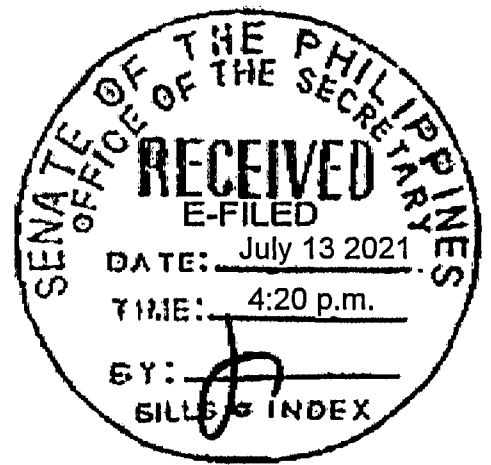


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



SENATE  
S. B. No. 2316

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT**

**CONVERTING THE AGUSAN DEL SUR SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES (ASSAT) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PROSPERIDAD, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, INTO A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) SUPERVISED AND ADMINISTERED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE AGUSAN DEL SUR POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (ADSPITE), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In 1972, the Agusan del Sur School of Arts and Trades (ASSAT) in the Municipality of Prosperidad, Province of Agusan del Sur was created through Republic Act No. 6585, to contribute in improving the quality of life of Agusanons especially the marginalized members of the society through effective, accountable and participatory governance in Mindanao as it provides access to quality and sustainable social services through offering of affordable quality technical vocation education and skills training for gainful employment of the people of the Agusan del Sur.

With the developments in our education sector, there is a need for ASSAT to progress as a polytechnic institute which will promote synergy among institutions, enhance operational efficiency, broaden program offerings, and improve institutional performance. Under the oversight supervision of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the polytechnic institution shall be a center of innovation and excellence and shall focus on delivering higher level qualifications such as National Certificate (NC) III, IV and Diploma.

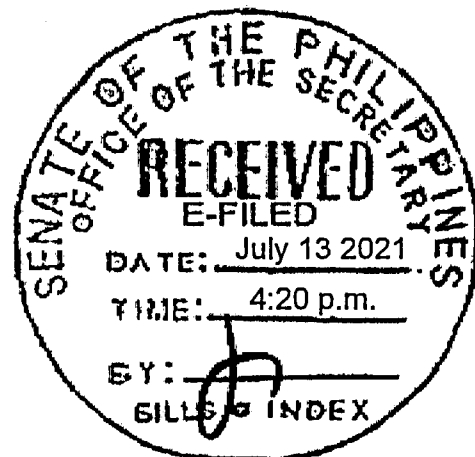
This proposed measure, a counterpart version of House Bill No. 9334 filed by Representative Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, seeks to realize the goal of ASSAT by converting them into a polytechnic institute to be known as the Agusan del Sur Polytechnic Institute for Technical Education (ADSPITE). The establishment of Polytechnic Institutions had been identified as one of the priority legislative agenda in the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) for 2018-2022, to mobilize and encourage the full participation of industries, the labor sector, government units, relevant educational institutions, and non-government organizations in the development of the Philippines' human capital resources.

To help the people of Agusan del Sur intensify and develop their vocational skills training program thereby generating livelihood in the province and nearby areas, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**SONNY ANGARA**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Agusan del Sur*  
2           *Polytechnic Institute for Technical Education (ADSPITE) Act*".

3           **SEC. 2. Conversion.** - The Agusan del Sur School of Arts and Trade (ASSAT)  
4           located in the Municipality of Prosperidad, Province of Agusan del Sur, is hereby  
5           converted into the Agusan del Sur Polytechnic Institute for Technical Education  
6           (ADSPITE) and shall be under the direct supervision and administration of the  
7           Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

8           **SEC. 3. General Mandate.** - Recent global and regional developments  
9           provided the impetus to re-engineer the state of technical-vocational education to  
10          accelerate the country's response to the fast-changing standards and requirements of  
11          the domestic and international job market, namely: (1) the adoption of Republic Act  
12          No. 10968, or the "Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act"; (2) the ASEAN  
13          Economic Integration; (3) the global changes in technology and industry demands  
14          that have created a major need for skilled workforce and technical-vocational  
15          competency trainings; (4) the poverty reduction, livelihood and employment

1 convergence for community-based livelihood and “techno-perineurial” skills  
2 development; (5) the imperative to produce world-class Filipino “knowledge workers”  
3 whose skills are aligned with ASEAN integration goals and other international  
4 frameworks that respond to the challenges in the job market.

5 The ADSPITE, as a technical-vocational education institution, shall restructure  
6 its technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs to affect this major  
7 curricular shift as provider of leading edge technical skills for the local and international  
8 labor market, and aligned in accord with the standards of the industry.

9 To this end, the ADSPITE shall upgrade its curricular standards as a tertiary  
10 TESDA polytechnic skills educational institution and provide higher. level competency  
11 qualifications for instruction in TESDA-registered TVET programs and certificate  
12 courses. It shall provide a wide array of relevant skills training and trade specialization  
13 courses to facilitate the acquisition by the citizenry of the necessary technical skills  
14 that shall enhance their access to gainful employment, practical livelihood, and  
15 entrepreneurial opportunities, and thus hasten the development of the host area and  
16 the adjacent localities in the Province of Agusan Del Sur into human resource and  
17 productivity hubs.

18 Priority admission to the ADSPITE, including availment of scholarships, grants-  
19 in-aid and other forms of student financial assistance, shall be given to the most  
20 economically disadvantaged students, out-of-school youths, persons with disabilities,  
21 and indigenous peoples of the Municipality of Prosperidad and the adjacent localities  
22 to ensure their development into productive, self-reliant and globally competitive  
23 skilled labor assets.

24 The ADSPITE shall serve as a TESDA-accredited assessment center for acquired  
25 competencies in TVET programs in the Province of Agusan del Sur. It shall also provide  
26 teachers’ training and curriculum design assistance to the secondary schools offering  
27 the technical-vocational livelihood track under the K to 12 Program in coordination  
28 with the Department of Education, the TESDA, and the Department of Labor and  
29 Employment (DOLE).

30 **SEC. 4. Curricular Offerings/Training Programs** -The ADSPITE shall offer  
31 TESDA registered TVET programs, undergraduate certificate courses, and short-term  
32 courses and modular trainings in preferred technical-vocational skills specialization. It

1 shall aim to meet the competency requirements under Level V of RA No. 10968, or  
2 the "Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act", which is the Diploma Level in  
3 TVET.

4 To this end, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of  
5 Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
6 Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government  
7 (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), respective LGUs,  
8 business-industry partners, and other relevant agencies and instrumentalities, both  
9 local and international, shall provide the necessary assistance so the ADSPITE can  
10 produce skilled manpower to supply the needs of a robust and inclusive economy.

11 The ADSPITE may establish research and technology hubs, technology  
12 development farms, satellite or extension campuses, as recommended by ASSAT &  
13 TESDA, promote mobile training programs, and strengthen linkages with industry  
14 partners and the academe.

15 It shall also adopt the use of innovative training modes such as information  
16 technology assisted instruction, dual training system pursuant to Republic Act No.7686  
17 or the "Dual Training System Act of 1994", open distance learning pursuant to Republic  
18 Act No. 10650 or the "Open Distance Learning Act", community laboratory, virtual and  
19 blended learning modes, and such other instructional programs that shall allow local  
20 residents greater access to the TVET program offerings of the ADSPITE.

21 Course completion at the ADSPITE shall be credited through skills competency  
22 assessment under National Certification Levels III to V. When applicable, TVET  
23 competency shall qualify for academic degree recognition pursuant to Republic Act  
24 No. 10647 or the "Ladderized Education Act", provided that the requirements of the  
25 Commission on Higher Education are complied with.

26 The ADSPITE shall offer skills development for higher competency qualifications  
27 in areas relating to technical industrial education, trade technology, tourism,  
28 agricultural technology, business literacy, and innovation in TESDA-registered skills,  
29 as follows:

30 (a) Skills training in industrial technology and hard trades such as metal and  
31 steelwork, machine fabrication and operation, heavy equipment operation, automotive

1 mechanical assembly, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and operation of  
2 power tools and equipment for both medium skills grade and industrial purposes;

3 (b) Tourism and hospitality-related courses relating to hotel, restaurant, and  
4 tourism development management;

5 (c) Agriculture and aquaculture-related trainings and skills development in  
6 such areas as farming technology, fishing operations technology, backyard farming  
7 and home-based aquaculture and propagation innovations, mechanized farming,  
8 fishing tools and equipment operation, agribusiness, agri-aqua trade technology and  
9 innovations, and relevant training seminars for farmers and fisherfolk to encourage  
10 entrepreneurship and thus increase their productivity;

11 (d) Livelihood skills development courses for preferred skills employment and  
12 small-scale entrepreneurship, including practical skills education in arts and crafts,  
13 workmanship and design, high-speed sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, horticulture,  
14 livestock raising and breeding, food processing technology, home technology, culinary  
15 arts and commercial cooking, cosmetology, and health and wellness training;

16 (e) Basic business literacy training in financial management, marketing,  
17 accountancy, bookkeeping, office procedures, business processes and application  
18 procedures including registration, licensing, documentation, business patent and  
19 intellectual property regulation, business financing and investment opportunities  
20 sourcing, import-export accreditation, online home-based business operation, and  
21 social media business marketing;

22 (f) Technical-vocational occupation and trades skills such as carpentry,  
23 masonry, plumbing, welding, practical electricity and installation, automotive  
24 servicing, electronics servicing, personal computer servicing, and such other relevant  
25 practical skills courses;

26 (g) Computer literacy and information technology-related skills, web  
27 development, animation (3D Digital), game development, and computer-aided design  
28 application;

29 (h) Social communication skills and language proficiency courses in English  
30 and other languages for business process outsourcing employment and overseas job  
31 placement;

1 (i) Seminars in personality development, career counseling, job placement,  
2 and work ethic and values;

3 (j) Other preferred skills and trades training that may be needed by the people  
4 of the Municipality of Prosperidad and the adjacent localities to enhance their  
5 capacities for practical livelihood, gainful employment, and entrepreneurial activities.

6 **SEC. 5. Compliance with TESDA Requirements.-** The provisions of this  
7 Act notwithstanding, the conversion of the ASSAT into the ADSPITE shall become  
8 operational only upon the issuance by the TESDA of a formal recommendation and  
9 certificate of compliance attesting that the ADSPITE has satisfactorily complied with  
10 the minimum standards of quality it has prescribed governing the following: a)  
11 standard procedures and guidelines for the conversion and operation of a TESDA  
12 polytechnic institute; b) operational sustainability of the ADSPITE in terms of licensed  
13 faculty-trainers and personnel, equipment, training and laboratory facilities,  
14 instructional materials, and other standard requirements of a TESDA-accredited and  
15 supervised school; c) sustainable funding source and regular allocation of budgetary  
16 requirement for TESDA-operated schools; d) full alignment of the training programs  
17 offered with the minimum standards of competency-based quality technical-vocational  
18 technology skills and the needs of the host area and adjacent localities served within  
19 the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) integration and the  
20 PQF for TVET; and e) compliance with such other TESDA conditionalities and  
21 standards, as may be necessary and applicable, on the conversion of the ASSAT into  
22 the ADSPITE.

23 **SEC. 6. Administration.** - The ADSPITE shall be headed by a Vocational  
24 School Superintendent under the supervision of the TESDA, who shall render full-time  
25 service and be responsible for its administration and operation. The Vocational School  
26 Superintendent shall be appointed by the TESDA Director General in accordance with  
27 the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification  
28 requirements for such office. The Vocational School Superintendent shall enter into  
29 agreement with locally-based private and public counterpart agencies or  
30 instrumentalities and persons and seek such assistance as may be necessary to  
31 effectively implement this Act, subject to the approval of the TESDA Director General.  
32 The academic and administrative staff of the ADSPITE shall be organized following

1 the staffing pattern of the TESDA for such type of schools, pursuant to existing laws,  
2 rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

3 **SEC. 7. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel*** - All assets, fixed and movable,  
4 personnel, records and documents, as well as the liabilities or obligations of the ASSAT  
5 shall be transferred to the ADSPITE: Provided, That the positions, rights and security  
6 of tenure of faculty and personnel therein employed prior to its conversion into the  
7 ADSPITE, shall not be impaired.

8 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the defunct ASSAT  
9 are henceforth declared the property of the ADSPITE and shall be titled under that  
10 name: Provided, That, should the ADSPITE cease to exist or such aforementioned  
11 parcels of land be no longer needed by the ADSPITE, the same shall all revert to the  
12 concerned local government unit (LGU), or to the Municipality of Prosperidad, Province  
13 of Agusan del Sur.

14 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations***. - The amount necessary for the initial operations of  
15 the ADSPITE shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the ASSAT.  
16 Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations***. - Within ninety (90) days  
19 after the approval of this Act, TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, DTI, DOST,  
20 DA, DBM, DILG, NEDA, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies and  
21 industry-business partners of the host locality, prepare and issue the necessary rules  
22 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

23 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause***. - If, for any reason, any section or provision  
24 of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions  
25 hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and in effect.

26 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause***. - All laws, executive orders, decrees,  
27 instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this  
28 Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

29 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity***. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*