

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____
(In substitution of House Bill No. 6287)

Introduced by Representatives Salceda, Romulo, Vergara, F.L. Castro, Lusotan, Cuaresma, Lazatin, Reyes, Cabredo, Barba, Dalog, Bascug, Saulog, Violago, Espina, Abueg-Zaldivar, Mariano-Hernandez, Cari, Acop, Escudero, M. Go, Robes, Bautista-Bandigan, Rodriguez, Bordado, Dalipe, Lacson, Loyola and Elago

AN ACT
CREATING A NETWORK OF MEISTER SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Meister Schools Act.”
2

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall protect and promote the right of all
4 citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education
5 accessible to all. The right to education shall be promoted with the end goal of producing
6 graduates who are prepared to become civically-active, economically productive members of
7 society.
8

9 The State shall also ensure that education aligns with the goals of national development
10 and industrialization. To this end, the State shall ensure access to affordable and competitive
11 industrial schools for the training of highly technically-skilled graduates who are able to meet
12 the country’s need for higher-order industrial skills, and who are able to find decent
13 employment in high-value industries even without a college degree.
14

15 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Meister Schools.*** – There shall be established in every region
16 and in every highly urbanized city at least one specialized senior high school to be known as
17 “Meister School”, which shall be funded in the manner of a national high school. The Meister
18 Schools shall implement an enhanced two (2) years senior high school education program,
19 integrated with a special curriculum on technical-vocational courses with the end view of
20 providing technical and vocational quality education to students to immediately fill in the need
21 of the industries on highly-technical, highly-skilled functions.
22

23 The establishment of a Meister School shall be based on the following conditions: (a)
24 growth potential; (b) consistent high enrollment and inventory data; (c) no other public schools
25 offer any particular specializations in that area; (d) adequate “State of the Art” facilities that
26 will cater to specific specialization needs of learners; and (e) strong partnership and linkage
27 with companies and other employers within the region or highly urbanized city.

1
2 The Meister Schools shall be attached to the Department of Education (DepEd), in close
3 coordination with the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA).
4

5 **SEC. 4. Objective of Meister Schools.** – The Meister Schools shall offer courses for
6 highly-specialized, higher-order industrial and technical skills, with the objective of producing
7 graduates who meet the demands and can find employment in highly-technical, high-skill
8 functions in the manufacturing sector and other high-value industries such as energy,
9 machinery, mechatronics, telecommunications, and indigenous local industries.
10

11 **SEC. 5. Autonomy of Meister Schools over Curriculum.** – The Meister Schools shall
12 exercise autonomy over the development of the school curriculum, school facilities, and
13 industry linkages.
14

15 **SEC. 6. The Board of Trustees.** – Each Meister School shall be governed by a Board
16 of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”. The exercise of corporate powers of each
17 Meister School shall be vested exclusively in the Board and in the Director of the Meister
18 School insofar as authorized by the Board. The Board shall be composed of the following:
19

- 20 a. Regional Director of the DepEd, as chairperson;
- 21 b. Regional Director of the TESDA, as co-chairperson;
- 22 c. Regional Director of the Department of Trade and Industry;
- 23 d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 24 e. Head of the regional chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
25 (PCCI);
- 26 f. A representative of the Local Chief Executive of the local government unit (LGU)
27 where the Meister School is located;
- 28 g. A representative from the heads of economic zones operating in the region;
- 29 h. President of the Parent-Teacher Association of the school;
- 30 i. A representative from recognized scientific and technological associations or
31 societies in the region; and
- 32 j. Director of the Meister School.
33

34 The members of the Board representing the economic zones and scientific and
35 technological associations or societies shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines,
36 upon the recommendation of the chairperson of the Board, for a term of six (6) years, without
37 reappointment.
38

39 **SEC. 7. Functions of the Board.** – The Board shall have the following specific powers
40 and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers
41 granted to the board of directors of a corporation under Section 35 of Republic Act No. 11232,
42 otherwise known as the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines:
43

- 44 a. To affix the site of the Meister School;
- 45
- 46 b. To receive and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be
47 provided by law for the support of the Meister School;
- 48
- 49 c. To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Director in
50 connection with the employment of teachers, instructors, lecturers, and other

1 employees of the school, to fix their compensation and other conditions of
2 employment, and to remove them for reasonable cause after an investigation and
3 hearing shall have done;

- 4
- 5 d. To approve the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline drawn up by the
6 Executive Council as hereinafter provided;
- 7
- 8 e. To provide and approve fellowships and trainings for faculty members and staff,
9 and approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such other allowances to
10 deserving students based on the guidelines and implementing rules;
- 11
- 12 f. To ensure that the programs to be offered by the Meister School shall be in
13 accordance with the qualification levels in terms of the three (3) Philippine
14 Qualifications Framework domains: knowledge skills and values, application, and
15 degree of independence;
- 16
- 17 g. To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for
18 graduation;
- 19
- 20 h. To formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the
21 Meister School and provide for general rules and regulations not contrary to law as
22 may be necessary to achieve the purpose of the Meister School;
- 23
- 24 i. To receive, in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of
25 all kinds and to administer the same in accordance with the direction and instruction
26 of the donor and, in default thereof, in such manner as the Board may, in its
27 discretion, determine for the benefit of the Meister School or for aid to any of its
28 students;
- 29
- 30 j. To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
- 31
- 32 k. To call on the industrial and manufacturing sectors and establish partnership to
33 ensure the employability of the Meister School graduates; and
- 34
- 35 l. To perform other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.

36

37 **SEC. 8. Board Meetings.** – The Board shall convene at least once every quarter of the
38 Meister Schools’ school calendar: *Provided*, That upon the effectivity of this Act, the Board
39 shall immediately convene and conduct monthly meetings for purposes of choosing and
40 appointing the Director, faculty members, and administrative staff, and an organization plan
41 for the Meister Schools.

42

43 The chairperson of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary:
44 *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) calendar days before said
45 meeting.

46

47 A majority of all members holding office at the time the meeting is called shall
48 constitute a quorum for Board meetings. All processes against the Board shall be served to the
49 Secretary of the Board.

1 **SEC. 9. *The Director.*** – The Meister School shall be headed by a Director who shall
2 be appointed by the chairperson of the Board, subject to the approval of the members of the
3 Board based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and
4 regulations. The Board shall also fix the compensation of the Director. The functions of the
5 Director shall be that usually pertaining to the functions of a public high school principal and
6 thus, shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Meister School, in addition
7 to those specifically provided for in this Act. The Director shall also coordinate the
8 implementation of policies and guidelines set by the Board.

9
10 **SEC. 10. *The Executive Council.*** – There shall be created an Executive Council
11 consisting of the Director, the heads of departments, and such other ranking faculty members
12 or officials of the Meister School, as may be determined by the Board. The Council shall have
13 the following specific powers and functions:

- 14
15 a. To screen and select the students to be admitted to the Meister school;
16
17 b. To select students who shall be recipients of scholarships, stipends, and other
18 allowances;
19
20 c. To develop the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline, subject to the
21 approval of the Board;
22
23 d. To coordinate with TESDA for the implementation of quality assurance
24 mechanisms in connection with the conduct of National Certification Examinations
25 to the students of Meister School;
26
27 e. To recommend for approval of the Board students eligible for graduation;
28
29 f. To perform disciplinary function over the students;
30
31 g. To implement and execute policies laid down by the Board; and
32
33 h. To exercise such other functions as the Board may prescribe.

34
35 **SEC. 11. *The Registrar.*** – There shall be a Registrar of the Meister School who shall
36 also act as Secretary of the Board, to be appointed by the Executive Director with the approval
37 of the Board. The Registrar shall keep such records of the Meister School as may be prescribed
38 by the Board.

39
40 **SEC. 12. *The Treasurer.*** – There shall be a Treasurer of the Meister School who shall
41 be appointed by the Director, with the approval of the Board. All accounts and expenses of the
42 Meister School shall be audited by the Commission on Audit.

43
44 **SEC. 13. *The Faculty Members and Administrative Staff.*** – The Director shall, upon
45 approval of the Board, employ professional and highly skilled faculty members with long and
46 vast experience in technical-vocational administration, education or management to ensure
47 proper operation and maintenance of the Meister School. The faculty members and
48 administrative staff shall be selected in accordance with such criteria as may be established by
49 the Board which shall include, if necessary and practicable, screening and competitive
50 examinations.

1
2 The faculty members and administrative staff shall be exempt from the provisions of
3 laws, rules and regulations on standard salaries and position classifications.
4

5 **SEC. 14. Assistance from National Government Agencies.** – Heads of bureaus or
6 offices of the National Government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request
7 of the Director of the Meister School, such apparatus, supplies, and other properties as may be
8 needed by the Meister School, and to detail employees for duty therein, when in the judgment
9 of the head of the bureau or office, they can be spared without serious detriment to the public
10 service. Employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required under such detail, and the
11 time employed shall be counted as part of their regular official hours, all laws, rules and
12 regulations limiting the detail of government employees notwithstanding.
13

14 **SEC. 15. Role of the Industry.** – Local chambers of commerce, manufacturing
15 companies, economic zones and locators, and other private sector stakeholders in business and
16 industry shall provide equipment, facilities, scholarships, mentoring, training, and jobs for
17 graduates and students of Meister Schools.
18

19 **SEC. 16. Linkages with LGUs.** – The Meister Schools shall coordinate and collaborate
20 with concerned LGUs in the crafting and implementation of their respective programs and
21 projects. This is vital to help facilitate alignment, synchronicity and complementarity of plans,
22 resources and efforts of the schools and of the LGUs, particularly its Local School Board,
23 Public Employment Service Office, Technology and Livelihood Development Center, and the
24 Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Office. This includes the
25 maintenance and updating of the skills registry and manpower mapping in the barangays.
26

27 **SEC. 17. Linkages with TESDA.** – The Meister Schools shall coordinate closely with
28 TESDA for technical assistance, development of the school curriculum, and evaluation for
29 learners' national certificates.
30

31 Under the Meister Schools programs, content and performance standards shall be
32 aligned to the competency-based curriculum of TESDA, practical classes shall be provided by
33 the schools and hands-on experiences acquired at partner industries, and the learning
34 environment shall support opportunities for holistic growth and skills development of learners.
35

36 The programs to be offered by Meister Schools shall be in accordance with the
37 qualification levels in terms of the three (3) Philippine Qualifications Framework domains,
38 namely: (a) knowledge skills and values; (b) application; and (c) degree of independence. Such
39 quality assurance mechanisms shall be determined and evaluated by TESDA.
40

41 **SEC. 18. Free Tuition.** – As with national high schools, the Meister Schools shall adopt
42 and enforce a policy on free tuition and other school fees for students. Violators of this policy
43 shall be meted with appropriate disciplinary action and penalty.
44

45 **SEC. 19. Annual Report.** – The Board shall submit to the Office of the President of the
46 Philippines and Congress a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the Meister
47 Schools containing, among others, the financial statements, statement of assets and liabilities,
48 other revenue sources and program for expenditures, physical and financial accountability
49 reports, and other similar reportorial requirements on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of June
50 of each year.

1
2 **SEC. 20. *Meister School Fund.*** – All incomes and donations to the Meister School
3 shall constitute a special fund to be known as the Meister School Fund. The Fund shall be
4 expended by the Board exclusively for the purpose of this Act.
5

6 **SEC. 21. *Tax Exemption on Donations.*** – All grants, bequest, endowments, donations
7 and contributions made to the Meister School and used actually, directly and exclusively by
8 the Meister School, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as
9 allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor
10 in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
11

12 The payment of national taxes, including customs duties, of the Meister School shall be
13 charged against the Tax Expenditure Fund provided for in the annual General Appropriations
14 Act.
15

16 **SEC. 22. *Appropriations.*** – To carry out the purpose of this Act, including the
17 operation of the Meister School, the acquisition, improvement, and conditioning of the land on
18 which the Meister School shall be located, the construction, maintenance, and repair of
19 buildings and improvements, and the acquisition of furniture, fixtures, and equipment, there
20 shall be appropriated at least One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) for each Meister
21 School. The Department of Budget and Management shall make the necessary adjustments to
22 account for the differences in costs specific to the standard of living in each region.
23

24 Thereafter, the expenses of the Meister School, for the purposes above-described, shall
25 be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That any unexpended balance
26 from its annual budget shall also form part of the aforementioned Meister School Fund.
27

28 **SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
29 approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall, in consultation with the Director General
30 of TESDA, Secretary of Trade and Industry, Secretary of Science and Technology, President
31 of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, and the President of PCCI, formulate the rules
32 and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act. Said agencies shall, within the same
33 period, determine the region and location of the very first Meister school. The members of the
34 Board of the first Meister School, as may be determined, shall immediately convene and
35 exercise its powers and functions.
36

37 **SEC. 24. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
38 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.
39

40 **SEC. 25. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations
41 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended
42 accordingly.
43

44 **SEC. 26. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
45 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
46

47 *Approved,*