

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2902

24 DEC 11 25:22

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**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) is the country's premier science secondary education institution, dedicated to educating young Filipinos with an aptitude and interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). PSHS has produced more than 25,000 graduates since its establishment in 1963, many of whom excel in their respective fields and contribute to the nation's progress through research and development.

To bring the exemplary quality of education that the PSHS offers to more students, RA 9036 was passed in 2001, mandating the establishment of one PSHS campus in every region. The PSHS System currently has 16 campuses all over the Philippines.

With the increasing role that technology and innovation play in the development of societies, the country needs more scientists and STEM professionals to help usher the nation toward progress. As such, this bill intends to grant even more aspiring young scientists an opportunity to receive quality education by increasing the number of PSHS campuses in the regions.

Allowing for the establishment of a maximum of two (2) PSHS campuses in every region would enable more students to have access to the world-class education and training that PSHS is known to provide. With this bill, it is envisioned that our country will become a breeding ground for innovative, future-oriented, and competitive scientists, engineers, and mathematicians, whose academic brilliance is matched only by their commitment to service.

Science, technology, and research are the backbone of all innovation and development. As we strive towards becoming a more advanced society, it would need an army of well-educated and well-trained professionals, which is only possible if we provide our youth with access to high-quality education.

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


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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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 "Expanded Philippine
2 Science High School (PSHS) System Act."

3
4 **SEC 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote science and technology research and development, invention, innovation, and
6 their utilization. The State also recognizes the need to enhance Science, Technology,
7 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, training and services, and support
8 appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application
9 to increase productivity and enhance the quality of life for everyone. Towards this end,
10 the State hereby establishes a PSHS System that will assume a leadership role in
11 secondary STEM education.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** — This Act aims to achieve the following objectives:
14

- 15 a) Establish strategically accessible PSHS campuses that provide, on scholarship
16 basis, secondary education programs with special emphasis on Science,
17 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for students with exceptional aptitude
18 or who are gifted in science and mathematics;
19
20 b) Increase the pool of high school graduates who will pursue undergraduate courses
21 to conduct research and prepare scholars as leaders in the field of STEM, or in
22 careers in science and technology (S&T);
23
24 c) Consolidate existing and future campuses under a unified system of governance
25 and management to ensure consistent quality standards and efficient operations
26 across all campuses within the PSHS system;
27
28 d) Support the holistic development of scholars, faculty and staff within the PSHS
29 system by facilitating and encouraging participation in international collaborations,
30 local and international competitions, academic symposia, research projects, and

other similar activities.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- a) Administrative Regions — refer to the administrative regions where the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) holds regional offices.
- b) Qualified Students – refers to those who qualify for admission through the PSHS National Competitive Examination, or similar other admission process approved by the Board such as but not limited to the Lateral Admission Qualifying Examination (LAQE), and Requirement for Admission, Criteria, and Evaluation (RACE).

SEC. 5. Expansion of the Philippine Science High School System. — There shall be established a PSHS System under the administrative supervision of the Department of Science and Technology to be composed of a maximum of two (2) PSHS campuses in each administrative region of the country except in the National Capital Region where the PSHS-Main Campus is located: *Provided, That* no two (2) PSHS campuses in each region shall be located in the same province; *Provided Further, that* fifteen years after the effectivity of this Act, the PSHS Board of Trustees may establish additional campuses, subject to a comprehensive review based on need or demand, and in accordance with other criteria to be determined by the Board.

A PSHS campus shall offer secondary education on scholarship basis to students with high aptitude or are gifted in science and mathematics using a specially designed curriculum focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

SEC. 6. PSHS System Campuses. - The Philippine Science High School System shall be composed of the existing PSHS campuses herein mentioned and future campuses which shall be established under this Act. The existing sixteen (16) campuses shall be known as follows:

- 1. Philippine Science High School - Main Campus in Diliman, Quezon City
- 2. Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus in Baguio City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus
- 3. Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus in Ilocos Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region Campus
- 4. Philippine Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya, formerly PSHS - Cagayan Valley Campus
- 5. Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus in Clark Freeport Zone, formerly Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus
- 6. Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CALABARZON Region Campus
- 7. Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus in Romblon, formerly Philippine Science High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus
- 8. Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus in Camarines Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School - Bicol Region Campus
- 9. Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Western Visayas Campus

10. Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly, Philippine Science High School - Central Visayas Campus
11. Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly Philippine Science High School - Eastern Visayas Campus
12. Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus in Dipolog City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Zamboanga Peninsula Region Campus"
13. Philippine Science High School - Northern Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly PSHS - Central Mindanao Campus
14. Philippine Science High School - Davao Region Campus in Davao City, formerly PSHS - Southern Mindanao Campus
15. Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus in Koronadal City, formerly Philippine Science High School - SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus
16. Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus in Butuan City, formerly Philippine Science High School - CARAGA Region Campus

In the establishment of future PSHS campuses, the PSHS Board of Trustees may consider the following locations: Ilocos Norte, Cagayan Province, Aklan, Albay, Bohol, Zamboanga Del Sur, Bukidnon, and South Cotabato.

SEC. 7. Executive Director of the PSHS System. — The PSHS System shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall serve for a period of six (6) years, renewable for another term of six (6) years. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board, based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

The Executive Director shall have a rank of Executive Director V, with a Salary Grade of 30. In case of vacancy due to death, health reasons, incapacity or removal from office for cause in the position of the Executive Director, the newly appointed Executive Director shall only serve the unexpired term without prejudice to being reappointed for another term of six (6) years.

The Executive Director shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over the PSHS System, and shall coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines set by the Board, in addition to those specifically provided for in Section 8 of this Act.

SEC. 8. Roles and Functions of the Executive Director. - The Executive Director shall perform the following roles and functions:

- a) Coordinate the implementation of Board-approved admission process, criteria and standards; and
- b) Facilitate and coordinate curriculum planning, review and evaluation activities and research-based development in PSHS System;
- c) Monitor, coordinate, and evaluate research projects and initiatives of PSHS campuses;
- d) Manage the registration of intellectual property, prototype development, and the commercialization or adoption of research outputs of students;
- e) Provide legal and technical assistance to faculty, staff and students of the PSHS System;

- f) Establish strategic linkages, and coordinate exchange and training programs with local and international partners to enhance the expertise and competencies of students, faculty members, and staff;
- g) Facilitate networking and sharing of resources, expertise, equipment, and technology across PSHS campuses with partner institutions to ensure access to advanced tools and facilities that support academic and research excellence;
- h) Supervise the development of a systemwide outreach program to upgrade STEM education and extend support to PSHS campuses within the capabilities and resources of various science high school campuses; and
- i) Serve as secretariat to the Board.

Subject to the approval of the Board, and in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, existing civil service laws, rules, and regulations, the Executive Director shall determine and prepare the organizational structure and staffing complement required for the expanded PSHS System, including the addition, reclassification or staffing modification, and the qualifications of the PSHS System personnel, taking into consideration the specialized science teacher status of faculty members. The Board shall submit requests for additional plantilla positions to the Department of Budget and Management for review and approval.

SEC. 9. Deputy Executive Directors of the PSHS System. — There shall be three (3) Deputy Executive Directors who shall assist the Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Directors shall be appointed by the Board, based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, for a term of six (6) years, renewable for another term of six (6) years.

The Deputy Executive Director shall have a rank of Deputy Executive Director IV and with Salary Grade 28. In case of vacancy due to death, health reasons, incapacity or removal from office for cause in the position of the Executive Director, the newly appointed Deputy Executive Director shall only serve the unexpired term without prejudice to being reappointed for another term of six (6) years.

SEC. 10. Campus Director of the PSHS System Campuses. — There shall be a Campus Director for each PSHS campus who shall serve for a period of six (6) years, renewable for another term of six (6) years to be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Executive Director, based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

The Board shall fix the compensation of the Campus Director, in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System.

The Campus Director shall serve as the administrative and academic head of a PSHS campus and shall be responsible for its day-to-day operations. The Campus Director may constitute a consultative body that may act as a citizen's arm to interpret the educational needs of a campus service area.

SEC. 11. Executive Committee. — There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the Executive Director as ex-officio chairperson, Deputy Executive Directors

1 as ex-officio members, the Campus Directors as members, and such other ranking faculty
2 members or officials of the PSHS System as the Board may deem necessary.

3
4 The Executive Committee shall develop and conduct periodic review of the PSHS
5 System curriculum, and other training programs implemented by the PSHS System
6 campuses, and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as the Board may
7 prescribe.

8
9 **SEC. 12. PSHS Board of Trustees.** — There is hereby created a PSHS System
10 Board of Trustees, herein referred to as the Board, which shall serve as the governing
11 body of all PSHS campuses.

12
13 The Board shall be composed of the following:

- 14 a) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology as ex officio Chairperson;
15 b) Secretary of the Department of Education as ex officio Vice Chairperson;
16 c) President of the University of the Philippines;
17 d) Executive Director of PSHS System;
18 e) Director of Science Education Institute (SEI);
19 f) President of the PSHS National Alumni Association; and
20 g) One representative each from the private sector representing higher education,
21 child development professionals or practitioners, agriculture and new emerging
22 technologies;
23 h) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Senate of the
24 Philippines; as ex-officio member; and
25 i) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of
26 Representatives as ex officio member.

27
28 The private sector representatives shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees
29 upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee, and shall serve for a fixed
30 term of four (4) years.

31
32 **SEC. 13. Powers and Functions of the PSHS Board of Trustees.** — The
33 Board shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- 34
35 a) Formulate policies, guidelines, and criteria in the establishment, administration,
36 operation, and monitoring evaluation of campuses in the PSHS System to ensure
37 consistent quality standards in all campuses;
38 b) Identify additional campuses of the PSHS System as provided for in Section 5 of
39 this Act, including the naming or renaming of existing or future campuses;
40 c) Formulate policies for the expansion of enrollment in the PSHS System;
41 d) Approve the curriculum drawn up by the Executive Committee as provided for in
42 Sections 11 and 16 of this Act;
43 e) Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
44 f) Approve the grant and termination of scholarships including stipend and such
45 allowances for students;
46 g) Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS campuses;
47 h) Approve policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;
48 i) Approve the organizational structure and personnel complement of the PSHS
49 System as recommended by the Executive Director;
50 j) Formulate policies on appointment, promotion, retention or renewal of contracts,

- 1 compensation, removal for just cause, rewards, incentives, and other conditions
2 of employment;
- 3 k) Appoint the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and Campus Directors;
4 l) Reorganize the composition of the Executive Committee;
5 m) Approve the extension of services of faculty members over the age of 65 up to the
6 age of 70 who shall enjoy the rights, benefits and entitlements under Republic Act
7 No. 8439, as amended or "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and
8 other Science and Technology Personnel in the Government";
9 n) To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be
10 provided by law for the support of the PSHS System;
11 o) To receive grants, bequests, endowments, gifts, donations, and contributions of
12 cash, real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer the same for the
13 benefit of the PSHS System or for aid to any of its students;
14 p) Authorize the utilization of income generated by the PSHS System to support its
15 functions, and donations received in trust by individual campuses, in accordance
16 with the donor's specified purpose and the intended use of the donation: Provided,
17 That for income or donations not designated for a particular campus, the Board
18 shall allocate such income or donation for the benefit of the System or any of its
19 campuses, as it may appropriate;
20 q) Approve partnerships and collaborations entered into by the PSHS System and its
21 campuses with local and international institutions; and
22 r) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of this Act.

23
24 **SEC. 14. Restriction on the Conversion of High Schools into a Philippine**
25 **Science High School System.** — The conversion and inclusion of existing high schools
26 into the PSHS System shall not be allowed.
27

28 **Sec. 15. Faculty Members Qualification—** Faculty members of the PSHS
29 System shall be exempt from any civil service examination or regulations as a requisite
30 to appointment. They shall be selected in accordance with such criteria as may be
31 formulated and approved by the Board, such as but not be limited to screening and
32 competitive examinations.
33

34 **SEC. 16. Curriculum.** — There shall be a PSHS System STEM Curriculum from
35 Grades 7 to 10, and Grades 11 to 12 which shall be recognized as Junior High School,
36 and Senior High School Levels, respectively.
37

38 **SEC. 17. Exemption from Tax.** — All grants, bequests, endowments, gifts,
39 donations and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for
40 educational purposes by the PSHS System shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same
41 shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing
42 the taxable income of the donee, in accordance with the provisions of the National
43 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
44

45 The importation of scientific and research equipment for educational purposes
46 made by the PSHS System, upon certification by the DOST, shall be exempt from customs
47 duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as
48 the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act."
49

1 **SEC. 18. Trust Fund.** — Income generated from school fees shall be reported and
2 deposited to an authorized government depository bank as a trust fund of the PSHS
3 System to be used for priority programs and activities.
4

5 **SEC. 19. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of
6 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
7

8 **SEC. 20. Transitory Provision.** — Upon the effectivity of this Act, the following
9 incumbent key officials of the PSHS System shall acquire new term of office, as follows:
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- 11 a) Non-ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees shall assume a term of four (4)
12 years;
13
- 14 b) The Executive Director, and Deputy Executive Directors, subject to meritorious
15 performance and upon approval of the Board, shall assume a term of six (6) years,
16 and may be renewed for another term of six (6) years; and
17
- 18 c) Campus Directors, subject to meritorious performance and approval of the Board,
19 shall assume a term of six (6) years, and may be renewed for another term of six
20 (6) years.
21

22 **SEC. 21. Fallback Position.** — At the end of his/her term, the Executive Director,
23 Deputy Executive Director, or Campus Director may opt to remain with the PSHS System
24 and occupy the highest available faculty rank in the PSHS System.
25

26 **SEC. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Board shall formulate
27 and issue, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary
28 Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.
29

30 **SEC. 23. Separability Clause.** — If any provision or part of this Act is declared
31 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
32 shall continue to be in full force and effect.
33

34 **SEC. 24. Repealing Clause.** — Republic Act Nos. 3661, 8436 and 9036 are
35 hereby repealed. All laws, proclamations, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof,
36 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or
37 modified accordingly.
38

39 **SEC. 25. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
40 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,