

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1446



Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

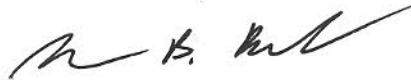
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide a unified, systematized, standardized and cost-efficient system of accrediting private and public schools in the country. Such system will avoid confusion, save a lot of time and money, enable our schools to focus on their primary role to teach and eliminate corruption in the accreditation process.

Accreditation of schools covering the programs, courses, curriculum, faculty and facilities has always been a part of the Philippine educational system. Purportedly, the main objective of which is to raise the standards and quality of education in both the private and public sectors.

At present, we have different standards and systems for school accreditation both at the program and institutional levels. Thus, we have on one hand, the presence of accreditation bodies for private schools such as the Philippine Association of Accrediting Agencies of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), and the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities Accrediting Association, Inc. (ACSCU-AAI). On the other hand, for public schools, there are the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), and the Association of Local Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (ALCUCOA). For vocational schools, there is also the Technical Vocational Education Accrediting Agency of the Philippines (TVEAAP). All these various accrediting bodies fall under an umbrella organization, the Federation of Accrediting Agency of the Philippines (FAAP). Just recently, the Commission

on Higher Education (CHED) even encouraged academic institutions including state colleges and universities (SUCs) to undergo the international standard for organization (ISO) accreditation



ATTY. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.

Representative

1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
SYSTEMATIZING, STANDARDIZING AND UNIFYING THE
SCHOOL ACCREDITATION PROCESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Unified School Accreditation Act of 2016.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes the crucial role of private and public schools in developing the most important resource of the country—its people. Undoubtedly, the quality of Philippine education needs to be raised to a level of excellence and global competitiveness.

SEC. 3. *Scope.* This Act shall cover all accrediting bodies for schools and academic programs at all levels in both the public and private sectors.

SEC. 4. *Procedure.* The Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall convene an Accreditation Committee that shall study, formulate and recommend a set of guidelines and procedures for the implementation of a unified system of school accreditation in the country that will enable the schools to meet excellent and globally competitive academic standards at a cost-efficient manner, avoiding redundant and irrelevant accreditation requirements and procedures.

SEC. 5. *Transition.* Once the unified school accreditation system has been adopted for implementation by the DepEd, CHED and TESDA, all schools shall be given a mandatory five (5) year compliance period to fully comply with the minimum requirements under the unified school accreditation guidelines.

SEC. 6. *Rules and Regulations.* Additional rules and regulations which will further the purpose of this Act may be determined or formulated by the DepEd, CHED and TESDA in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.