



23 JAN 25 P 6 :39

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

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE
S.B. No. 1780

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
SEPARATING THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY (IFSU) – POTIA
CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO LISTA, PROVINCE OF
IFUGAO, FROM THE IFSU IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT,
PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, CONVERTING IT INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO
BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN CORDILLERA STATE COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ECSCAST),
INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE IFSU-LUPAO CAMPUS,
HENCEWORTH TO BE KNOWN AS THE ECSCAST-LUPAO CAMPUS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*the State shall give priority to education.*" The Constitution further declares that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

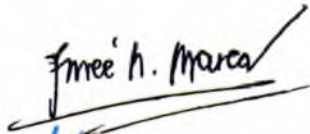
Ifugao is located at the foot of the Cordillera Mountain Ranges. It is bounded on the west by Benguet, on the south by Nueva Vizcaya, on the east by Isabela and on the north by Mt. Province. It is generally located at 120 degrees 40'17" longitude. Ifugao is politically divided into 11 municipalities and 175 barangays with the municipality of Lagawe as its capital. Although there are two (2) district engineering offices in Ifugao, the geographic terrain still poses challenges to travel from one place to another in the province. Some areas can hardly be reached due to road conditions frequently affected by landslides and soil erosions.

Consequently, despite the existence of a higher educational institution within the province, there are still numerous students who are deprived of their right to education, especially those from far flung communities, by reasons of accessibility and

by some other factors relating to institutional limitations including facility, faculty, and curriculum of the existing state university.

Hence, this bill seeks to separate the Ifugao State University (IFSU) – Potia campus in the municipality of Alfonso Lista, province of Ifugao, from the IFSU in the Municipality of Lamut, province of Ifugao, converting it into a state college to be known as the Eastern Cordillera State College of Agriculture, Science and Technology (ECSCAST), and integrating therewith the IFSU – Lupao campus in the municipality of Aginaldo, province of Ifugao, henceforth to be known as the ECSCAST – Lupao campus.

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


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Separation/Conversion.** – TheThe Ifugao State University (IFSU) –
2 Potia Campus in the Municipality of Alfonso Lista, Province of Ifugao, is hereby
3 separated from the IFSU in the Municipality of Lamut, Province of Ifugao, converted
4 into a state college to be known as the Eastern Cordillera State College of Agriculture,
5 Science and Technology (ECSCAST), and integrating therewith the IFSU – Lupao
6 Campus, to be known as the ECSCAST – Lupao Campus in Barangay Jacmal in the
7 Municipality of Aguinaldo, Province of Ifugao. Its main campus shall be in the
8 Municipality of Alfonso Lista and the ECSCAST – Lupao, in the Municipality of Aguinaldo
9 shall be a satellite campus.

10
11 After the effectivity of this Act, the ECSCAST, hereinafter referred to as the
12 College shall exist independently, separate and distinct from the IFSU in Lamut,
13 Province of Ifugao, and each shall be governed by their respective charters.

14
15 **SEC. 2. General Mandate.** – The College shall primarily provide advance
16 instruction and professional training in education, agriculture, forestry, engineering and
17 technology, health and sciences, agribusiness, arts, industry, criminology, information
18 technology, vocational courses, and other related fields of study. It shall also undertake

1 research, extension services, and production activities in support of the socio-economic
2 development of the Province of Ifugao and provide progressive leadership in its areas
3 of specialization in the Province of Ifugao and the Cordillera Administrative Region
4 (CAR).

5
6 **SEC. 3. Curricular Offerings.** – The College shall offer short-term technical
7 vocational, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate courses within its areas of
8 competency and specialization in the fields of education, agriculture, forestry,
9 engineering and technology, health and sciences, agribusiness, arts, industry,
10 criminology, information technology, vocational courses, and other degree courses, as
11 the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem necessary to
12 carry out its objectives, and those which respond to meet the human resource
13 development needs of the Province of Ifugao and the CAR.

14
15 The existing reasonably-sized laboratory senior high school and elementary
16 school shall continue to operate under the supervision of the College of Education of
17 the College to serve the in-campus requirements of its students.

18
19 **SEC. 4. Administration.** – The College shall have the general powers of a
20 corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as the
21 "Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the College and the
22 exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board and the
23 President of the College.

24
25 **SEC. 5. The Governing Board.** – The governing bodies of the College shall be
26 the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission
27 on Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the College, respectively, and with
28 the following as members:

- 29
30 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education
31 of the Senate;
- 32 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House
33 of Representatives;
- 34 c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- 35 d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 36 e. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- 37 f. Regional Director of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
- 38 g. President of the faculty associations of the College;
- 39 h. President of the student councils of the College;
- 40 i. President of the alumni associations of the College; and,

1 j. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished
2 themselves in their profession or fields of specialization.

3 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a
4 list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Ifugao where the College is
5 located, as recommended by a search committee constituted by the President of the
6 College in consultation with the CHED Chairperson and other members of the Board,
7 based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall
8 serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

9
10 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the
11 President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation of
12 alumni associations in the Board shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as
13 provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

14
15 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board.** – In addition to its general powers of
16 administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under
17 existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

18
19 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State
20 policies and the provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science
21 and technology, as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under
22 Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of
23 1994”;

24 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline drawn by
25 the Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;

26 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the College, the vice
27 presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other
28 officials and employees of the College;

29 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and
30 employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position
31 Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws,
32 including those governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions
33 as it may deem proper; grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under
34 such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the
35 contrary notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the
36 requirements of due process of law;

37 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation
38 fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to
39 impose, after due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges,
40 including government subsidies and other income generated by the College shall

1 constitute its special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized
2 government depository bank. All interests shall accrue therefrom shall form part
3 of the same funds for the use of the College.

4
5 Any provision of existing laws, rules or regulations to the contrary
6 notwithstanding, any income generated by the College from tuition fees and
7 other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants,
8 shall be retained by the College, and may be disbursed by the Board for
9 instruction, research, extension services or other programs and projects of the
10 College: Provided, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific
11 purposes for which these are collected: Provided, however, That if, for reasons
12 beyond its control, the College shall not be able to pursue any project for which
13 the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of
14 expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of funds for any reasonable
15 purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment
16 of the objectives and goals of the College;

17
18 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other fees for greater
19 access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931,
20 otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";

21 g. Establish professional chairs in the College and provide fellowships for qualified
22 faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;

23 h. Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the
24 College, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine and
25 carry out the purposes and functions of the College;

26 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;

27 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding
28 contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and
29 technology, agriculture or any area of specialization within the academic
30 competence of the College, and authorize the awarding of certificates of
31 completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;

32 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the
33 College;

34 l. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with
35 appropriate partners whether public, private, local or foreign institutions and
36 agencies, and appoint experts and specialists as consultants, part-
37 time/visiting/exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

38 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge for the

- 1 promotion of greater access to education such as the use of information
2 technology, dual training system, open distance learning, and community
3 laboratory;
- 4 n. Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges
5 within the Province of Ifugao and the CAR, under the supervision of the CHED
6 and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in
7 restructuring the College to make it more efficient, relevant, productive and
8 competitive;
- 9 o. Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Ifugao and
10 the CAR, as branches and extension/external centers, in coordination with the
11 CHED, and in consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses
12 to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities, as mandated
13 by the Constitution;
- 14
15 p. Authorize an external management audit of the College, to be financed
16 by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit,
17 and institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis
18 of the audit results and recommendations;
- 19 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government
20 units, as well as public, private, local and foreign institutions and agencies, in the
21 furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the College;
- 22 r. Import economic, technical, and cultural books and publications;
- 23 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable
24 development and management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall
25 be used for the development and strengthening of the College;
- 26 t. Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties
27 of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the
28 benefit of the College and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions
29 of the donor, if any;
- 30 u. Extend the term of the President of the College beyond the age of retirement,
31 but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on guidelines, qualifications and
32 standards set by the Board: Provided, That the President's performance has been
33 rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such
34 extension has been decided upon by the search committee;
- 35 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other
36 officials of the College, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the
37 administration of the affairs of the College;
- 38 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision making
39 and transparency within the College;

- 1 x. Where most advantageous to the College, privatize the management of no
2 academic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property
3 maintenance, and such other similar activities;
- 4 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and
5 other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including
6 necessary supplies, materials and equipment; and
- 7 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the
8 purpose and functions of the College.
9

10
11 **SEC. 7. Meeting of the Board.** – The Board shall regularly convene once every
12 quarter. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, upon three (3) days prior written
13 notice, call a maximum of two (2) special meetings whenever necessary within the year.
14

15 A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office
16 at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however,* That the Chairperson of the Board or
17 the President of the College is among those present in the meeting.
18

19 In the absence of the CHED Chairperson, a Commissioner of the CHED, duly
20 designated by the CHED Chairperson as representative in the meeting, shall have all
21 the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided,* That during the meeting,
22 the President of the College, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the Presiding Officer:
23 *Provided, further,* That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is
24 hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the
25 Board, in which case, said CHED Commissioner shall act as the Presiding Officer.
26

27 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and
28 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education will
29 not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective
30 representatives to attend the meeting, who shall have the same rights and
31 responsibilities as the regular members of the Board.
32

33 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled to
34 reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance
35 to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by
36 resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.
37

38 **SEC. 8. The College President.** – The College shall be headed by a President
39 who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and
40 standards it shall set, and based on the recommendation of a duly constituted search
41 committee. The College President shall render full-time service and serve a term of four
42 (4) years, but may be reappointed to another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect
43 the smooth transition of the IFSU-Potia Campus to a state college, the incumbent

1 Director of the IFSU-Potia Campus, if qualified, shall serve as the first president of the
2 College.

3
4 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent
5 President of the College, the Board shall constitute the search committee for the
6 Presidency.

7
8 The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College in case of vacancy
9 in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation,
10 removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office,
11 pending the appointment of a new President: Provided, That the Officer-in-Charge shall
12 serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

13
14 The powers and duties of the President of the College, in addition to those
15 provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of
16 similar colleges and those delegated by the Board.

17
18 The salary of the President of the College shall be in accordance with RA No.
19 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and by such other laws amendatory
20 thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being
21 received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions.

22
23 The President of the College shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic
24 Affairs, a Vice President for Finance and Administration, and a Vice President for
25 Research, Extension and Training, who shall be appointed by the Board upon the
26 recommendation of the President of the College.

27
28 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the College.*** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who
29 shall serve as such for both the Board and the College and shall keep all records and
30 proceedings of the Board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary
31 of the College shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice board
32 meetings.

33
34 **SEC. 10. *The Treasurer of the College.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall
35 be the ex officio Treasurer of the College.

36
37 **SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.*** – There shall be an Administrative Council
38 consisting of the President of the College, as Chairperson, and the vice presidents,
39 deans, directors and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duties shall be to
40 review and recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration,
41 management and development planning of the College.

42
43 **SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council that shall
44 formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the College, who

1 shall act as its Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant
2 professor, as members, which shall formulate academic policies.

3
4 The Academic Council shall also have the power to review and recommend the
5 curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the College, subject to the approval of the
6 Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their
7 graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to the review and approval of the Board
8 through the President of the College.

9
10 It shall have disciplinary power over the students of the College and shall issue
11 rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

12
13 **SEC. 13. Heads of College Campuses.** – The Campus Directors shall respectively
14 serve as heads or administrators of the College campuses and render full-time service.

15
16 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon recommendation of
17 the Search Committee and the President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and
18 standards set by the Board.

19
20 **SEC. 14. The Faculty.** – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
21 community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter
22 of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College:

23
24 *Provided, That* said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications
25 and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further, That* no member of the faculty shall
26 teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

27
28 **SEC. 15. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.** – The College shall
29 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Sec. 5 of
30 Article XIV of the Constitution.

31
32 **SEC. 16. Scholarship Programs and Admission.** – The College shall provide
33 scholarship and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students
34 who qualify for admission to college.

35
36 No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion,
37 political, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

38
39 **SEC. 17. Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment, Supplies and
40 Detail of Personnel.** – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government
41 are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the

42
43 President of the College, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be
44 needed by the College, and detail employees for duty therein where, in the judgement

1 of the head of the bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, or supplies or service
2 of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

3
4 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the
5 President of the College and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular
6 service.

7
8 **SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.*** – All assets, real and personal,
9 personnel, and records of the IFSU-Potia Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations,
10 are hereby transferred to the College: Provided, That the positions, rights, and security
11 of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed prior to the conversion
12 into a college shall be respected: Provided, further, That the employees currently
13 holding said positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise provided by the
14 Board: Provided, finally, That the College shall upgrade or increase its human resource
15 component as may be deemed appropriate by the Board.

16
17 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the IFSU-Potia
18 Campus are hereby declared the property of the College, and shall be titled under its
19 name: Provided, That should the College cease to exist or be abolished, or should such
20 aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the College, the same shall
21 revert to the concerned LGU or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

22
23 **SEC. 19. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.*** – The importation by
24 the College of economic, technical, and cultural books or publications, which are for
25 economic, technical-vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes
26 shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance
27 with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs
28 Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)". All grants, bequests, endowments, donations,
29 and contributions made to the College, and used actually, directly and exclusively by it,
30 shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable
31 deduction from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable
32 income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue
33 Code of 1997, as amended.

34
35 **SEC. 20. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*** – The provisions of this Act
36 notwithstanding, the conversion into a state college shall become effective only upon
37 the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a
38 panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the institution has complied with the
39 requirements for college status under CHED Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012
40 (Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance): Provided, That the panel may issue
41 such recommendation when the institution has substantially complied with the
42 requirements for the grant of college students.

1 The following operational requirements for a college, as established by the CHED,
2 shall be complied with:

3
4 a. Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant
5 degrees in their areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have
6 experience in the subject areas they handle;

7 b. Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs characterized by a
8 core curriculum that holistically develops thinking, problem solving, decision-
9 making, communication, technical, and social skills, in line with the mission of
10 the College;

11 c. Establishment of learning resources and support structures that are
12 appropriate for developing knowledge and skills in the specific natural science,
13 social sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines offered by the College,
14 including laboratories, books and journals;

15
16 d. Maintaining linkages with the community that would ensure the development
17 of relevant academic and extension programs, as well as the application of their
18 learning outcomes; and,

19
20 e. Conduct of outreach programs involving students in social development
21 oriented experiences that allow them to contextualize their knowledge within
22 actual social and human experiences.

23
24 The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical assistance
25 to the institution and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the commission.
26

27 The institution shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is
28 able to comply with the requirements provided herein.

29
30 **SEC. 21.** *Development Plan, Management Audit, and*
31 *Organization/Administrative/Structure.* – Within a period of one hundred twenty (120)
32 days after the approval of this Act, the College shall accomplish the following:

33
34 a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget to the
35 CHED for recommendation to the DBM;

36 b. Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, including the
37 appointment of key officials of the College; and

38 c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.

39
40 **SEC. 22.** *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second
41 month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed
42 report on the progress, condition, and needs of the College with the Office of the

1 President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the CHED
2 Chairperson.

3
4 **SEC. 23. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise
5 known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act,
6 and serve as part of the governing charter of the College.

7
8 **SEC. 24. *Parity Clause.*** – All other powers, functions and privileges,
9 responsibilities, and limitations to state college and their officials under existing laws
10 shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the College or its officials, whenever
11 appropriate.

12
13 **SEC. 25. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
14 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15
16 **SEC. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
17 effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall determine the
18 rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

19
20 **SEC. 27. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this
21 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
22 shall remain in full force and effect.

23
24 **SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
25 and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
26 repealed or modified accordingly.

27
28 **SEC. 29. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,