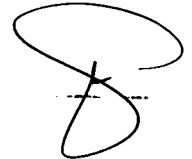


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

24 SEP 24 P3 58

SENATE
S. No. 2836

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System plays a critical role in nurturing the country's future leaders in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Since its inception, the PSHS System has produced a pool of graduates who have excelled in various scientific disciplines, contributing significantly to the country's development. However, as the demands of the modern world evolve, so too must our educational institutions, especially those catering to science and technology.

This proposed bill, titled the "Expanded Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act", seeks to address several gaps in the current PSHS system and expand its reach and impact. By strengthening the governance and management of the PSHS system, the bill envisions a more comprehensive, equitable, and competitive STEM education framework in the Philippines.

Currently, many talented and deserving students across the country, especially those from far-flung regions, face difficulties accessing PSHS campuses. This bill addresses this disparity by establishing a limit of two PSHS campuses per

administrative region outside the National Capital Region (NCR), ensuring that regions with large populations and high demand for STEM education are adequately served. Additionally, it mandates that every province should have no more than one campus, balancing accessibility with strategic campus location.

The PSHS System offers free secondary education with a specialized curriculum focused on science and mathematics to students with high aptitude in these fields. This bill ensures that deserving students, identified through a rigorous admission process and other alternative methods, are given the opportunity to benefit from the program regardless of their geographic location.

To ensure that all PSHS campuses maintain a high level of academic performance, the bill outlines specific objectives for the uniformity of quality standards across campuses. It integrates all current and future PSHS campuses under a single system of governance and management, thereby ensuring that every campus operates under the same academic standards and administrative guidelines.

The bill likewise emphasizes the importance of international collaboration, both in research and development and in creating opportunities for students and faculty to participate in academic exchanges, competitions, and symposia. Such initiatives are crucial for enhancing the quality of education and research at the PSHS System, ensuring that its graduates remain competitive globally.

This bill recognizes the critical role of the Philippine Science High School System in preparing the next generation of Filipino scientists, engineers, and innovators. By expanding its reach, improving governance, and providing the necessary resources, the bill ensures that the PSHS System remains a world-class institution capable of meeting the country's evolving needs in STEM education. Its passage will strengthen the Philippines' scientific and technological capacity, ultimately contributing to national development and global competitiveness.

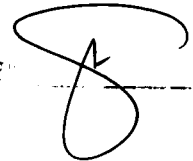
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 

SENATE

RECEIVED

S. No. 2836



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Expanded Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act."

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SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — "The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, training and services. It shall support appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life. To achieve these, the State hereby establishes a PSHS System that will assume a leadership role in secondary Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education."

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The State shall support the admission process of the PSHS System by establishing test centers all over the regions, to enhance equitable admissions and access for deserving students.

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The State shall also ensure that every region is given equal opportunity to benefit from the establishment of the PSHS System. Towards this end, not more than two (2) PSHS campuses inclusive of the existing PSHS Campuses shall be established

1 in each of the administrative regions of the country outside NCR where PSHS-Main
2 Campus is located. Provided that, all establishment of PSHS Campuses shall be in
3 accordance with the criteria as set by the PSHS System Board of Trustees (Board).
4 Provided further, not more than one (1) PSHS Campus shall be established per
5 province. After 15 years of implementation of this law, the Board may consider
6 establishment of more than two (2) PSHS campuses per region.

7 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* — In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall
8 pursue the following objectives:

- 9 1. Establish a PSHS Campus that offers on a free scholarship basis a
10 secondary course with special emphasis on Science and Technology,
11 Engineering and Mathematics to students with high aptitude or gifted in
12 science and mathematics;
- 13 2. Establish campuses that are strategically accessible to the public;
- 14 3. Ensure uniformity in quality standards and systematic operations of
15 schools under the PSHS system;
- 16 4. Operationalize the establishment of PSHS campuses as defined in this
17 Act;
- 18 5. Integrate existing and future campuses into one system of governance
19 and management that may be established by this law;
- 20 6. Ensure that students with high aptitude or gifted in science and
21 mathematics are given equal scholarship opportunities to enroll in the
22 Philippine Science High School System;
- 23 7. Increase the pool of high school graduates who will pursue
24 undergraduate courses to conduct researches and prepare scholars for
25 career in Science and Technology (S&T) to become leaders in the field
26 of STEM;
- 27 8. Establish international collaboration for holistic development of its
28 student, staff and leaders; and
- 29 9. Support scholar's and teachers' participation in local and international
30 competition, academic symposia, research projects, and similar other
31 scholarly activities necessary for the attainment of its objective, subject

1 to availability of funds and usual government accounting and audit
2 regulations.

3 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* —

- 4 1. *Administrative Regions* — refer to the administrative regions where the
5 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) holds regional offices.
- 6 2. *Careers in S & T* — pertains to the enrollment of scholars in college or
7 university courses in the fields of basic and applied sciences,
8 mathematics, engineering, technology, science education and such
9 other disciplines approved by the Board.
- 10 3. *Deserving Students* — refers to those who qualify for admission through
11 the PSHS National Competitive Examination, or similar other admission
12 process approved by the Board such as Lateral Admission Qualifying
13 Examination (LAQE), Requirement for Admission, Criteria, and
14 Evaluation (RACE).
- 15 4. *Philippine Science High School (PSHS)* — refers to a school under the
16 supervision of the PSHS System offering secondary education on
17 scholarship basis to students with high aptitude or are gifted in science
18 and mathematics using a specially designed curriculum focusing on
19 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
- 20 5. *Philippine Science High School System (PSHS System)* — consists of the
21 Office of the Executive Director and the PSHS campuses under its
22 supervision.
- 23 6. *Term of Office* — refers to the period fixed by this Act within which a
24 public official may hold office;
- 25 7. *Tenure of Office* — refers to the period within which a public official
26 actually held office within a prescribed term.

27 SEC. 5. *Scope.* — The Philippine Science High School System shall be composed
28 of the existing PSHS campuses herein mentioned and future campuses which shall be
29 established under this Act. The existing sixteen (16) campuses shall be known as
30 follows:

1. Philippine Science High School - Main Campus in Diliman, Quezon City
2. Philippine Science High School - Davao Region Campus in Davao City, formerly PSHS - Southern Mindanao Campus
3. Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus
4. Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus
5. Philippine Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya, formerly PSHS - Cagayan Valley Campus
6. Philippine Science High School - Northern Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly PSHS - Central Mindanao Campus
7. Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus in Camarines Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus
8. Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus in Ilocos Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus
9. Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly, Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus
10. Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus in Clark Freeport Zone, formerly Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus
11. Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus in Baguio City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus
12. Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN Region Campus in Koronadal City, formerly Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKARGEN Region Campus
13. Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus in Butuan City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus
14. Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus
15. Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus in Romblon, formerly Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus

1 16. Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus
2 in Dipolog City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga
3 Peninsula Region Campus”

4 In the establishment of future PSHS campuses, the Board may consider the
5 following locations: 1st district of Aklan; Daraga, Albay; Ubay, Bohol; Laoag, Ilocos
6 Norte: and Labangan, Zamboanga Del Sur; Third District, Cagayan and General Santos
7 City, South Cotabato. Provided that there shall be established PSHS campuses per
8 region and not more than one (1) campus per province according to the criteria as set
9 by the PSHS Board of Trustees:

10 SEC. 6. *Restriction on the Conversion of High Schools into a Philippine Science*
11 *High School System.* — In addition to the criteria as set by the Board in the
12 establishment and operation of PSHS System, the conversion and inclusion of existing
13 high schools into the PSHS system shall not be allowed.

14 SEC. 7. *Overall Coordinating Authority.* — The PSHS System shall be under the
15 administrative supervision of the DOST. The Board shall be the Governing Board of all
16 the PSHS campus. The Board shall formulate the staffing pattern of the PSHS System
17 in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil
18 Service Commission (CSC).

19 SEC. 8. *PSHS Board of Trustees.* — There shall be a Board of Trustees (Board)
20 composed of the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology as *ex officio*
21 Chairperson, the Secretary of Department of Education as *ex officio* Vice Chairperson
22 and the following members: the President of the University of the Philippines, The
23 Executive Director of PSHS, the Director of Science Education Institute (SEI), the
24 President of the PSHS National Alumni Association, and the Chairpersons of the
25 Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives as *ex officio* members; and one (1) representative each from the
27 private sector representing higher education, child development professionals or
28 practitioners, agriculture and new emerging technologies. The private sector
29 representatives shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of a duly

1 constituted search committee. The private sector representatives shall serve a fixed
2 term of four (4) years.

3 The Board shall exercise the following powers:

- 4 1. Ensure that the provisions of the laws pertaining to the creation and
5 operation of the PSHS System are implemented;
- 6 2. Approve policies and guidelines necessary in the establishment and
7 operation of science high schools under the PSHS System in order to
8 maintain the quality and uniform standard in all PSHS Campuses;
- 9 3. Approve the curricula submitted by the Executive Director;
- 10 4. Formulate policies for the expansion of enrollment in the campuses
11 under the PSHS System;
- 12 5. Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
- 13 6. Approve the grant and termination of PSHS scholarships including
14 stipend and such allowances for students;
- 15 7. Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS
16 campuses;
- 17 8. Approve the appointment of Executive Director, Deputy Executive
18 Director(s) and Campus Director(s);
- 19 9. Approve appointment, promotion, retention, renewal, rewards and
20 incentives for faculty and non-teaching positions, fix their compensation
21 and other conditions of employment, and remove them for cause after
22 proper investigation and hearing;
- 23 10. Approve the extension of services of faculty members over the age of
24 65 up to 70 years of age and enjoy the rights and benefits under
25 Republic Act No. 8439 as amended by Republic Act 11312 otherwise
26 known as "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other
27 Science and Technology Personnel in the Government".
- 28 11. Draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty
29 and staff, and, any law to the contrary notwithstanding, to create
30 positions and fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members
31 and other employees and to determine the minimum hours of service of

1 faculty and such other terms and conditions of employment as it may
2 deem proper;

3 12. Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings, and improvements
4 thereof; donations, contributions, bequests, gifts, and to formulate
5 policies for the administration thereof in accordance with applicable
6 internal revenue laws;

7 13. Approve the use of income generated by the PSHS System in the pursuit
8 of its functions and donations received in trust by individual campuses,
9 according to the purpose of the donor and intention of the donation. In
10 cases where income/donation received is not intended for a particular
11 campus, the Board shall likewise appropriate the same for the benefit of
12 the System or any part thereof;

13 14. Approve policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;

14 15. Approve partnership of PSHS System with local and international
15 institutions;

16 16. Approve policies and guidelines to rationalize the establishment and
17 operation of a campus under the System, for its assessment, evaluation
18 and approval including the naming or renaming of existing or future
19 PSHS Campuses;

20 17. Approve criteria in the search for Executive Director (ED), Deputy
21 Executive Directors (DED) and Campus Directors (CD), and the selection
22 of teaching and non-teaching personnel;

23 18. Create and reorganize the composition of the Executive Committee;

24 19. Approve the organizational and governance structure of the PSHS
25 System recommended by the ED.

26 SEC. 9. *Executive Director*— There shall be an Executive Director (ED) for the
27 PSHS System who shall be appointed by the Board and shall have a rank of an
28 Executive Director V, with a Salary Grade of 30. The ED shall have a tenure of five (5)
29 years renewable for another term, but with a maximum of three (3) terms.

1 The ED shall exercise academic and administrative supervision within the PSHS
2 and shall be the Chief Executive Officer and primary implementor of policies and
3 guidelines set by the Board.

4 The ED shall perform the following roles and functions:

- 5 1. Coordinate core curriculum planning activities and research-based
6 development to be implemented by various campuses;
- 7 2. Conduct a continuing evaluation of the implementation of the approved
8 curriculum;
- 9 3. Oversee research projects of PSHS campuses which shall include
10 monitoring, coordinating, and evaluating research programs of
11 campuses;
- 12 4. Manage the IP registration, prototype development and
13 commercialization or adoption of research outputs of scholars and
14 students;
- 15 5. Provide legal and technical support to members of the PSHS System.
16 Towards this end, the Office of the Executive Director shall be provided
17 with legal and technical staff who shall provide legal, technical and
18 administrative services to PSHS campuses;
- 19 6. Establish strategic linkages and coordinate student and faculty exchange
20 programs with foreign and local institutions to upgrade the level of
21 expertise of both faculty and students;
- 22 7. Facilitate networking among the campuses of the PSHS System with
23 other institutions in terms of sharing resources, expertise, and
24 equipment;
- 25 8. Oversee the development of a systemwide outreach program to upgrade
26 the teaching of STEM and provide support within the capabilities and
27 resources of various science high school campuses;
- 28 9. Recommend for approval of the Board the organizational and
29 governance structure of the PSHS System;
- 30 10. Coordinate the implementation of Board approved admission process,
31 criteria, and standards; and

1 11. Provide secretariat services to the Board;

2 The Executive Director shall be provided with the necessary staff for the
3 efficient and effective implementation of the above functions.

4 In view of the expansion of the PSHS System, the OED shall be provided with
5 additional *plantilla* positions to be determined by the Executive Director and approved
6 by the Board.

7 SEC. 10. *Deputy Executive Director.* — There shall be three (3) Deputy
8 Executive Directors (DED) with the rank of Deputy Executive Director IV and with
9 Salary Grade 28 who shall be appointed by the Board. They shall serve for a tenure
10 of five (5) years, renewable for another term but with a maximum of three (3) terms.

11 SEC. 11. *Campus Director.* — There shall be a Campus Director (CD) for each
12 PSHS campus appointed by the Board with the rank of Director III and Salary Grade
13 27. The CD shall serve for a fixed term of five (5) years, renewable for another term
14 but with a maximum of three (3) terms on the basis of a search process.

15 The CD shall be the administrative and academic head of a campus and will be
16 responsible for its smooth operations. The CD may constitute a consultative body
17 which may act as a citizen's arm to interpret the educational needs of the service area
18 of the campus.

19 SEC. 12. *Executive Committees (Execom).* — There shall be an Executive
20 Committee in the PSHS System composed of the ED as *ex officio* chairperson, DED as
21 *ex officio* members and the CD representatives as members. The Execom is collegial
22 in nature.

23 Sec. 13. *Faculty Members Qualification.* — Faculty members of the PSHS System
24 shall be exempt from any civil service examination or regulations as a requisite to
25 appointment. They shall be selected in accordance with such criteria as may be
26 established by the Board which shall include, if necessary and practicable, screening
27 and competitive examination.

1 SEC. 14. *Curriculum.* – There shall be a PSHS System STEM Curriculum from
2 Grades 7 to 10, and Grades 11 to 12 which shall be recognized as Junior High School,
3 and Senior High School Levels, respectively.

4 SEC. 15. *Exemption from Tax.* — All grants, bequests, endowments, gifts,
5 donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for
6 educational purposes by the PSHS shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same
7 shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of
8 computing the taxable income of the donee in accordance with the provisions of the
9 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

10 The importation of scientific and research equipment for educational purposes
11 made by the PSHS upon certification by the DOST shall be exempt from customs
12 duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known
13 as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act."

14 SEC. 16. *Trust Fund.* – Income generated from school fees collected shall be
15 reported and deposited to an authorized government depository bank as a trust fund
16 of the PSHS System to be used for priority programs and activities.

17 SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of
18 this act shall be included in the annual general appropriations act.

19 SEC. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Board shall formulate,
20 within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, and issue the necessary
21 Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.

22 SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is declared
23 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
24 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

25 SEC. 20. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon approval of this law, the following
26 incumbent key officials of the PSHS System shall acquire new term of office, as follows:

27 Non-*ex-officio* members of the Board are eligible to assume a term of 4 years;

1 Executive Director, and Deputy Executive Director, subject to meritorious
2 performance and upon approval of the Board are eligible to assume a maximum of
3 three (3) terms;

4 Campus Directors, subject to meritorious performance and approval of the
5 Board are eligible to assume a maximum of three (3) terms.

6 Further, the Board thru the Executive Committee shall submit a reclassification
7 or staffing modification and/ or position classification plan to fix the qualifications and
8 upgrade the salary grades of its personnel particularly of its faculty that will recognize
9 their specialized science teacher status subject to the existing policies of the DBM and
10 the CSC rules and regulations.

11 SEC. 21. *Fallback Position.* — At the end of his/her term, the Executive Director,
12 Deputy Executive Director, or Campus Director may opt to remain with the PSHS
13 System and occupy the highest available faculty rank in the PSHS System without
14 diminution in salary.

15 SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* — Republic Act Nos. 3661, 8436 and 9036 are
16 hereby repealed. All laws, proclamations, orders, rules and regulations or parts
17 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,
18 repealed or modified accordingly.

19 SEC. 23. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

21 *Approved,*