

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

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S E N A T E

S. No. 2974

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2836, 2859, 2866, 2874, 2901,
and 2902, taking into consideration House Bill No. 9726)

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY BASIC EDUCATION JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON HIGHER, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS LAPID,
ESTRADA, TOLENTINO, REVILLA JR., GATCHALIAN, AND
ZUBIRI AS AUTHORS THEREOF

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

*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
2 the “Expanded Philippine Science High School (PSHS)
3 System Act”.

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

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

14 (a) Establish strategically accessible PSHS
15 campuses that provide, on scholarship basis, secondary
16 education programs with special emphasis on STEM for
17 students with exceptional aptitude or who are gifted in
18 science and mathematics;

1 (b) Increase the pool of high school graduates who will
2 pursue undergraduate courses in STEM, undertake research
3 and development, or pursue careers in S&T;

4 (c) Consolidate existing and future campuses under
5 a unified system of governance and management to ensure
6 consistent quality standards and efficient operations; and

7 (d) Support the holistic development of scholars,
8 faculty, and staff by facilitating and encouraging
9 participation in international collaborations, local and
10 international competitions, academic symposia, research
11 projects, and other similar activities.

12 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

13 (a) *Administrative Regions* refer to the
14 administrative regions where the Department of Science
15 and Technology (DOST) holds regional offices.

16 (b) *Qualified Students* refer to those qualified for
17 admission through the PSHS National Competitive
18 Examination or similar other admission process approved
19 by the Board, such as, but not limited to, the Lateral

1 Admission Qualifying Examination (LAQE), and
2 Requirement for Admission, Criteria, and Evaluation (RACE).

3 SEC. 5. *Expansion of the PSHS.* – There shall be
4 established a PSHS System under the administrative
5 supervision of the DOST to be composed of at least two (2)
6 PSHS campuses in each administrative region of the
7 country: *Provided*, That PSHS campuses within the same
8 region shall not be situated in the same province, or in the
9 same city in the case of the National Capital Region:
10 *Provided, further*, That the establishment of additional
11 campuses shall be subject to a comprehensive review based
12 on need, demand, and other criteria as determined by the
13 Board.

14 The PSHS System shall offer, on scholarship basis,
15 secondary education to qualified students.

16 SEC. 6. *PSHS System Campuses.* – The PSHS System
17 shall be composed of the existing PSHS campuses herein
18 mentioned and future campuses which shall be established

1 under this Act. The existing sixteen (16) campuses shall be
2 known as follows:

3 (a) Philippine Science High School – Main Campus
4 in Diliman, Quezon City;

5 (b) Philippine Science High School – Cordillera
6 Administrative Region Campus in Baguio City, formerly
7 Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative
8 Region Campus;

9 (c) Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region
10 Campus in Ilocos Sur, formerly Philippine Science High
11 School – Ilocos Region Campus;

12 (d) Philippine Science High School – Cagayan
13 Valley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya, formerly Philippine
14 Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus;

15 (e) Philippine Science High School – Central Luzon
16 Campus in Clark Freeport Zone, formerly Philippine
17 Science High School - Central Luzon Campus;

18 (f) Philippine Science High School –
19 CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City, formerly

1 Philippine Science High School – CALABARZON Region
2 Campus;

3 (g) Philippine Science High School – MIMAROPA
4 Region Campus in Romblon, formerly Philippine Science
5 High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus;

6 (h) Philippine Science High School – Bicol Region
7 Campus in Camarines Sur, formerly Philippine Science
8 High School - Bicol Region Campus;

9 (i) Philippine Science High School – Western
10 Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, formerly Philippine Science
11 High School - Western Visayas Campus;

12 (j) Philippine Science High School – Central
13 Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly Philippine Science High
14 School - Central Visayas Campus;

15 (k) Philippine Science High School – Eastern
16 Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly Philippine Science
17 High School – Eastern Visayas Campus;

18 (l) Philippine Science High School – Zamboanga
19 Peninsula Region Campus in Dipolog City, formerly

1 Philippine Science High School – Zamboanga Peninsula
2 Region Campus;

3 (m) Philippine Science High School – Northern
4 Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly Philippine
5 Science High School – Central Mindanao Campus;

6 (n) Philippine Science High School – Davao Region
7 Campus in Davao City, formerly Philippine Science High
8 School – Southern Mindanao Campus;

9 (o) Philippine Science High School –
10 SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus in Koronadal City,
11 formerly Philippine Science High School –
12 SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus; and

13 (p) Philippine Science High School – CARAGA
14 Region Campus in Butuan City, formerly Philippine
15 Science High School – CARAGA Region Campus.

16 A new Philippine Science High School campus in the
17 Negros Island Region shall also be established.

18 SEC. 7. *PSHS Board of Trustees.* – There is hereby
19 created a PSHS System Board of Trustees, herein referred

1 to as the Board, which shall serve as the governing body of
2 all PSHS campuses.

3 The Board shall be composed of the following:

4 (a) Secretary of the DOST as Chairperson;

5 (b) Secretary of the Department of Education as Vice
6 Chairperson;

7 (c) President of the University of the Philippines;

8 (d) Executive Director of the PSHS System;

9 (e) Director of Science Education Institute;

10 (f) President of the PSHS National Alumni
11 Association;

12 (g) One (1) representative each from the sectors of
13 higher education, education for the gifted, agriculture, new
14 and emerging technologies, and industry;

15 (h) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and
16 Technology of the Senate of the Philippines; and

17 (i) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and
18 Technology of the House of Representatives.

1 The private sector representatives shall be
2 appointed by the Board upon recommendation of a duly
3 constituted search committee, and shall serve for a fixed
4 term of four (4) years.

5 SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the PSHS Board of*
6 *Trustees.* – The Board shall exercise the following powers
7 and functions:

8 (a) Formulate policies, guidelines, and criteria in the
9 establishment, administration, operation, and monitoring
10 evaluation of PSHS campuses to ensure consistent
11 quality standards;

12 (b) Identify additional PSHS campuses as provided
13 under Section 5 of this Act, and the naming or renaming
14 existing or future campuses;

15 (c) Formulate policies for the expansion of
16 enrollment in the PSHS System;

17 (d) Approve the curriculum drawn up by the
18 Executive Committee under Section 17 of this Act;

1 (e) Approve the criteria for the selection and
2 admission of students;

3 (f) Approve the grant and termination of
4 scholarships, including stipend and allowances
5 of students;

6 (g) Approve the graduation of successful candidates
7 from the various PSHS campuses;

8 (h) Approve policies and rules of discipline for
9 students, faculty members, and staff;

10 (i) Approve the organizational structure and
11 staffing pattern of the PSHS System as prepared by the
12 Executive Director in accordance with the revised
13 Compensation and Position Classification System,
14 civil service laws, rules and regulations, and other
15 relevant laws;

16 (j) Formulate policies on appointment, promotion,
17 retention or renewal of contracts, compensation, removal
18 for just cause, rewards, incentives, and other conditions of
19 employment;

1 (k) Appoint the Executive Director, Deputy
2 Executive Directors, and Campus Directors;

3 (l) Reorganize the composition of the Executive
4 Committee;

5 (m) Approve the extension of services of faculty
6 members over the age of sixty-five (65) up to the age of
7 seventy (70) in accordance with Republic Act No. 8439, or
8 the “Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers
9 and other Science and Technology Personnel in the
10 Government”, as amended;

11 (n) Receive and appropriate for purposes herein
12 specified such sums as may be provided by law for the
13 support of the PSHS System;

14 (o) Receive grants, bequests, endowments, gifts,
15 donations, and contributions of cash and real and personal
16 properties of all kinds, and administer the same for the
17 benefit of the PSHS System or for aid to any of its
18 students;

1 (p) Authorize the utilization of income generated by
2 the PSHS System to support its functions, and of
3 donations received in trust by individual campuses, in
4 accordance with the donor's specified purpose and the
5 intended use of the donation: *Provided*, That for income or
6 donations not designated for a particular campus, the
7 Board shall allocate such income or donation for the
8 benefit of the System or any of its campuses, as it may
9 deem appropriate;

10 (q) Approve partnerships and collaborations entered
11 into by the PSHS System and its campuses with local and
12 international institutions; and

13 (r) Perform such other functions as may be required
14 under this Act.

15 SEC. 9. *Executive Director.* – The PSHS System shall
16 be headed by an Executive Director, with the rank of
17 Undersecretary, who shall exercise academic and
18 administrative supervision over all campuses and

1 coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines
2 set by the Board.

3 The Executive Director shall be appointed by the
4 Board for a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed
5 for another term of six (6) years in accordance with the
6 guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing
7 rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act, preferably with a
8 doctoral degree in the field of STEM, and substantial
9 experience in managing an educational institution. In case
10 a vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term of office,
11 the appointment to such vacancy shall only be for the
12 unexpired term, without prejudice to reappointment for
13 another term of six (6) years.

14 SEC. 10. *Roles and Functions of the Executive*
15 *Director.* – The Executive Director shall perform the
16 following roles and functions:

17 (a) Coordinate the implementation of Board-approved
18 admission processes, criteria, and standards;

1 (b) Facilitate and coordinate curriculum planning,
2 review and evaluation activities, and research-based
3 development in the PSHS System;

4 (c) Monitor, coordinate, and evaluate research
5 projects and initiatives in all PSHS campuses;

6 (d) Manage the registration of intellectual property,
7 prototype development, and the commercialization or
8 adoption of research outputs of students;

9 (e) Provide legal and technical assistance to
10 students, faculty members, and staff of the PSHS System
11 in line with their studies and official functions;

12 (f) Establish strategic linkages, and coordinate
13 exchange and training programs with local and
14 international partners to enhance the expertise and
15 competencies of students, faculty members, and staff;

16 (g) Facilitate networking and sharing of resources,
17 expertise, equipment, and technology across PSHS
18 campuses with partner institutions to ensure access to

1 advanced tools and facilities that support academic and
2 research excellence;

3 (h) Supervise the development of a system-wide
4 outreach program to upgrade STEM education and extend
5 support to PSHS campuses within the capabilities and
6 resources of various science high school campuses;

7 (i) Serve as secretariat to the Board; and

8 (j) Perform such other functions as may be required
9 under this Act.

10 SEC. 11. *Deputy Executive Directors.* – There shall be
11 three (3) Deputy Executive Directors, with the rank of
12 Assistant Secretary, who shall assist the Executive
13 Director. The Deputy Executive Directors shall be
14 appointed by the Board for a term of six (6) years and may
15 be reappointed for another term of six (6) years in
16 accordance with the guidelines and qualifications set forth
17 in the IRR of this Act, preferably with a master’s degree in
18 the field of STEM, and substantial experience in managing
19 an educational institution. In case a vacancy occurs before

1 the expiration of the term of office, the appointment to
2 such vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term, without
3 prejudice to reappointment for another term of six (6)
4 years.

5 SEC. 12. *Campus Director of the PSHS System*
6 *Campuses.* – Each PSHS campus shall have a Campus
7 Director who shall serve as the administrative and
8 academic head and be responsible for day-to-day
9 operations. The Campus Director may constitute a
10 consultative body to act as a citizen’s arm to assess and
11 determine the educational needs of a campus service area.

12 The Campus Director shall be appointed by the
13 Board, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, for
14 a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed for another
15 term of six (6) years in accordance with the guidelines and
16 qualifications set forth in the IRR of this Act, preferably
17 with a master’s degree in the field of STEM, and
18 substantial experience in managing an educational
19 institution.

1 SEC. 13. *Organizational Structure and Staffing*
2 *Pattern.* – The Executive Director shall prepare the
3 organizational structure and staffing pattern required for
4 the expanded PSHS System, including additional plantilla
5 positions, reclassification or staffing modifications, and
6 qualifications of the PSHS System personnel in accordance
7 with the revised compensation and position classification
8 system, civil service laws, rules, regulations, and other
9 relevant issuances, taking into consideration the
10 specialized science teacher status of faculty members.

11 Upon approval of the Board, the organizational
12 structure and staffing pattern shall be submitted to the
13 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for review
14 and approval. The PSHS System shall retain its existing
15 organizational structure and staffing pattern pending
16 approval by the DBM.

17 SEC. 14. *Executive Committee.* – There shall be an
18 Executive Committee composed of the Executive Director
19 as *ex officio* chairperson, the Deputy Executive Directors as

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

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

8 SEC. 15. *Restriction on the Conversion of High Schools*
9 *into a PSHS Campus.* – The conversion and inclusion of
10 existing high schools into the PSHS System shall not be
11 allowed.

12 SEC. 16. *Faculty Members Qualification.* – Faculty
13 members of the PSHS System shall be exempt from any
14 civil service examination or regulation as a requisite to
15 appointment. They shall be selected in accordance with
16 such criteria as may be formulated and approved by the
17 Board, such as, but not limited to, screening and conduct of
18 competitive examinations.

1 SEC. 17. *Curriculum.* – There shall be a PSHS
2 System STEM Curriculum for Grades 7 to 10, and Grades
3 11 to 12, which shall be recognized as Junior High School,
4 and Senior High School levels, respectively.

5 SEC. 18. *Exemption from Tax.* – All grants, bequests,
6 endowments, gifts, donations, and contributions actually,
7 directly, and exclusively used for educational purposes by
8 the PSHS System shall be exempt from donor’s tax and
9 considered as allowable deductions from gross income for
10 purposes of computing the taxable income of the donee, in
11 accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8424 or
12 the “National Internal Revenue Code of 1997”, as
13 amended.

14 All duties and taxes arising from the PSHS System’s
15 importation of scientific and research equipment for
16 educational purposes shall be chargeable against the tax
17 expenditure fund under the General Appropriations Act.

18 SEC. 19. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to
19 carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be

1 charged against the current year's appropriations of the
2 PSHS System. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for
3 its continued operation shall be included in the annual
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 20. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon the effectivity
6 of this Act, the following incumbent key officials of the
7 PSHS System shall acquire new terms of office:

8 (a) Non *ex officio* members of the Board under
9 Section 7 of this Act shall assume a term of four (4) years;

10 (b) The Executive Director and Deputy Executive
11 Directors, subject to meritorious performance and upon
12 approval of the Board, shall assume a term of six (6) years
13 and may be renewed for another term of six (6) years; and

14 (c) Campus Directors, subject to meritorious
15 performance and approval of the Board, shall assume a
16 term of six (6) years and may be renewed for another term
17 of six (6) years.

18 SEC 21. *Fallback Position.* – At the end of two (2)
19 consecutive terms, the Executive Director, Deputy

1 Executive Director, or Campus Director may opt to remain
2 with the PSHS System and occupy the highest faculty
3 rank.

4 SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The
5 Board shall formulate and issue, within ninety (90) days
6 from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary IRR to carry
7 out the implementation of this Act.

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

12 SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 3661 or
13 “An Act to Establish the Philippine Science High School”,
14 and Republic Act No. 8496 as amended by Republic Act No.
15 9036, or the “Philippine Science High School (PSHS)
16 System Act of 1997” are hereby repealed. All laws,
17 proclamations, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
18 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
19 Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
2 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a
3 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,