

(AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE)

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7397

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BY REPRESENTATIVES CABREDO, GO (M.), SALCEDA, MACAPAGAL- ARROYO, TY, LUISTRO, ORDANES, DAGOOC, SALO, MAGSINO, VERGARA, CRUZ (A.), ROBES, CALDERON, ROMULO, CARI, CO (E.) AND BORDADO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 379

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING IN THE CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, A COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OF THE BICOL UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Establishment.*** – There is hereby established a College of Veterinary Medicine  
2 in the Bicol University, to be located in the City of Ligao, Province of Albay, which shall be known  
3 as the “*Bicol University-College of Veterinary Medicine*”.

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5           **SEC. 2. *General Mandate.*** – The Bicol University (BU)-College of Veterinary Medicine,  
6 hereinafter referred to as the “College”, shall primarily offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine  
7 (DVM) Program. The program shall be a six-year course consisting of a two-year preparatory  
8 veterinary medicine curriculum, including general education courses, and a four-year professional  
9 veterinary medicine curriculum consisting of basic animal sciences, and veterinary medical  
10 sciences, and using learning competency-based standards and outcomes-based approach. The  
11 primary goal of the College shall be to develop a corps of professional veterinary physicians who  
12 are adept in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of animal diseases, including terrestrial  
13 and aquatic animals.

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15           **SEC. 3. ~~[Implementation]~~GOVERNANCE.** – ~~[The implementation of the DVM program~~  
16 ~~shall be in accordance with]~~ THE GOVERNANCE OF THE COLLEGE SHALL BE  
17 VESTED IN THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE BU (THE BOARD), WHOSE  
18 POWERS ARE DEFINED UNDER Republic Act No. 5521, entitled “An Act Establishing the  
19 Bicol University, Defining its Powers, Functions, and Duties, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and  
20 for Other Purposes”~~[.]~~. ~~[and existing provisions of the Bicol University Code of 2016, particularly~~  
21 ~~Chapter II, Section 4, which allows the Bicol University, through its Board of Regents, to~~  
22 ~~promulgate and implement programs, projects and activities]~~ THE DVM PROGRAM, AND  
23 ALL PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE  
24 COLLEGE SHALL BE in accordance with state policies on education, other pertinent provisions  
25 of the Philippine Constitution, as well as the policies, standards and the thrust of the Commission  
26 on Higher Education (CHED).

1           ~~[SEC. 4. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*—The provisions of this Act notwithstanding,~~  
2 ~~the establishment of the College shall become effective only upon the determination and declaration~~  
3 ~~by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the~~  
4 ~~BU has complied with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED Memorandum Order No.~~  
5 ~~01, series of 2018, for the establishment of a College of Veterinary Medicine and the offering of a~~  
6 ~~DVM Program: *Provided,* That the panel may issue such recommendation when the BU has~~  
7 ~~substantially complied with the minimum requirements for the program.]~~

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9           SEC. 4. *COMPLIANCE WITH CHED REQUIREMENTS.* – THE BU, PRIOR TO THE  
10 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLLEGE AND THE OFFERING OF NEW AND  
11 REVISED COURSES AND PROGRAMS RELATED THERETO, SHALL ENSURE  
12 COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE POLICIES, STANDARDS AND  
13 GUIDELINES OF THE CHED.

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15           ~~[SEC. 5. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*—The College shall provide scholarships~~  
16 ~~and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission~~  
17 ~~to the College. Students who have availed themselves of the scholarship program under Republic~~  
18 ~~Act No. 11509, otherwise known as the “Doktor Para sa Bayan Act”, shall render a return service~~  
19 ~~in accordance with the said law. Students availing themselves of other nationally funded scholarship~~  
20 ~~programs to complete the veterinary medicine degree program under the College may be required to~~  
21 ~~render a return service depending on the contract to be signed between the student and the College.~~  
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23           ~~No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion, cultural or~~  
24 ~~community affiliation, physical disability, or ethnic origin.]~~

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26           SEC. 5. *SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND ADMISSION.* – THE COLLEGE SHALL  
27 PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS TO  
28 ASSIST POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO  
29 THE COLLEGE. STUDENTS AVAILING THEMSELVES OF NATIONALLY-  
30 FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS TO COMPLETE THE DVM PROGRAM  
31 UNDER THE COLLEGE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO RENDER A RETURN SERVICE  
32 AS PROVIDED FOR BY APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, OR THE  
33 CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE STUDENT AND THE COLLEGE.

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35           NO STUDENT SHALL BE DENIED ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE BY  
36 REASON OF SEX, GENDER, RELIGION, CULTURAL OR COMMUNITY  
37 AFFILIATION, PHYSICAL DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, OR ANY OTHER FORMS  
38 OF DISCRIMINATION.

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40           **SEC. 6. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** – The importation by the College of medical, scientific,  
41 and technical books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical,  
42 laboratory or scientific and technical purposes shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from  
43 customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the  
44 “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act”.

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46           All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually,  
47 directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor’s tax  
48 and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of  
49 computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal  
50 Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

1           **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall  
2 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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4           **SEC. 8. Suppletory Application.** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known  
5 as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part of this Act.

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7           **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared  
8 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force  
9 and effect.

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11           **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and  
12 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or  
13 modified accordingly.

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15           **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
16 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,