



23 JAN 26 P2:41

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

RECEIVED

SENATE

S.B. No. 1788

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE BENGUET STATE
UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE
OF BENGUET, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Bank, there should be one doctor for every 1,000 Filipinos. Due to shortage of doctors in the country, the "Doktor Para sa Bayan Act," was enacted into law which established a medical scholarship and return service program for deserving students in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). However, if more accessible institutions are not provided, particularly for remote rural areas like Benguet and its bordering provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region, the goal of the said law will not be realized.

The Commission on Higher Education has awarded the Benguet State University SUC Level IV, the highest level in the SUC leveling categorization of state universities and colleges. Despite this accomplishment, the university still does not have a medical school. To date, only two (2) out of fifty-eight (58) medical colleges are located in the Cordillera Administrative Region. Hence, the lack of medical education institutions in the region results to high cost of medical education for aspiring doctors.

This bill seeks to establish a College of Medicine in the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet to be known as Benguet State University College of Medicine. This will also provide an opportunity for the people of Benguet and its neighboring provinces to acquire quality medical education and training within the proximity of their homes.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

IMEE R. MARCOS



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ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE BENGUET STATE
UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, PROVINCE
OF BENGUET, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF 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 medical school in
2 the Benguet State University (BSU) located in the Municipality of La Trinidad, Province
3 of Benguet, to be known as the "*Benguet State University-College of Medicine*".
4

5 **SEC. 2. General Mandate.** – The Benguet State University–College of Medicine,
6 hereinafter referred to as the "College", shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine
7 Program, including an Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine Program, consisting of basic
8 science and clinical courses, and using a learner-centered, competency-based, and
9 community-oriented approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop a
10 corps of professional physicians to help strengthen the healthcare system of the
11 country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the
12 Province of Benguet and the Cordillera Administrative Region.
13

14 The College is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and
15 provide progressive leadership in these areas.
16

17 **SEC. 3. Governance.** –The governance of the College shall be vested in the
18 Board of Regents of the BSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers are
19 defined under Presidential Decree No. 2010, entitled "Converting the Mountain State
20 Agricultural College in the Municipality of La Trinidad, Province of Benguet, into a
21 University, to be Known as the Benguet State University, and Appropriating Funds

1 Therefor", as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise
2 provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 4. Administration.** – The administration of the College shall be vested in
5 the Dean of the BSU insofar as may be authorized by its Board.

6
7 **SEC. 5. The College Dean.** – The College shall be headed by a Dean who shall
8 be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications standards, and
9 based on the recommendation of the President, following a process of consultation with
10 the constituents of the College. The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of
11 three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

12
13 Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the BSU
14 shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

15
16 The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically
17 provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean
18 of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the President.

19
20 The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act
21 No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such
22 other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be
23 comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

24
25 In case of vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory
26 retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the
27 functions of the office, the Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President,
28 designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean:
29 *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of
30 the term

31 The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be
32 appointed by the Board.

33
34 **SEC. 6. The Faculty.** – The Board shall, upon the recommendation by the
35 President of the BSU, appoint the faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That no
36 political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor
37 religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty
38 members of the College: *Provided, further*, That said appointment shall be subject to
39 the guidelines on qualification standards set by the Board: *Provided finally*, That no
40 member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

41
42 **SEC. 7. Scholarship Programs and Admission.** – The College shall provide
43 scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students
44 who qualify for admission to the College. Students who have availed themselves of the

1 scholarship program under Republic Act No. 11509, otherwise known as the "*Doktor*
2 *Para sa Bayan Act*", shall render a return service in accordance with the said law.
3 Students availing themselves of other nationally-funded scholarship programs to
4 complete the medicine degree program under the College may be required to render a
5 return service depending on the contract to be signed between the student and the
6 College, No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender,
7 religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability, or ethnic origin.

8
9 **SEC. 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** – The College shall
10 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section
11 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

12
13 **SEC. 9. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies, and***
14 ***Detail of Personnel.*** – Upon the request of the Board, through the President of the BSU,
15 the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may loan or transfer
16 to the college such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by it, and detail
17 employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, the
18 apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without
19 serious detriment to public service.

20
21 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the
22 Dean of the College, and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular
23 service.

24
25 **SEC. 10. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.*** – All appropriations, assets, both real
26 and personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or
27 obligations, shall be titled or named after the BSU.

28
29 All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College
30 shall be the property of the BSU, and titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the
31 BSU cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be
32 no longer needed by the BSU, the same shall revert to the Municipality of La Trinidad
33 or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

34
35 **SEC. 11. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** – The importation by the College of medical
36 books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical,
37 laboratory or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the Commission on Higher
38 Education (CHED), be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of
39 Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff
40 Act"

41 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and
42 used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be
43 exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from

1 gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance
2 with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

3
4 **SEC. 12. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
5 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part
6 of this Act.

7
8 **SEC. 13. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
9 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10
11 **SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
12 approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and
13 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

14
15 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
17 remain in full force and effect.

18
19 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
20 other issuances or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
21 repealed, or modified accordingly.

22
23 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
24 following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
25 general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,