

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7857



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY (SLSU) MAIN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUCBAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE OF MEDICINE" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide quality and accessible medical education to all Filipinos through the establishment of a medical school in the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) Main Campus in Lucban, Quezon.

The SLSU has been vested by law to primarily provide advanced education, professional, technological instruction in the fields of allied medicine, education, engineering, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment, arts and sciences, accountancy, cooperative, business and entrepreneurship, technology and other relevant fields of study. Its mandate is also to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

It was allowed under its charter to offer graduate and undergraduate and short-term technical courses in the fields of allied medicine, education, engineering, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment, arts and sciences, accountancy, cooperative, business and entrepreneurship, technology and other degrees/courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives and in order to meet the needs of the Province of Quezon and Region IV-A.

The bill is in support of ensuring the "formulation and implementation of a National Health Human Resource Master Plan that will provide policies and strategies for the appropriate generation, recruitment, retraining, regulation, retention and reassessment of health workforce based on population health needs" as provided under Section 23 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act".

The establishment of a medical school in SLSU Main Campus is envisioned to contribute in meeting the target number of doctors that the country badly needs, especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic and to bolster the implementation of UHC for all Filipinos. Moreover, the bill serves as a complementary policy to strengthen the existing and future medical scholarship programs of the government that seek to create a steadily expanding pool of medical doctors in order to enable the government to deliver timely, adequate, competent and affordable medical and health care services to the people, especially the poor.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) College of Medicine Act".

SEC. 2. *Establishment.* - There is hereby established a medical school in the Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) Main Campus in the Municipality of Lucban, Province of Quezon to be known as the Southern Luzon State University – College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the College.

SEC. 3. *General Mandate.* - The College shall primarily offer a Doctor Medicine Program which shall be at least a four (4)-year baccalaureate program consisting of basic science and clinical course. Its primarily goal shall be the development of professional physicians for the Philippine healthcare system.

SEC. 4. *Implementation.* - The Governing Board, as provided under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9395, is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.* - The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the establishment of the College shall become effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts it shall constitute for the purpose, that the institution has complied with the policies, standards and guidelines on CHED Memorandum Order No. 18, Series of 2016 for the Doctor of Medicine Program. *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the institution has substantially complied with the requirements for the program.

SEC. 6. *Tax Exemption.* - The importation of scientific and technical books or publications, which are for scientific and technical purposes of the College, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the College shall be used actually, directly and exclusively by the College shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be allowed deductions from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 7. *Annual Report.* - On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Governing Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the College.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the general Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Suppletory Application.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the College.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Governing Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after approval of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,