



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10461

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARBA, GO (M.), YAP (E.), SALCEDA, DAGOOC, VILLA, ENVERGA, TAN (A.), SUANSING (E.), SUANSING (H.), ORDANES, BASCUG, GARCIA (P.J.), ARENAS, CRISOLOGO, NOGRALES (J.J.), RODRIGUEZ, VIOLAGO, EBCAS, SAVELLANO, TAMBUNTING, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, GARIN (S.), DELOSO-MONTALLA, ABANTE, GERON, TEJADA, LACSON, SALO, AGABAS, ABU AND LEGARDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1316

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS IN NEW CLARK CITY, MUNICIPALITY OF
CAPAS, PROVINCE OF TARLAC, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National College for Science,
2 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (NCSTEM) Act.”
3

4 SEC. 2. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established in the New Clark City, Municipality of
5 Capas, Province of Tarlac, a higher education institution which shall specialize in the fields of science,
6 technology, engineering, and mathematics, to be known as the “National College for Science,
7 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”.
8

9 SEC. 3. *General Mandate.* – The National College for Science, Technology, Engineering, and
10 Mathematics, hereinafter referred to as the NCSTEM, shall provide advanced higher education,
11 professional instruction, and training in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,
12 as well as in computer and information sciences, medical and life sciences, allied health sciences, and
13 architecture and urban planning. It shall give full emphasis on research and development strategically
14 geared towards nation-building through scientific progress and innovation. The NCSTEM is also
15 mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in these
16 areas.
17

18 SEC. 4. *Curricular Offerings.* – The NCSTEM shall offer undergraduate and graduate degree
19 courses within its areas of competency and specialization in the various fields of sciences and

1 technology, agricultural and food sciences, astronomical sciences, biological and life sciences,
2 biotechnology, chemistry and materials sciences, environmental, geological and meteorological
3 sciences, fisheries and aquatic sciences, and physics; engineering disciplines such as agricultural
4 engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering,
5 electronics engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, materials engineering,
6 metallurgical engineering, and mining engineering; mathematics; other mathematical sciences such as
7 actuarial, financial and econometric sciences, computer and information science, data science and data
8 analytics, and statistical science; medicine; allied health sciences such as dentistry, dietetics and
9 nutrition, medical laboratory sciences, nursing and midwifery, pharmacy, physical therapy and
10 rehabilitation science, public health and epidemiological sciences, radiologic technology, and speech
11 pathology; architecture; industrial design; urban, regional, and environmental planning; and other
12 relevant fields of study as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary for the accomplishment of its
13 objectives, and those which respond to meet the human resource development needs of the country as a
14 whole.

15 SEC. 5. *Governing Board.* – The governing body of the NCSTEM shall be the Board of Trustees,
16 hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the
17 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the NCSTEM, respectively, and with
18 the following as members:

- 19
20 a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Senate;
21 b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of
22 Representatives;
23 c) Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority;
24 d) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology;
25 e) President of the federation of faculty associations of the NCSTEM;
26 f) President of the federation of student councils of the NCSTEM;
27 g) President of the federation of alumni associations of the NCSTEM; and
28 h) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their
29 professions or fields of specialization.
30

31 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list of at least five
32 (5) qualified persons from the Province of Tarlac, as recommended by a search committee constituted by
33 the President of the NCSTEM, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and other members of
34 the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve
35 for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

36 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the
37 federation of student councils, the President of the federation of alumni associations in the Board shall
38 be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.
39

40 SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall be the highest policymaking body of
41 the NCSTEM. In addition to its general powers of administration and the powers granted to the board of
42 directors of a corporation under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and
43 duties:

- 1 a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on
2 education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, science and
3 technology, engineering, mathematics, and the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED
4 under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;
5
6 b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn by the
7 Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided;
8
9 c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the NCSTEM, the vice presidents,
10 deans, executive directors, heads of the departments, faculty members, and other officials
11 and employees of the NCSTEM;
12
13 d) Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and employees,
14 subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System
15 and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service, and such
16 other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; grant them, at its discretion, leaves of
17 absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the
18 contrary notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of
19 due process of law;
20
21 e) Fix the tuition fees and other school charges, such as matriculation fees, graduation fees and
22 laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the
23 concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income
24 generated by the NCSTEM, shall constitute its special trust funds and shall be deposited in
25 any authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall
26 form part of the same funds for the use of the NCSTEM.

27 Any provision of existing law, rule and regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, any
28 income generated by the NCSTEM from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the
29 operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the NCSTEM and may be
30 disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension services or other programs and
31 projects of the NCSTEM: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific
32 purposes for which these are collected: *Provided, however*, That if, for reason beyond its control,
33 the NCSTEM shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and
34 allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said
35 funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the
36 attainment of the objectives and goals of the NCSTEM;
37

- 38 f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access
39 of poor but deserving students in accordance with Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise
40 known as the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”;
41
42 g) Establish professorial chairs in the NCSTEM and provide fellowships for qualified faculty
43 members, and scholarships to deserving students;

- 1 h) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the
2 NCSTEM, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out
3 the purposes and functions of the NCSTEM;
- 4 i) Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- 5
6 j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the
7 fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, engineering, mathematics,
8 or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the NCSTEM, and
9 authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional
10 courses;
- 11
12 k) Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the NCSTEM;
- 13
14 l) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate
15 institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint experts or
16 specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers,
17 as the case may be;
- 18
19 m) Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge to allow greater access to
20 education such as the use of information technology, dual training system, open distance
21 learning, and community laboratory;
- 22
23 n) Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges within the
24 Province of Tarlac and Region III, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation
25 with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in restructuring the NCSTEM to
26 make it more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;
- 27
28 o) Absorb nonchartered tertiary institutions within the province of Tarlac and Region III as
29 branches, extension or external centers, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation
30 with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate
31 of providing equal access to educational opportunities;
- 32
33 p) Authorize an external management audit of the NCSTEM, to be financed by the CHED,
34 subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms,
35 including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and
36 recommendations;
- 37
38 q) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units
(LGUs), as well as public, private, local or foreign institutions, and agencies for the
39 furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the NCSTEM;
- 40
41 r) Import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

- 1 s) Enter into joint ventures with business industry for the profitable growth and management of
2 economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening
3 of the NCSTEM;
- 4 t) Receive in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and
5 administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the benefit of the NCSTEM and
6 subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;
- 7 u) Extend the term of the President of the NCSTEM beyond the age of retirement, but not
8 beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by
9 the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as
10 outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon by
11 the search committee;
- 12 v) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the NCSTEM, as
13 it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the NCSTEM;
- 14 w) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent decision-making
15 within the NCSTEM;
- 16 x) Where most advantageous to the NCSTEM, privatize the management of nonacademic
17 services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such other
18 similar activities;
- 19 y) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other
20 facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary supplies,
21 materials, and equipment; and
- 22 z) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and
23 functions of the NCSTEM.

24 SEC. 7. *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly convene once every three (3)
25 months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special meeting whenever necessary:
26 *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) days prior to the conduct of said
27 meeting.

28 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members holding office at the time of
29 the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the NCSTEM is
30 among those present in the meeting.

31 In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED
32 Commissioner duly designated by the CHED Chairperson as representative to the meeting, shall have all
33 the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the President of
34 the NCSTEM, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision
35 notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner

1 as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the
2 presiding officer.

3 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
4 and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall not be able to attend the Board
5 meeting, they may designate their respective representatives who shall have the same rights and
6 responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

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

11
12 SEC. 8. *President of the College.* – The NCSTEM shall be headed by a President who shall be
13 appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and standards, and based on the
14 recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the President. The
15 President shall render full-time service, serve a term of four (4) years, and may be reappointed to
16 another term.

17
18 Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall constitute the Search
19 Committee for the Presidency of the College.

20
21 The powers and duties of the President of the NCSTEM, in addition to those specifically provided
22 for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar state
23 universities and colleges and those delegated by the Board.

24
25 The President shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- 26
27 a) Submit, for the consideration of the Board and the Executive Committee, the policies and
28 measures which are necessary to carry out the purposes of the NCSTEM;
29
30 b) Recommend, coordinate, and administer the programs and projects of the NCSTEM;
31
32 c) Direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the NCSTEM, and
33 delegate administrative responsibilities in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
34 NCSTEM;
35
36 d) Submit an annual report to the Board setting forth the accomplishments of the NCSTEM
37 during the year, its financial operations and status, and a program and budget for the ensuing
38 year; and
39
40 e) Exercise other powers and discharge other functions, as may be vested by the Board and the
41 Executive Committee.
42

43 The salary of the President of the NCSTEM shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466
44 or the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may

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

3
4 In case of a vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement,
5 resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, the
6 Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the NCSTEM, pending the appointment of a new
7 President: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the
8 term.

9
10 The President of the NCSTEM shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic Affairs, a Vice
11 President for Administration, and a Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension, who shall
12 all be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the NCSTEM.

13
14 SEC. 9. *Executive Committee*. – There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the
15 President of the NCSTEM and four (4) other members to be elected by the Board from its members.
16 Each Member of the Executive Committee, other than the President of the NCSTEM, shall hold office
17 for a term of two (2) years, unless at the time of election, a shorter term is specified, and shall be eligible
18 for re-election. The Board shall elect the Chairperson of the Executive Committee from the membership
19 of the Board.

20
21 SEC. 10. *Functions of the Executive Committee*. – The Executive Committee shall administer the
22 affairs of the NCSTEM in accordance with such functions, powers and responsibilities as may be
23 delegated by the Board.

24
25 SEC. 11. *Government Support and Coordination*. – The CHED Chairperson is hereby authorized
26 to call upon any department, bureau, agency, or instrumentality of the government for such assistance as
27 may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

28
29 SEC. 12. *The Academic Council*. – There shall be an Academic Council that shall formulate
30 academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the NCSTEM, who shall act as chairperson,
31 and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members.

32
33 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the curricular offerings;
34 formulate rules and regulations on student discipline and exercise disciplinary power over students; and
35 fix the requirements for the admission of students, graduation, and conferment of degrees, subject to the
36 review and approval of the Board through the President of the NCSTEM.

37
38 SEC. 13. *The Secretary*. – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both
39 the Board and the NCSTEM and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. The Secretary of
40 the NCSTEM shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of board meetings.

41
42 SEC. 14. *The Treasurer*. – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of
43 the NCSTEM.

44
45 SEC. 15. *The Faculty*. – The Board shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of
46 the NCSTEM, the faculty members of the NCSTEM: *Provided*, That no political belief, gender
47 preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be
48 a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the NCSTEM: *Provided, further*, That said

1 appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided,*
2 *finally,* That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

3
4 SEC. 16. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* – The NCSTEM shall provide scholarships and
5 other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the
6 NCSTEM.

7
8 No student shall be denied admission to the NCSTEM by reason of gender, religion, cultural or
9 community affiliation, physical disability, or ethnic origin.

10
11 SEC. 17. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* – The NCSTEM shall enjoy academic
12 freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the
13 Constitution.

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

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

24
25 SEC. 19. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* – All assets, both real and personal, personnel and
26 records of the NCSTEM, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the
27 NCSTEM.

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

34
35 SEC. 20. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* – The importation by the NCSTEM of economic, technical
36 and cultural books or publications, which are for economic, technical, scientific, philosophical, historical
37 or cultural purposes shall, upon certification by the Board and the CHED, be exempt from customs
38 duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs
39 Modernization and Tariff Act”.

40
41 All grants, bequest, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly
42 and exclusively for educational purposes by the NCSTEM, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the
43 same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the
44 taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of
45 1997, as amended.

1 SEC. 21. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known
2 as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

3
4 SEC. 22. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
5 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6
7 SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
8 this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules and regulations to fully
9 implement the provisions of this Act.

10
11 SEC. 24. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared
12 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

13
14 SEC. 25. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, or
15 administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or
16 modified accordingly.

17
18 SEC. 26. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
19 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,