

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. 5982,
in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 202, 2163 and 4861)

Introduced by Representatives Romulo, Garcia (J.E.), Dimaporo (A.), Dimaporo (M.K.), Rodriguez, Escudero, Go (M.), Chatto, De Venecia, Vergara, Reyes, Balindong, Acop, Saulog, Abueg-Zaldivar, Barba, Robes, Lacson, Savellano, Castro (F.L.), Loyola, Abunda, Benitez, Panotes, Lusotan, Bordado, Tiangco, Violago, Mariano-Hernandez, Bañas-Nogralas, Tutor, Quimbo, Cabochan, Elago, Cabredo, Dy (F.M.C.), Ouano-Dizon and Olivarez

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE ARTS
SYSTEM 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 Philippine High School for
2 Creative Arts System Act of 2020.”
3

4 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Principles.*** – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
5 nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and
6 social well-being. Moreover, the government is committed to fulfill its constitutional mandate
7 to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture
8 based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual
9 expression and to place arts, design and other intellectual creative creation under the patronage
10 of the State. Towards this end, the State shall promote creative arts education and encourage
11 arts programs, national art competitions, and the strengthening of education for the
12 development of creative industries. This shall include a complete and harmonious development
13 of citizenry who can contribute most meaningfully towards the creation and enhancement of a
14 democratic, just, and humane society imbued with national identity and pride. The State shall
15 provide adequate training for students with artistic abilities with the end view of producing
16 world-class artists with solid academic background and strong patriotic ideals. In line with
17 this, an educational system to foster the holistic development of the youth and to prepare the
18 students for a long-term career in the various fields of creative industry is hereby established.
19

20 **Sec. 3. *Creation and Establishment of the Philippine High School for Creative Arts***
21 ***(PHSCA) System*** - There is hereby established a Philippine High School for Creative Arts
22 System (PHSCA) which are secondary schools offering full scholarships to deserving students
23 with considerable potential in the fields of performing arts, creative writing, visual arts, and
24 applied arts. Admitted students shall be trained under a special curriculum oriented in the
25 fields of architecture and allied arts, cinema, dance, dramatic arts, literary arts, music, visual

1 arts, design, digital fabrication and new media, along with financial literacy, entrepreneurship
2 skills, and basic knowledge on intellectual property rights, with the end in view of providing
3 quality education to students while preparing them for various creative industry related career
4 as well a readiness for entrepreneurial endeavors or employment. It will, thus, provide a
5 continuing source of artists of excellence and leaders in the preservation and promotion of
6 culture, arts and the creative industry in the Philippines.

7
8 The PHSCA System shall be administratively attached to the Department of Education
9 (DepEd) in consultation with the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) for
10 program implementation.

11
12 **Sec. 4. Board of Trustees.** – The PHSCA System shall be governed by a Board of
13 Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”, which shall be composed of the following:

- 14
15 a) Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the DepEd, as Chairperson;
16 b) Chairperson or the Executive Director of the NCCA as Co-chairperson;
17 c) Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and
18 Industry (DTI), as member;
19 d) Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary of the Department of Information
20 and Communication Technology (DICT), as member;
21 e) Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as member;
22 f) President or the Artistic Director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), as
23 member;
24 g) President of the Creative Economy Council of the Philippines (CECP), as member;
25 h) Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
26 (TESDA), as member;
27 i) Executive Director of the PHSCA System, as created in Section 9 of this Act.

28
29 The Board shall also include as members, two (2) representatives from the fields of
30 performing arts, visual arts and applied arts who may either be a respected member of the
31 academe in the field of culture and the arts or a representative from the creative industries of
32 known expertise, integrity and probity, all of whom shall be appointed by the Chairperson of
33 the Board of Trustees, subject to the confirmation of the members of the Board. The members
34 from the academe and creative industry community shall have a term of three (3) years,
35 renewable for another three (3) years, and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

36
37 All members who are not receiving regular compensation from the government shall
38 receive reasonable *per diem* to be determined by the Board subject to current practices, for
39 every meeting of the Board.

40
41 **Sec. 5. Powers and Functions of the Board of Trustees.** – The exercise of the corporate
42 powers of the PHSCA System is hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees.

43
44 The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general
45 powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of
46 a corporation under Section 35 of Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the Revised
47 Corporation Code of the Philippines:

- 48
49 (a) To formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the
50 PHSCA System;

- 1 (b) To determine the site of the first PHSCA campus. After the first site for the
2 PHSCA campus shall have been established, to determine other sites for future
3 expansion of the PHSCA System.
4
- 5 (c) To approve the curricula, course of study, and rules of discipline drawn up by the
6 Executive Council as hereinafter provided;
7
- 8 (d) To receive and appropriate for the ends herein specified such sums as may be
9 provided by law for the support of the PHSCA;
10
- 11 (e) To formulate policies on personnel organization, appointment, promotion,
12 retention/renewal of contracts, fixing of their compensations, subject to the
13 Compensation and Position Classification System, removal for just cause,
14 rewards, incentives and other conditions of employment for administrators,
15 faculty and staff of the PHSCA;
16
- 17 (f) To approve appointments made and contracts entered into by the Executive
18 Director in connection with the employment of administrative officers, teachers,
19 lecturers and other employees of the school;
20
- 21 (g) To provide and approve fellowship grants and trainings for administrators, faculty
22 members and staff;
23
- 24 (h) To approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and such other allowances to
25 deserving students based on the guidelines and implementing rules;
26
- 27 (i) To establish the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall
28 include, among others, national competitive auditions and examinations;
29
- 30 (j) To approve the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for
31 graduation;
32
- 33 (k) To call on creative industries sector and establish partnership to ensure
34 employability of the PHSCA graduates;
35
- 36 (l) To receive, in trust, legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of
37 all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the PHSCA or for aid to
38 any of its students;
39
- 40 (m) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry
41 out the purposes and functions of the PHSCA; and
42
- 43 (n) To perform any and all other acts incident to or required by virtue of its creation.
44

45 **Sec. 6. *Hiring of Foreign Educators and Consultants.*** – In addition to the powers
46 and functions vested to the Board under Section 5 of this Act, the Board shall be allowed to
47 approve the hiring of foreign educators and consultants: *Provided*, That the NCCA shall certify
48 the necessity of hiring such educators and consultants, including their competence and skills
49 which are not available locally or proved to be incomparable with their local counterparts.
50

1 The Board shall provide guidelines and mechanisms to ensure that the new knowledge
2 and training methods introduced by the foreign educators and consultants shall be passed on to
3 the student-artists and local educators, trainers and consultants of the PHSCA.
4

5 **Sec. 7. Campuses.** – The Board shall provide for policies for the organization of
6 regional nationally funded high schools for creative arts. The Board shall also provide for
7 policies to enter into a memorandum of agreement with existing locally funded high schools
8 for the arts for consideration as extension campuses or branches of the PHSCA System. The
9 extension campuses shall be organized in coordination with the concerned local government
10 unit and the DepEd, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management.
11

12 **Sec. 8. Meetings of the Board of Trustees.** – The Board of Trustees shall regularly
13 convene at least once every quarter of the PHSCA school calendar: *Provided*, That within
14 sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Trustees shall immediately
15 convene and conduct monthly meetings for purposes of determining the site for the first
16 PHSCA campus, choosing and appointing the Executive Director, the three (3) members of the
17 Board from the academe and/or creative arts community, and plan for the effective organization
18 of the PHSCA System.
19

20 The Chairperson or the Co-Chairperson of the Board may call a special meeting
21 whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least three (3) days
22 prior to said meeting.
23

24 A majority of all members holding office in person or virtually shall constitute a
25 quorum for board meetings: *Provided*, That the Chairperson or the Co-Chairperson of the
26 Board are among those present in the meeting.
27

28 **Sec. 9. Executive Director of the PHSCA.** – The PHSCA System shall be headed by
29 an Executive Director who shall serve for a fixed term of six (6) years. The Executive Director
30 shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, subject to the approval of the
31 members of the Board based on the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing
32 rules and regulations. The Board shall also fix the compensation of the Executive Director.
33 The Executive Director shall coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines set by
34 the Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board, the Executive Director shall articulate to
35 the Board the mutual concern of all the campuses.
36

37 The Executive Director shall perform the following functions:
38

39 (a) Coordinate curriculum planning activities for the PHSCA System;
40

41 (b) Coordinate exchange programs with other educational institutions for creative arts
42 both local and foreign;
43

44 (c) Coordinate the implementation of the program for the identification and selection
45 of scholars for the PHSCA System; and
46

47 (d) Provide legal, technical support and secretariat for the PHSCA System.
48

49 **Sec. 10. Executive Council.** – There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the
50 Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director, as created in Section 11 of this Act, and
51 the Campus Directors, as created in Section 12 of this Act.

1
2 The Executive Council shall be responsible for the development of the artistic potential
3 of every student with a strong academic base and for providing programs for the students with
4 the end goal of training gifted youths in various fields of creative art. The Council shall
5 implement and execute the policies laid down by the Board and exercise such other functions,
6 powers and duties as the Board may prescribe.
7

8 **Sec. 11. Deputy Executive Director of the PHSCA.** – There shall be a Deputy
9 Executive Director who shall assist the Executive Director. In the absence of the Executive
10 Director, the Deputy Executive Director shall assume the administrative and supervisory
11 functions of the Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Director, who shall have a fixed
12 term of four (4) years, renewable for another four (4) years, shall be appointed by the
13 Chairperson of the Board subject to the approval of the same Board, which shall also fix the
14 compensation of the Deputy Executive Director.
15

16 **Sec. 12. Campus Director.** – Each PHSCA shall be headed by a Campus Director who
17 shall be appointed by the Board, upon recommendation of the Executive Director on the basis
18 of a search process. The Campus Director shall have a fixed term of six (6) years. The Campus
19 Director shall not be removed from office except for cause.
20

21 The Campus Director shall be the administrative and academic head of the campus
22 assigned to, and will be responsible for its effective and efficient operations. The Campus
23 Director may constitute a management committee which may act as a consultative body for the
24 educational needs, standard of living in campus and other related services for the students,
25 faculty and staff of the campus.
26

27 **Sec. 13. Civil Service Coverage.** – Personnel of the PHSCA shall be classified into:
28

29 (a) Career service personnel, namely, those of the finance, administrative, and
30 personnel staff of the PHSCA and the general education faculty, who shall be covered by civil
31 service examinations and regulations; and
32

33 (b) Non-career service personnel, consisting of the members of the faculty who
34 specialized in the various fields of creative industry, who shall be exempt from civil service
35 examinations and regulations.
36

37 Career and non-career service personnel shall be subject to Compensation and Position
38 Classification System. They shall be entitled to retirement benefits enjoyed by all government
39 personnel, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Provisions for retirement
40 shall be included in the annual budget of the PHSCA.
41

42 **Sec. 14. Annual Report.** – The Board shall submit to the Office of the President of the
43 Philippines and Congress a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the PHSCA
44 two (2) months prior to the opening of every school year.
45

46 **Sec. 15. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Philippine High School for**
47 **Creative Arts System (PHSCA System).** – There is hereby created a Joint Oversight Committee
48 to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act.
49

50 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate
51 and from the House of Representatives, including the Chairpersons of the Committees on Basic

1 Education and Culture, and Finance in the Senate and Appropriations in the House of
2 Representatives. The membership of the Committee for each House shall have at least one (1)
3 minority member.
4

5 **Sec. 16. Tax Exemptions of the PHSCA System.** – The importation of equipment
6 relating to creative industry, books, art related supplies, musical instruments, materials and
7 goods, including those donated to the PHSCA System shall be exempt from customs duty in
8 accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs
9 Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”: *Provided*, That these are of international standards
10 and are not available from local manufacturers: *Provided, further*, That the importation shall
11 only be in such numbers as may be required in the development programs and/or training of
12 the students: *Provided, finally*, That all importations shall be made in the name of PHSCA
13 System as recipient and shall be immediately registered in the name of PHSCA System.
14

15 **Sec. 17. Tax Exemption on Donations.** – All grants, bequest, endowments, donations
16 and contributions made to the PHSCA and that are actually, directly and exclusively used by
17 the PHSCA, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable
18 deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor in
19 accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
20

21 **Sec. 18. Creative Arts School Funds.** – All incomes and donations to the PHSCA
22 created under this Act shall be formed into a fund, to be known as the Creative Arts School
23 Fund, which the PHSCA shall be authorized to retain, without need of a separate approval from
24 any government agency, and subject only to existing accounting and auditing rules and
25 regulations. This fund shall be expended as authorized by the Board exclusively for the
26 purpose of this Act.
27

28 **Sec. 19. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of
29 this Act shall be included in the DepEd budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.
30

31 **Sec. 20. The Philippine High School for the Arts.** – The Philippine High School for
32 the Arts (PHSA), reorganized and existing under Executive Order No. 420, issued on 7
33 September 1990, shall remain to exist and operate according to law. It shall continue to be
34 attached to the DepEd, in close coordination with the CCP.
35

36 **Sec. 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**— The DepEd, NCCA, DTI, TESDA
37 and CECP shall promulgate not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the
38 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That
39 the failure to promulgate the rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this
40 Act upon its effectivity.
41

42 **Sec. 22. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
43 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall
44 continue to be in full force and effect.
45

46 **Sec. 23. Repealing Clause.** — All other laws, decrees, executive order and other
47 administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
48 Act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.
49

1 **Sec. 24. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days following its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of national circulation in the
3 Philippines.

4
5 *Approved,*