

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7516



Introduced by Representative Evelina Escudero

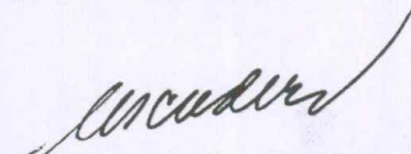
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The province of Sorsogon is home to 19 colleges and universities, both public and private, catering to almost 70,000 tertiary students (A.Y. 2015-2016)¹.

When these students need to access the services of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to apply for a scholarship or academic grant, financial assistance, or for any other educational concerns, they will have to travel for a maximum of 3 hours by land just to arrive in Legazpi City, Albay where the field office of CHED is located.

These constituents – students, teachers and parents residing in Sorsogon, normally endure the distance, travel time, and transportation cost by themselves. To address this problem, this bill is filed to establish a separate CHED field office to be located in the province of Sorsogon. This is also in accordance to RA 7722 or the Higher Education Act of 1994 which promotes accessibility, inclusion, and growth in the tertiary education.

For the above stated reasons, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. Countryside in Figures-Sorsogon 2019 Ed., Ch. 8 p.142-169.
URL:<http://rso05.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/content/Sorsogon%202019%20Countryside%20in%20%20Figures.pdf>

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in Sorsogon City, Province of Sorsogon, an office of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to be known as the CHED-Sorsogon Provincial Office. It shall be headed by a Provincial Director.

SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the CHED shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern for the CHED-Sorsogon Provincial Office and submit the same to the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management for approval.

SEC. 3. The Chairperson of the CHED shall immediately include in the CHED's program the operationalization of the CHED-Sorsogon Provincial Office.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. The CHED shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,