

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand twenty-four.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12299]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* — There is hereby established a state college in the Province of Dinagat Islands, which shall be known as the "Dinagat Islands State College (DISC)".

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* — The DISC shall primarily provide advanced instruction and professional training in fisheries, agriculture, environmental science, mining engineering, marine engineering, hospitality management, food technology, education, engineering, science and technology, arts and humanities, liberal arts, and other fields of study. It shall promote research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SEC. 3. *Curricular Offerings.* — The DISC shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of fisheries, agriculture, environmental science, mining engineering, marine

engineering, hospitality management, food technology, education, engineering, science and technology, arts and humanities, liberal arts, and other degree courses, as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, and those which respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Dinagat Islands and the Caraga Administrative Region: *Provided, That* the DISC shall comply with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the offering of courses and the introduction of new or revised programs.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* – The DISC shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act (RA) No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines”. The administration of the DISC and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the President of the DISC.

SEC. 5. *The Board of Trustees.* – The governing body of the DISC shall be the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the CHED and vice-chaired by the President of the DISC, and with the following as members:

(a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Senate;

(b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;

(c) Regional Director of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev);

(d) Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;

(e) President of the federation of faculty associations of the DISC;

(f) President of the federation of student councils of the DISC;

(g) President of the federation of alumni associations of the DISC;

(h) Representative of the non-teaching or personnel association of the DISC; and

(i) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

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

The terms of office of the presidents of the federation of faculty associations, federation of student councils, federation of alumni associations, and the representative of the non-teaching personnel association shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The administration of the DISC and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board, which shall have the following specific powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a Corporation under Section 35 of RA No. 11232:

(a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, and the policies, standards, and thrusts of the CHED under RA No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;

(b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils, as herein provided;

(c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the DISC, the vice presidents, chancellors, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the DISC;

(d) Prescribe the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of RA No. 11466, otherwise known as the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and other laws amendatory thereto, civil service rules and regulations governing hours of service and other requirements and conditions, other pertinent laws, and rules and regulations;

(e) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the DISC, shall constitute its funds to be used exclusively in the pursuit of its mandate as a state college, and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the DISC;

The fees and charges collected by the DISC, including government subsidies and proceeds from other income sources, as well as interests that would accrue therefrom, shall be retained by the DISC: *Provided*, That in no case shall the said income be used for the payment of allowances and other benefits not authorized by law: *Provided, further*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which they were collected;

If the DISC, for reasons beyond its control, would not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said fund for any reasonable purpose for which it deems necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of the DISC: *Provided*, That funds collected from students for specific purposes shall not be realigned or reprogrammed to other expenditures;

(f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with RA No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";

(g) Establish professorial chairs in the DISC and provide fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;

(h) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the DISC, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the DISC;

(i) Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;

(j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, sports and human kinetics, or any field

of specialization within the academic competency of the DISC, and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;

(k) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

(l) Adopt modern and innovative modes of transferring knowledge to allow greater access to education such as the use of information technology, online programs, dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;

(m) Absorb non-chartered tertiary education institutions within the Province of Dinagat Islands and Caraga Administrative Region as branches, extension campuses, and external centers, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing equal access to educational opportunities;

(n) Authorize an external management audit of the DISC, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(o) 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 furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the DISC;

(p) Import books or publications, instruments, equipment and apparatuses for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal or cultural purposes;

(q) Enter into joint ventures with business industry, after consultation with the DEPDev, for the profitable growth and management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the DISC;

(r) Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the

same, when necessary, for the benefit of the DISC and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any;

(s) Extend the term of the President of the DISC beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That such extension shall be subject to the term limits provided in Section 8 of this Act: *Provided, further*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has been decided upon by the Search Committee;

(t) Delegate any of its powers and duties to the President and other officials of the DISC, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the DISC;

(u) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent decision-making within the DISC;

(v) Where most advantageous to the DISC, outsource the management of non-academic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar activities;

(w) Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment, and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including the necessary supplies, materials, and equipment; and

(x) Promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the DISC.

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

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

In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED Commissioner duly designated by the Chairperson of the CHED as representative to the meeting, shall have

all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the President of the DISC, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED may designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education cannot attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

The members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

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

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the DISC, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency, and shall ensure the appointment or reappointment of a President on or before the expiration of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the DISC, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of colleges and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the DISC shall be in accordance with RA No. 11466, and such other laws amendatory thereto which may hereinafter be enacted, the joint circular for state universities and colleges' leveling instruments, and guidelines of the CHED and the DBM.

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

The President of the DISC shall be assisted by the following officials: Vice President for Academic Affairs; Vice President for Administration, Planning, and Finance; and Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension. They shall all be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the President of the DISC.

SEC. 9. *The Secretary.* – The Board shall appoint a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and the DISC and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board in addition to other duties and responsibilities. The Secretary of the DISC shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings.

SEC. 10. *The Treasurer.* – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the DISC.

SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.* – There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the DISC, as Chairperson, and the vice-president, deans, director, and other officials of equal rank, as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board such policies governing the administration, management, and development planning of the DISC.

SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council consisting of the President of the DISC, as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members, which shall formulate academic policies.

The Academic Council shall review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules on student discipline, fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, exercise disciplinary power over the students and formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the review and approval of the Board through the President of the DISC.

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

SEC. 14. *The Faculty.* – No political belief, sex, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation, ethnic origin, or religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the DISC: *Provided*, That the appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That a member of the faculty shall not criticize, vouch for, recruit members in behalf of, or preach about any particular religious denomination.

SEC. 15. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* – The DISC shall provide scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the DISC. No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, gender, religion, political, cultural or community affiliation, ethnic origin, or any other form of discrimination.

SEC. 16. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.* – All assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the DISC, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled under or named after the DISC.

All parcels of land belonging to the government that shall be occupied by the DISC shall be the property of the DISC and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the DISC cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the DISC, the same shall revert to the LGUs concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 17. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* – The importation of books or publications, instruments, equipment, and apparatuses which are for economic, technical-vocational, scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal, or cultural purposes made by the DISC, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the DISC, shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 18. *Compliance with the CHED Requirements.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the establishment of the DISC shall become effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the DISC has complied with the requirements for a college status based on the CHED Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012 or the “Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance (QA) in Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-Based and Typology-Based QA”: *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when the DISC has substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of college status.

The following operational requirements for a college, as established by the CHED, shall be complied with:

(a) Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant degrees, as required by the CHED, and with experience in the subject areas they handle;

(b) Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs characterized by a core curriculum that holistically develops thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, technical, and social skills in line with the mission of the DISC;

(c) Establishment and maintenance of comprehensive learning resources and support structures that are appropriate for developing knowledge and skills in the specific natural science, social science, humanities, and professional disciplines offered by the DISC, including laboratories, books, and journals;

(d) Maintenance of linkage with the community that would ensure the development of relevant academic and extension programs and the application of their learning outcomes; and

(e) Conduct of outreach programs involving students in social development-oriented experiences that allow them to contextualize their knowledge within actual social and human experiences.

The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical assistance to the DISC and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the CHED.

SEC. 19. *Development Plan and Organizational Structure.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the DISC shall accomplish the following:

(a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED and the DBM;

(b) Submit the revised Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan in accordance with RA No. 11396, otherwise known as the “SUCs Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act”;

(c) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

(d) Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, including the designation of key officials and other administrative personnel of the DISC.

SEC. 20. *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd) month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed report on its compliance with the requirements for a college status with the Office of the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the Chairperson of the CHED.

SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 22. *Supplementary Application.* – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

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

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

SEC. 25. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

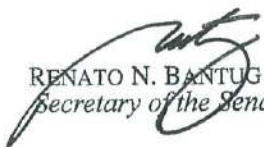


FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
President of the Senate



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

This Act, which originated in the House of Representatives, was passed by the House of Representatives on July 30, 2024, amended by the Senate of the Philippines on June 9, 2025, and which amendment was concurred in by the House of Representatives on June 10, 2025.



RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Secretary of the Senate



REGINALD S. VELASCO
*Secretary General
House of Representatives*

Approved:

SEP 15 2025

~~Lapsed into law on~~
without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27 (1) of the Constitution.

FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.
President of the Philippines

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