

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**House Bill No. 7840**  
*(In Substitution of HB No. 4488)*

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Introduced by Reps. Solomon R. Chungalao, Mark O. Go, Eric Go Yap, and Joey Sarte Salceda

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**AN ACT**

**SEPARATING THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY (IFSU)-POTIA CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO LISTA, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, FROM THE IFSU IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, CONVERTING IT INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN CORDILLERA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY (ECSCAST), INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE IFSU-LUPAO CAMPUS, HENCEFORTH TO BE KNOWN AS THE ECSCAST-LUPAO CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Separation/Conversion-** The Ifugao State University (IFSU)-Potia  
2 Campus in the Municipality of Alfonso Lista, Province of Ifugao, is hereby separated from the  
3 IFSU in the Municipality of Lamut, Province of Ifugao, converted into a state college to be  
4 known as the Eastern Cordillera State College of Agriculture, Science, and Technology  
5 (ECSCAST), and integrating therewith the IFSU-Lupao Campus, to be known as the  
6 ECSCAST- Lupao Campus in Barangay Jacmal in the Municipality of Aguineldo, Province of  
7 Ifugao. Its main campus shall be in the Municipality of Alfonso Lista and the ECSCAST-Lupao,  
8 in the Municipality of Aguineldo shall be a satellite campus.

9  
10           After the effectivity of this Act, the ECSCAST, hereinafter referred to as the College  
11 shall exist independently, separate and distinct from the IFSU in Lamut, Province of Ifugao, and  
12 each shall be governed by their respective charters.

13  
14           **SEC. 2. General Mandate.** – The College shall primarily provide advance instruction  
15 and professional training in education, agriculture, forestry, engineering and technology, health  
16 and sciences, agribusiness, arts, industry, criminology, information technology, vocational  
17 courses, and other related fields of study. It shall also undertake research, extension services, and  
18 production activities in support of the socio-economic development of the Province of Ifugao

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1 and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization in the Province of Ifugao and the  
2 Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

3  
4 **SEC. 3. Curricular Offerings.**— The College shall offer short-term technical-vocational,  
5 undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate courses within its areas of competency and  
6 specialization in the fields of education, agriculture, forestry, engineering and technology, health  
7 and sciences, agribusiness, arts, industry, criminology, information technology, vocational  
8 courses, and other degree courses, as the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board,  
9 may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, and those which respond to meet the human  
10 resource development needs of the Province of Ifugao and the CAR.

11  
12 The existing reasonably-sized laboratory senior high school and elementary school shall  
13 continue to operate under the supervision of the College of Education of the College to serve the  
14 in-campus requirements of its students.

15  
16 **SEC. 4. Administration.**— The College shall have the general powers of a corporation set  
17 forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as the “Corporation Code of the  
18 Philippines”. The administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be  
19 vested exclusively in the Board and the President of the College.

20  
21 **SEC. 5. The Governing Board.**— The governing bodies of the College shall be the Board,  
22 which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher  
23 Education (CHED) and the President of the College, respectively, and with the following as  
24 members:

- 25  
26 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education of  
27 the Senate;  
28 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of  
29 Representatives;  
30 c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;  
31 d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;  
32 e. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;  
33 f. President of the faculty associations of the College;  
34 g. President of the student councils of the College;  
35 h. President of the alumni associations of the College; and  
36 i. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished  
37 themselves in their profession or fields of specialization.

38  
39 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list of at  
40 least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Ifugao where the College is located, as  
41 recommended by a search committee constituted by the President of the College in consultation  
42 with the CHED Chairperson and other members of the Board, based on the standards and  
43 qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years from  
44 the date of appointment.  
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1 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President  
2 of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation of alumni associations in  
3 the Board shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective  
4 constitutions and bylaws.

5  
6 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board.** – In addition to its general powers of  
7 administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing  
8 laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- 9  
10 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies and  
11 the provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology,  
12 as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act (RA)  
13 No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994";  
14  
15 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline drawn by the  
16 Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;  
17  
18 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the College, the vice  
19 presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other  
20 officials and employees of the College;  
21  
22 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and  
23 employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position  
24 Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws, including  
25 those governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem  
26 proper; grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it  
27 may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and  
28 remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;  
29  
30 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees,  
31 graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after  
32 due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including  
33 government subsidies and other income generated by the College shall constitute its  
34 special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository  
35 bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for  
36 the use of the College.

37  
38 Any provision of existing laws, rules or regulations to the contrary  
39 notwithstanding, any income generated by the College from tuition fees and other  
40 charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be  
41 retained by the College, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research,  
42 extension services or other programs and projects of the College: *Provided*, That all  
43 fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which these are  
44 collected: *Provided, however*, That if, for reasons beyond its control, the College  
45 shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been appropriated  
46 and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize

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1 the use of funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be  
2 necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the College;

- 3  
4 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater  
5 access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931, otherwise  
6 known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";  
7  
8 g. Establish professorial chairs in the College and provide fellowships for qualified  
9 faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;  
10  
11 h. Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the College,  
12 and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the  
13 purposes and functions of the College;  
14  
15 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;  
16  
17 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding  
18 contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology,  
19 agriculture or any area of specialization within the academic competence of the  
20 College, and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of non-degree and  
21 non-traditional courses;  
22  
23 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the College;  
24  
25 l. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate  
26 partners whether public, private, local or foreign institutions and agencies, and  
27 appoint experts and specialists as consultants, part-time/visiting/exchange professors,  
28 scholars or researchers, as the case may be;  
29  
30 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge for the promotion of  
31 greater access to education such as the use of information technology, dual training  
32 system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;  
33  
34 n. Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges within  
35 the Province of Ifugao and the CAR, under the supervision of the CHED and in  
36 consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in  
37 restructuring the College to make it more efficient, relevant, productive and  
38 competitive;  
39  
40 o. Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Ifugao and the CAR,  
41 as branches and extension/external centers, in coordination with the CHED, and in  
42 consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to promote and  
43 carry out equal access to educational opportunities, as mandated by the Constitution;  
44  
45 p. Authorize an external management audit of the College, to be financed by the CHED,  
46 subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute

1 reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results  
2 and recommendations;

3  
4 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units,  
5 as well as public, private, local and foreign institutions and agencies, in the  
6 furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the College;

7  
8 r. Import economic, technical, and cultural books and publications;

9  
10 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development  
11 and management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the  
12 development and strengthening of the College;

13  
14 t. Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all  
15 kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the benefit of the  
16 College and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

17  
18 u. Extend the term of the President of the College beyond the age of retirement, but not  
19 beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards  
20 set by the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the  
21 Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been  
22 decided upon by the search committee;

23  
24 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other officials of  
25 the College, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the  
26 affairs of the College;

27  
28 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and  
29 transparency within the College;

30  
31 x. Where most advantageous to the College, privatize the management of nonacademic  
32 services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such  
33 other similar activities;

34  
35 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other  
36 facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary  
37 supplies, materials and equipment; and

38  
39 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and  
40 functions of the College.

41  
42 **SEC. 7. Meetings of the Board.** – The Board shall regularly convene once every quarter.  
43 The Chairperson of the Board may, however, upon three (3) days prior written notice, call a  
44 maximum of two (2) special meetings whenever necessary within the year.  
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1 A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the  
2 time of the meeting: *Provided, however,* That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of  
3 the College is among those present in the meeting.  
4

5 In the absence of the CHED Chairperson, a Commissioner of the CHED, duly designated  
6 by the CHED Chairperson as representative in the meeting, shall have all the rights and  
7 responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided,* That during the meeting, the President of the  
8 College, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the Presiding Officer: *Provided, further,* That this  
9 provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a  
10 CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, said CHED  
11 Commissioner shall act as the Presiding Officer.  
12

13 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational  
14 Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education will not be able to  
15 attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives to attend the  
16 meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as the regular members of the  
17 Board.  
18

19 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled to  
20 reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to the  
21 meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolutions of  
22 the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.  
23

24 **SEC. 8. *The College President.***— The College shall be headed by a President who shall  
25 be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards it shall set, and  
26 based on the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The College President  
27 shall render full-time service and serve a term of four (4) years, but may be reappointed to  
28 another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect the smooth transition of the IFSU-Potia Campus  
29 to a state college, the incumbent Director of the IFSU-Potia Campus, if qualified, shall serve as  
30 the first president of the College.  
31

32 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent  
33 President of the College, the Board shall constitute the search committee for the Presidency.  
34

35 The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College in case of a vacancy in the  
36 Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for  
37 cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, pending the  
38 appointment of a new President: *Provided,* That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the  
39 unexpired portion of the term.  
40

41 The powers and duties of the President of the College, in addition to those provided in  
42 this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar colleges and  
43 those delegated by the Board.  
44

45 The salary of the President of the College shall be in accordance with RA No. 11466 or  
46 the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and by such other laws amendatory thereto, which

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1 may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of  
2 similar educational institutions.

3  
4 The President of the College shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic Affairs, a  
5 Vice President for Finance and Administration, and a Vice President for Research, Extension and  
6 Training, who shall all be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of  
7 the College.

8  
9 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the College.*** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall  
10 serve as such for both the Board and the College and shall keep all records and proceedings of  
11 the Board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary of the College shall serve  
12 upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings.

13  
14 **SEC. 10. *The Treasurer of the College.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the  
15 *ex officio* Treasurer of the College.

16  
17 **SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.*** – There shall be an Administrative Council  
18 consisting of the President of the College, as Chairperson, and the vice presidents, deans,  
19 directors and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duties shall be to review and  
20 recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration, management and  
21 development planning of the College.

22  
23 **SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council that shall  
24 formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the College, who shall act  
25 as its Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as  
26 members, which shall formulate academic policies.

27  
28 The Academic Council shall also have the power to review and recommend the curricular  
29 offerings and rules of discipline of the College; subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix  
30 the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of  
31 degrees, subject to the review and approval of the Board through the President of the College.

32  
33 It shall have disciplinary power over the students of the College and shall issue rules and  
34 regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

35  
36 **SEC. 13. *Heads of College Campuses.*** - The Campus Directors shall respectively serve  
37 as heads or administrators of the College campuses and render full-time service.

38  
39 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon recommendation of the Search  
40 Committee and the President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the  
41 Board.

42  
43 **SEC. 14. *The Faculty.***– No political belief, gender preference, cultural or community  
44 affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the  
45 appointment of faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That said appointment shall be subject  
46 to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That no

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1 member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

2  
3 **SEC. 15. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** – The College shall enjoy  
4 academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to Paragraph 2, Sec. 5 of Article XIV of  
5 the Constitution.

6  
7 **SEC. 16. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** – The College shall provide  
8 scholarship and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who  
9 qualify for admission to the College.

10  
11 No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of gender, religion,  
12 political, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

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

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

23  
24 **SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.*** – All assets, real and personal, personnel,  
25 and records of the IFSU-Potia Campus, as well as its liabilities or obligations, are hereby  
26 transferred to the College: *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty  
27 members and personnel therein employed prior to the conversion into a college shall be  
28 respected: *Provided, further*, That the employees currently holding the said positions shall  
29 remain in the same status until otherwise provided for by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That the  
30 College shall upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate  
31 by the Board.

32  
33 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the IFSU-Potia Campus are  
34 hereby declared the property of the College, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That  
35 should the College cease to exist or be abolished, or should such aforementioned parcels of land  
36 be no longer needed by the College, the same shall revert to the concerned LGU or to the  
37 Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

38  
39 **SEC. 19. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.*** - The importation by the  
40 College of economic, technical, and cultural books or publications, which are for economic,  
41 technical-vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes shall, upon  
42 certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of  
43 Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act  
44 (CMTA)”.

45



1 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the College, and  
2 used actually, directly and exclusively by it, shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall  
3 be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor for purposes of  
4 computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National  
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.  
6

7 **SEC. 20. Compliance with CHED Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act  
8 notwithstanding, the conversion into a state college shall become effective only upon the  
9 determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts  
10 constituted for the purpose, that the institution has complied with the requirements for college  
11 status under CHED Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012 (Policy-Standard to Enhance  
12 Quality Assurance in Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-Based and Typology-  
13 Based Quality Assurance): *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the  
14 institution has substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of college status.  
15

16 The following operational requirements for a college, as established by the CHED, shall  
17 be complied with:  
18

- 19 a. Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant degrees in  
20 their areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have experience in their  
21 in the subject areas they handle;  
22
- 23 b. Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs characterized by a core  
24 curriculum that holistically develops thinking, problem solving, decision-making,  
25 communication, technical, and social skills, in line with the mission of the College;  
26
- 27 c. Establishment of learning resources and support structures that are appropriate for  
28 developing knowledge and skills in the specific natural science, social science,  
29 humanities, and professional disciplines offered by the College, including laboratories,  
30 books and journals;  
31
- 32 d. Maintaining linkages with the community that would ensure the development of relevant  
33 academic and extension programs, as well as the application of their learning outcomes;  
34 and  
35
- 36 e. Conduct of outreach programs involving students in social development-oriented  
37 experiences that allow them to contextualize their knowledge within actual social and  
38 human experiences.  
39

40 The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical assistance to the  
41 institution and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the Commission.  
42

43 The institution shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is able to  
44 comply with the requirements provided herein.  
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1           **SEC. 21. *Development Plan, Management Audit, and Organization/Adminis***  
2 ***Academic Structure.*** – Within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the appr  
3 this Act, the College shall accomplish the following:

- 4  
5           a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget to the CH  
6 recommendation to the DBM;  
7  
8           b. Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, includi  
9 appointment of key officials of the College; and  
10  
11           c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.

12  
13           **SEC. 22. *Filing of Report.*** – On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the second  
14 after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed report  
15 progress, condition, and needs of the College with the Office of the President of the Phil  
16 and both Houses of Congress, through the CHED Chairperson.

17  
18           **SEC. 23. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise  
19 as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act, and s  
20 part of the governing charter of the College.

21  
22           **SEC. 24. *Parity Clause.*** – All other powers, functions and privileges, responsi  
23 and limitations to state college and their officials under existing laws shall be deemed gra  
24 or imposed upon the College or its officials, whenever appropriate.

25  
26           **SEC. 25. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of t  
27 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28  
29           **SEC. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days fr  
30 effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall determine the ru  
31 regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

32  
33           **SEC. 27. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of thi  
34 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall  
35 in full force and effect.

36  
37           **SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, a  
38 and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repe  
39 modified accordingly.

40  
41           **SEC. 29. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its public  
42 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

43  
*Approved,*