courts after proper proceedings: *Provided, further*, That the
19 welfare of students, faculty, and employees are given due consideration:
20 *Provided, finally*, That the exercise of quasi-judicial power shall include the
21 issuance of subpoena, summons, and initiation of contempt proceedings
22 against recalcitrant parties under this jurisdiction;
- 23 (n) Upon consultation with the SUCs, coordinate with the Department of Budget
24 and Management (DBM) the issuance of general guidelines on the use of their
25 income;
- 26 (o) Set standards, policies, and guidelines for the creation of new HEIs as well as
27 the conversion or elevation of schools to institutions of higher learning;
- 28 (p) Develop and implement standards and systems on reclassification, promotion,
29 and professional development of personnel in public HEIs, in coordination with
30 the DBM and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and in consultation with the
31 Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the
32 Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), and the Coordinating

- 1 Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA), or
2 equivalent institutions that may be formed in lieu of these organizations;
- 3 (q) Support HEIs in the implementation of the PQF for higher education, in
4 coordination with the DepEd, TESDA, and other appropriate government
5 agencies consistent with Republic Act No. 10968, otherwise known as the "PQF
6 Act";
- 7 (r) Set guidelines for reasonable increases in tuition and other fees in private HEIs:
8 *Provided, That the Commission, through its regional offices, shall strictly*
9 *monitor their compliance with the guidelines set for this purpose;*
- 10 (s) Provide directions and common standards for accrediting agencies;
- 11 (t) Conduct mediation, conciliation, settlement meeting, or conferences between
12 HEIs and students, teachers and staff involving academic issues, consistent
13 with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9285, or the "Alternative Dispute
14 Resolution Act of 2004", and applicable rules and regulations;
- 15 (u) Administer the Higher Education Development Fund, as described in Section 15
16 hereunder, and based on guidelines to be set by the Commission, approve
17 projects funded thereby which will promote the development of public and
18 private HEIs;
- 19 (v) Chair the governing boards of state universities and colleges, as provided by
20 law, and provide recommendations to ensure that the Commission's PSGs are
21 complied with and fully implement by them;
- 22 (w) Establish a national registry for academic information and mobility, in
23 conjunction with the Philippine Qualifications Register, and other relevant
24 mechanisms for information sharing and dissemination locally or internationally,
25 in coordination with other concerned government agencies;
- 26 (x) Develop criteria for allocating additional resources such as research and
27 program development grants, scholarships, and other similar programs sourced
28 from the Higher Education Development Fund of the Commission and other
29 sources of funds;
- 30 (y) Authorize the periodic review of the organization, functions, mission, and
31 structure of the Commission in light of social, economic, and technological

1 changes, and propose the necessary interventions, including appropriate
2 legislation; and,

3 (z) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and
4 functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively the purpose and
5 objectives of this Act and the Commission, with a view to the effective
6 operations and continued enhancement, growth, or development of higher
7 education.

8 Sec. 10. *Quasi-Judicial Powers of the Commission.* – The Commission shall
9 exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over the following:

10 (a) Fraud or deceit committed in connection with the application for and grant by
11 the Commission of government permits or recognition and other incentives and
12 qualifying procedures;

13 (b) Failure to comply with conditions or obligations prescribed by the Commission
14 as minimum standards in operating academic courses and programs;

15 (c) Unauthorized operation of a school or course, or any component thereof, or
16 any violation of the requirement governing advertisements or announcements
17 of educational institutions; and,

18 (d) Expulsion of a student, which results in the total disqualification of a student
19 from enrolling in any HEI.

20 Pursuant to its quasi-judicial powers, the Commission shall have the power and
21 authority to:

22 (a) Promulgate rules and regulations governing the hearing and disposition of
23 cases before it and its regional offices;

24 (b) To administer oaths, summon parties to a controversy, issue subpoenas
25 requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of such
26 books, papers, contracts, records, statements of accounts, agreements, and
27 other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under
28 investigation or hearing;

29 (c) To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate
30 penalties therefor; and,

31 (d) To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it
32 which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage.

1 The finding of a violation committed by an HEI shall not be taken against its
2 students, teachers, and employees who believe in good faith that the HEI acted in
3 conformity with the standards and guidelines set by the Commission: *Provided,*
4 *however,* That upon issuance by the Commission of a notice to the public regarding
5 the HEI's noncompliance with policies and standards of the Commission, including the
6 sanctions imposed on HEIs, the general public shall be bound thereby, and no
7 presumption of good faith shall be enjoyed thereafter by existing or new students,
8 faculty, and employees.

9 Sec. 11. *Secretariat and the Executive Director.* – The Commission shall have
10 a Secretariat, which shall be headed by an Executive Director. The Commission shall
11 fix the Secretariat's staffing pattern, determine the duties, qualifications,
12 responsibilities, and functions, as well as the compensation scheme for the positions
13 to be created, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and subject to the
14 evaluation and approval of the DBM. It shall also prepare and approve its budget.

15 The Executive Director shall have at least five (5) years of administrative or
16 technical experience in the areas of policies and standards development,
17 management, public or private administration and policy, and human resource
18 development, among others. He/she shall have the rank and emoluments of an
19 Assistant Secretary. He/she shall be appointed by the President upon the
20 recommendation of the Commission *en banc*.

21 Sec. 12. *Central Office Operation.* – The Commission shall have a central office,
22 in accordance with the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 and other pertinent laws
23 and issuances, to support the fulfillment of the powers and functions of the
24 Commission at the national level. The office shall be headed by a qualified Director
25 and Assistant Director, subject to the evaluation and approval by the DBM.

26 Sec. 13. *Regional Operations.* – The Regional Offices of the Commission are
27 headed by Regional Directors with the rank and emoluments of Director IV to be
28 appointed by the President.

29 The Regional Offices of the Commission shall be under the direct control and
30 supervision of the Chairperson and shall have the following functions:

- 31 (a) Implement the programs of the Commission in the regional level, as well as in
32 highly urbanized cities, which are under their jurisdiction;

- 1 (b) Develop and recommend programs for regional and local-level implementation
2 within the policies set by the Commission;
- 3 (c) Facilitate the implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary
4 Education Act, including disbursement of checks; and,
- 5 (d) Perform such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary.

6 The Regional Director, or his/her duly authorized representative, shall, upon
7 invitation by the Board of Regents of a public HEIs, sit as a resource person in the
8 board meetings of the concerned public HEI in the region where the Regional Office
9 has jurisdiction, to keep the Regional Director attuned and updated on the official
10 activities and needs of the concerned public HEI.

11 There shall be a legal division in each Regional Office to ensure the effective
12 discharge of its quasi-judicial powers and ensure action on legal matters within its
13 jurisdiction, with corresponding additional staffing pattern, subject to review and
14 approval by the DBM.

15 Sec. 14. *Provincial Offices.* – The Commission shall establish Provincial Offices
16 to ensure the implementation of policies and programs across island groups and in
17 remote areas. The Provincial Offices shall be headed by Provincial Directors, who shall
18 have the rank and emoluments of a Director III. The Provincial Offices shall be under
19 the direct control and supervision of their respective Regional Directors and shall have
20 the following functions:

- 21 (a) Implement the policies and programs of the Commission in the province
22 which is under their respective jurisdiction;
- 23 (b) Review and recommend programs for implementation within their
24 localities;
- 25 (c) Provide technical assistance to local government units in the governance
26 of LUCs and the implementation of local government-initiated programs
27 within their localities;
- 28 (d) Provide assistance in the implementation of the Universal Access to
29 Quality Tertiary Education Act, including disbursement of checks for HEIs
30 which are under their respective jurisdiction; and,
- 31 (e) Perform such other duties and functions as may be authorized.

1 Sec. 15. *Higher Education Development Fund.* – The Higher Education
2 Development Fund established under the Higher Education Act of 1994, hereinafter
3 referred to as the Fund, shall be used exclusively to strengthen higher education in all
4 regions of the country.

5 (a) The government shall continue to contribute to the Fund, as follows:

6 (1) The equivalent of forty percent (40%) annual share on the total gross
7 collections of the travel tax;

8 (2) The equivalent of thirty percent (30%) share of the annual collections
9 from the Professional Registration Fee; and,

10 (3) The equivalent of one percent (1%) of the gross sales

11 (b) Government financing institutions identified and requested by the
12 Commission may contribute to the Fund an amount equivalent to not less
13 than three percent (3%) but not more than five percent (5%) of their
14 unimpaired surplus realized during the immediately preceding year; and,

15 (c) The Fund shall have a private portion to be raised from donation, gifts, and
16 other conveyances, including materials, equipment, properties, and services
17 by gratuitous title, which shall be tax-exempt, as provided in Section 21 of
18 this Act.

19 Sec. 16. *Management and Administration of the Higher Education Development*
20 *Fund.* – The Fund shall be administered by the Commission. For sound and judicious
21 management of the Fund, the Bureau of Treasury under the Department of Finance
22 shall be the portfolio manager of the Fund.

23 As administrator of the Fund, the Commission shall prepare the necessary
24 guidelines for its use, subject to the following conditions:

25 (a) No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof, shall be
26 used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration;

27 (b) Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of private
28 contributions shall be used for administrative expenses;

29 (c) The Commission shall appoint and organize a separate Fund Office to be
30 headed by a Director and to be composed of units responsible for resource
31 mobilization, planning and programs, monitoring and evaluation, and finance
32 and administration, among others, subject to evaluations and approval of the

1 DBM. Since the Fund comes from contributions from government and private
2 sector, the Fund Office shall be independent administratively and budgetarily
3 separate from the Commission Secretariat; and,

4 (d) The Fund shall be utilized equitably according to regions to strengthen higher
5 education institutions and support priority programs. In no case shall the Fund
6 be utilized for purposes benefitting individuals other than those earmarked for
7 developmental purposes under the guidelines set by the Commission.

8 Sec. 17. *Technical Panels.* – The Commission shall reconstitute or organize
9 technical panels for different disciplines and academic program areas, which shall
10 include representatives from PASUC, COCOPEA, and ALCU, or equivalent institutions
11 that may be formed in lieu of these organizations, as well as representatives from the
12 industry. They shall assist the Commission in setting standards and evaluating
13 academic programs for regulatory and development purposes. The technical panels
14 are composed of individuals highly recognized in their fields of expertise and who shall
15 be tasked with the formulation of roadmaps for the development of disciplinal and
16 degree programs, which shall be in line with the roadmap for Philippine higher
17 education; review, revise, and update PSGs based on the policy direction set by the
18 Commission; and serve as resource persons of the Commission in its various activities.

19 The technical panels shall serve as advisory or recommendatory bodies for a
20 specific discipline or related program and whose recommendations are subject to the
21 approval of the Commission *en banc*.

22 Sec. 18. *Guarantee of Academic Freedom.* – Nothing in this Act shall be
23 construed as limiting the academic freedom of HEIs. In particular, no abridgement of
24 curricular freedom of the HEIs shall be made except for:

25 (a) Minimum unit requirements for specific academic programs;

26 (b) General education distribution requirements as may be determined by the
27 Commission; and,

28 (c) Specific professional subjects as may be stipulated by various licensing entities.

29 Academic or curricular restrictions not required from public HEIs shall likewise
30 not be imposed upon private HEIs.

31 Public and private HEIs must comply with the mandatory minimum institutional
32 and program standards set by the Commission *en banc*.

1 Sec. 19. *Guarantee of Religious Freedom.* — No higher education student,
2 faculty, or other members of the academic community shall be prohibited from
3 exercising their right to religious freedom in the HEI or any of its campuses.

4 Sec. 20. *Incentives for Accreditation.* — The Commission shall provide
5 incentives to public and private HEIs whose proposed programs are accredited or
6 whose needs are for accreditation purposes.

7 Sec. 21. *Tax Exemptions.* — Any donation, contribution, bequest, endowment,
8 and grant which may be made to the Commission shall constitute as an allowable
9 deduction from the income of the donor for income tax purposes and shall be exempt
10 from donor's tax, subject to such conditions as provided under the National Internal
11 Revenue Code, as amended.

12 Any subsidy received by HEIs from various government assistance programs,
13 including, but not limited to, the grants provided under the Universal Access to Quality
14 Tertiary Education Act, shall be excluded from gross income.

15 Sec. 22. *Authority.* — The Commission shall exercise such authority as may be
16 deemed necessary within its premises or areas of operation to effectively carry out its
17 powers and functions and attain its objectives: *Provided,* That the Commission may
18 seek the assistance of other government agencies for the proper implementation of
19 this Act.

20 Sec. 23. *Periodic Review.* — The Commission shall undertake a periodic
21 assessment of its accomplishment and review and update the roadmap of Philippine
22 Higher Education every ten (10) years. The updated roadmap shall be submitted to
23 Congress and the Office of the President for the formulation of new policies necessary
24 for the continuous modernization of higher education.

25 Sec. 24. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of
26 this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriations of the Commission on
27 Higher Education. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continued
28 implementation of this Act shall included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

29 Sec. 25. *Transitory Provisions.* — Upon the effectivity of this Act, the incumbent
30 Chairperson and Commissioners of the Commission shall serve as the Chairperson and
31 Commissioners, respectively, without the need of new appointments, subject to the
32 following conditions:

1 (a) The incumbent Chairperson and Commissioners serving their first terms upon
2 the passage of this Act shall be deemed reappointed to serve a full term as
3 provided under this Act, but shall not be qualified for reappointment; and,

4 (b) The incumbent Chairperson and Commissioners serving their second terms
5 upon the passage of this Act shall continue to serve only the remaining duration
6 of the term they are currently serving and shall not be eligible for
7 reappointment.

8 The incumbent Executive Director shall likewise serve as such without the need
9 for a new appointment.

10 All officers and personnel of the Commission shall continue to perform their
11 duties and responsibilities and receive their corresponding salaries and benefits. The
12 approval of this Act shall not cause any demotion in rank or diminution of salary,
13 benefits, and other privileges of the incumbent personnel of the Commission.

14 Sec. 26. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
16 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

17 Sec. 27. *Repealing Clause.* — Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the
18 "Higher Education Act of 1994", is hereby repealed. All laws, presidential decrees,
19 executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
20 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

21 Sec. 28. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,