

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7370

BY REPRESENTATIVES GO (M.), AGARAO, RILLO, MERCADO-REVILLA, ROQUE, DALOG, DOMINGO, YU (J.V.), VERZOSA, CAOAGDAN, CAGAS, GARDIOLA, RODRIGUEZ (E.), ORTEGA, TULFO (R.W.), LARA, BORDADO, PADIERNOS, EUDELA, ADVINCULA, GALEOS, SALO, BUHAIN, BARZAGA, TUTOR, CO-PILAR, GULLAS, ABALOS, BALINDONG, PUMAREN, CARI, ONGCHUAN, AQUINO, CO (E.), ACIDRE, BARONDA, BOLILIA, PALMA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, SUAREZ, HERRERA, QUIMBO, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAMPOS, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, DEL MAR, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, LACSON, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, VIOLAGO, ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ADIONG, AMANTE, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, AUMENTADO, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MAGSINO, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), SALI, TALLADO, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), YAP (C.), BENITEZ, CORVERA, DUTERTE, ECLEO, FLORES, GOMEZ, GUINTU, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, ORDANES, REVILLA (B.), ROMULO, SALCEDA, SAULOG, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YAP (EDVIC), DALIPE, MARCOS, LACSON-NOEL, DELOS SANTOS, OAMINAL, DY (F.), ADVINCULA, SANTOS, SUANSING (M.A.), TEODORO, ZAMORA (Y.M.), ARBISON, ZAMORA (A.M.), ESCUDERO, TAN (K.M.), ACHARON, LIBANAN, DAZA, MADRONA, ALVAREZ (M.), OLIVAREZ, RODRIGUEZ (R.), DIMAPORO (M.K.), TANJUATCO, YU (D.G.) AND VILLARICA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 360

AN ACT
CREATING A TRIPARTITE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE JOB-SKILLS MISMATCH PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is declared the policy of the State to promote
2 the sustained development of a skilled citizenry and maintain a reservoir of national talents
3 consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical
4 manpower, and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields. Skills development can reduce
5 unemployment and underemployment, increase productivity, and improve the standards of
6 living.

7
8 To this end, the State shall ensure the relevance and adequacy of academic courses in
9 the higher education curriculum and training programs offered in technical-vocational
10 institutions in relation to the needs and requirements of the business and industry sectors and
11 the over-all human resource requirement of the country pursuant to its economic development
12 goals.

13
14 **SEC. 2. Creation of a Tripartite Council.** – There is hereby established a Tripartite
15 Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, that shall formulate policies and programs to
16 address the job-skills mismatch in the country. It shall be a coordinating body among the
17 government, academe and industry sectors to primarily monitor economic trends in the global
18 and domestic markets, including those pertaining to business and commerce and the local labor
19 market, and to generate information relative to employment, unemployment,
20 underemployment, and job-skills mismatch. The Council shall be made up of representatives
21 from the government, academe, and industry.

22
23 The government representatives shall be composed of the following: a Commissioner
24 of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); a Deputy Director-General of the Technical
25 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); an Undersecretary of the Department
26 of Education (DepEd); an Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment
27 (DOLE); and an Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

28
29 The representatives of the academe shall be the presidents of the federations of public
30 and private higher education institutions (HEIs), public and private technical-vocational
31 institutions (TVIs), and accreditation bodies of higher and technical-vocational educational
32 institutions, which include the following: Philippine Association of State Universities and
33 Colleges; Association of Local Colleges and Universities; Coordinating Council of Private
34 Educational Associations; Technical-Vocational Schools and Associations of the Philippines;
35 National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies; and the Federation of Accrediting Agencies
36 of the Philippines.

37
38 The representatives of the industry sector shall be the presidents of the following
39 business and industry federations: Employers Confederation of the Philippines; Makati
40 Business Club; Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation,
41 Incorporated; Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines;

1 Philippine Business for Education; Management Association of the Philippines; Philippine
2 Business for Social Progress; and the People Management Association of the Philippines.

3
4 The Council shall be headed by a CHED Commissioner as Chairperson, and the Deputy
5 Director-General of the TESDA shall be its Vice-Chairperson.

6 The members of the Council, except for the *ex officio* members, shall receive *per diem*
7 for every meeting attended in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

8
9 The Council shall be attached to the CHED for administrative and budgetary purposes.

10
11 The CHED shall provide a secretariat to the Council to be manned by the organic
12 personnel of the CHED and may be augmented by the employees from the member-agencies
13 of the Council through detail or secondment.

14
15 **SEC. 3. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – The Council shall have the following
16 specific powers and functions:

- 17
18 a) Monitor the trends in the labor market, both domestic and international, and the
19 incidence of unemployment, underemployment and the job-skills mismatch problem in
20 the country;
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22 b) Formulate short-term and long-term policies, plans and programs that shall address job-
23 skills mismatch, unemployment, and underemployment;
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25 c) Conduct an inventory, review and evaluation of courses, academic programs and
26 curricula of public and private HEIs and training programs implemented by TVIs;
27
28 d) Conduct an assessment of qualifications, skills and competencies of students and
29 graduates of higher education courses and technical-vocational education and training
30 and benchmark these with national and international standards such as the Philippine
31 Qualifications Framework, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Qualifications
32 Reference Framework, other frameworks, and international agreements to which the
33 Philippines is a signatory;
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35 e) Conduct an inventory of job specifications and skills requirement of various industries;
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37 f) Recommend to the President of the Philippines, Congress and other government
38 institutions policy measures that need to be undertaken in addressing the problems of
39 unemployment, underemployment and job-skills mismatch;
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41 g) Hold regular quarterly meetings; and
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43 h) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operation to achieve
44 the mandate of this Act.
45

46 **SEC. 4. Annual Report and Assessment.** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Council
47 shall submit an annual report to Congress on the status of employment of college students and

1 new graduates for the last five years, as well as an assessment of the trends in the labor market
2 and the skills required by various industries and business establishments.

3 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
4 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

5
6 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the
7 effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the TESDA, DepEd, DTI and
8 DOLE, as well as other education stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations for the effective
9 implementation of this Act.

10
11 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any portion or provision of this Act
12 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
13 continue to be in full force and effect.

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15 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
16 regulations, issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,
17 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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19 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
20 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,