

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10690

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BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGARDA, GO (M.), TAMBUNTING, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, YAP (E.), YU, VILLARICA,  
DALIPE AND DE VENEZIA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1420

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AN ACT  
PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE  
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, 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 “Philippine Academic Regalia  
2 Act”.

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4       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and  
5 nationalism among the people especially the youth whose academic preparation for adulthood  
6 and responsible citizenship include values formation on love of country and pride in the  
7 uniqueness of their cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for displaying these values  
8 shall be encouraged by the school system not only as part of values development, but to  
9 preserve Philippine culture and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing  
10 of an academic regalia that is not only truly Filipino but likewise distinguishes graduates of  
11 Philippine universities and colleges while giving back to the communities in the countryside  
12 through job creation and production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, that allow for the  
13 promotion of culture-based industries.

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15       Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia of all  
16 state universities and colleges (SUCs) is therefore prescribed.

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18       **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

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20       (a) *Academic regalia* refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty,  
21 graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other  
22 academic functions; and

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24       (b) *Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles* refer to textiles made of or containing natural or  
25 indigenous materials, sourced, and produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant,  
26 and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating  
27 and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs, and approaches, and thus,  
28 contributing to livelihood generation and sustaining the local handloom weaving and  
29 textile heritage.

1       **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council.*** – There is hereby created  
2 a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”, which shall  
3 be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education  
4 (CHED) and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of  
5 Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the following as  
6 members:

- 7  
8       (a) Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);  
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10       (b) Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges  
11       (PASUC);  
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13       (c) Representative from the University of the Philippines System (U.P.); and  
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15       (d) Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).  
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17       **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the following  
18 specific powers and functions:

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20       (a) Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;  
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22       (b) Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates, administrators,  
23       faculty, and awardees of SUCs;  
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25       (c) Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and loom parts;  
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27       (d) Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;  
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29       (e) Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic regalia and  
30       its proper use, protection, trade, and management; and  
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32       (f) Protect the intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile pattern,  
33       color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.  
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35       **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
36 effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP,  
37 PASUC, and DTI, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation  
38 of this Act.

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40       **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this  
41 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
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43       **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is  
44 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall  
45 remain in full force and effect.  
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47       **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent  
48 with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.  
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50       **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
51 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,