



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **0633**

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA

AN ACT
CREATING A HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE
TO BE KNOWN AS THE ANTIQUE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art is an important pillar in nation building. Through its different forms, the arts provide continuous development of the roles of talented and passionate individuals in the preservation and promotion of Filipino artistic and cultural traditions. According to the former Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Professor Felipe de Leon, Jr., the development of art allows people to express themselves and to strengthen their cultural energy, a motivation to work and engage meaningfully in social interactions.

The province of Antique is rich in culture and traditions evident in the existence and usage of the *Kinaray-a* language, the long-preserved performing arts of *Komedya*, the traditional practices of the indigenous peoples like the *Atis* and the Iraynon Bukidnon, among others. The different facets of life in the province of Antique are also depicted in the colorful weaves of their *patadyong*, sculptures and pottery, are

described in their songs, poems and stories, and are showcased in their dances and performances.

Unbeknownst to many, there are numerous Antiqueños who excelled in the various fields of the arts. For literary arts, Professor Alicia P. Magos, anthropologist and professor emerita of the University of the Philippines, greatly contributed in the development of the *Kinaray-a* literature through her numerous publications on *suigidanons* (epics) and the *ma-aram* (babaylan) tradition in Antique. She was a UNESCO International Literary Research Awardee and a Metrobank Outstanding Teacher in 1999.

For visual arts, two notable artists hailed from Antique: the 1999 National Artist for visual Arts Jeremias Elizalde Navarro and Edsel Moscoso, also one of the 1975 Outstanding Young Artists of the Art Association of the Philippines. They both came from San Jose de Buenavista, the capital town of Antique. Three of Navarro's major mixed media works were: *I'm Sorry Jesus, I Can't Attend Christmas This Year* (1965), his *Homage to Dodje Laurel* (1969: Ateneo Art Gallery collection), and *A Flying Contraption for Mr. Icarus* (1984: Lopez Museum). On the other hand, Moscoso's paintings depicted his observations of the daily rural life, of fisherfolk, farmers and women, and were described by National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin as "manscapes".

Filipinos are born natural artists. The art reflects the heart of our nation and frames the character of our people. It is high time for the national government to give due importance to the arts as they serve as an integral part of our youth's development and cultural awareness. Specifically, in order to cultivate the skills of young Antiqueño artists and leaders in the preservation of their heritage and identity through arts and culture education, this bill mandates the creation of the Antique High School for the

Arts. The School will be administered by the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the NCCA and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Given the above, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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**CREATING A HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the declared policy of the
2 State to promote the sustained development of young Filipinos whose aptitude and
3 skills in culture and the arts shall be encouraged and honed through education and
4 specialized training programs. Toward this end, the State shall establish, maintain,
5 and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education and training
6 that will cater to the development of artistic talent and cultural aptitude of the Filipino
7 youth as well as support and promote the growth of young artists nationwide.

8 **SEC. 2. Creation of the Antique High School for the Arts.** – There is hereby
9 created a high school for the arts in the Province of Antique to be known as the
10 “Antique High School for the Arts”, hereinafter referred as the “School”.

11 The School shall be administered and supervised by the Department of
12 Education (DepEd), in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the
13 Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

SEC. 3. Mandate. – The School shall implement a general secondary curriculum prescribed by the Republic Act No. 10533, or the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”, with a special focus on the arts that shall aid in recognizing early the talent and exceptional giftedness of young children, and thereby ensuring the nurturance of artists of excellence and the preservation and promotion of Filipino heritage.

SEC. 4. Advisory Board. – The School shall have an Advisory Board, composed of the following members:

- 9 (a) the Regional Director of the DepEd in Region VI as Chairperson;

10 (b) the School Director as Vice-Chairperson;

11 (c) a representative of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts

12 (NCCA);

13 (d) a representative of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP);

14 (e) the Governor of the Province of Antique;

15 (f) the Schools Division Superintendent of the Schools Division of Antique;

16 (g) a representative of the members of the school faculty; and,

17 (h) four (4) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished

18 themselves in their professions or fields of specialization, specifically music,

19 theatre, dance, visual arts, performance arts and the like, to be appointed

20 by the Chairperson upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board.

21 The faculty representatives shall serve for a term of two (2) years to be chosen
22 in accordance with the rules and qualification set by the faculty members of the School.

23 The four (4) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of three (3) years to be

1 selected by the Board from a list of at least seven (7) qualified nominees from Region

2 VI. The private sector representatives may be reappointed.

3 A Search Committee to be constituted by the School Director with the approval

4 of the Chairperson of the Advisory Board shall be created to select the nominees

5 based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position.

6 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the Advisory Board.** – To accomplish the

7 mandate of the School, the Advisory Board shall advise the School Director on the

8 following:

9 (a) Formulation of policies, rules and regulation as may be necessary for the
10 administration and operation of the School;

11 (b) Preparation of school budget and appropriation of all sums received as may
12 be specified by law for the support of the School;

13 (c) Receiving in trust of legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal
14 property of all kinds, and administration of the same for the benefit of the
15 School, subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if
16 any;

17 (d) Fixing of the site and location of the School, acquire property on its behalf,
18 and cause the construction or repair of its buildings, equipment and other
19 facilities when necessary;

20 (e) Approval of the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline
21 drawn by the Offices of the Deputy Directors for Administration and
22 Academic Affairs, hereby created under Section 7 of this Act;

23 (f) Establishment of criteria for the selection, admission and graduation of
24 students which shall include a competitive examination, and approval of the
25 issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;

- 1 (g) Development of strategies to increase the enrollment rate and preparation
2 of purposive campaigns to enhance the competence of the School and its
3 students;
- 4 (h) Approval of the grant of stipend and such other allowances for qualified and
5 deserving students;
- 6 (i) Formulation of qualification standards for the hiring, promotion, retention, or
7 renewal of appointment, and the grounds for removal of faculty members,
8 lecturers, other officials and employees of the School;
- 9 (j) Granting the members of the faculty and staff leaves of absence subject to
10 applicable rules and regulations, and provisions of fellowship grants when
11 available;
- 12 (k) Development of consortia and other economic linkages with local
13 government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private,
14 local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the
15 School;
- 16 (l) Adoption of modern communications technology and other innovative
17 modes of knowledge and information exchange;
- 18 (m) Importation of duty-free books and/or publications, upon certification by the
19 DepEd that such imported books and/or publications are for economic,
20 technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural
21 purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs
22 Code, as amended; and,
- 23 (n) Delegation of any of the powers and duties of the School Director to other
24 officials of the School as may be deemed appropriate, so as to expedite the
25 administration of the affairs of the School.
- 26 **SEC. 6. Meetings.** – The Advisory Board shall convene at least once every

1 quarter. However, the Chairperson of the Board, upon issuance of a written notice
2 three (3) days prior to a schedule, may call a maximum of two (2) meetings in a quarter
3 whenever necessary.

4 A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office
5 at the time of the meeting; *Provided*, That the Chairperson of the Board and the School
6 Director shall be among those present in the meeting.

7 In the absence of the Chairperson of the Board, a duly authorized
8 representative may attend with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member:
9 *Provided*, That during such meeting, the School Director, as Vice-Chairperson, shall
10 be the presiding officer.

11 The members of the Advisory Board shall not receive any salary but shall be
12 entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their
13 attendance to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business
14 authorized by the DepEd Regional Director, in case of the other Board members, and
15 by the appropriate DepEd official, in case of the Chairperson of the Board, subject to
16 existing laws and regulations.

17 **SEC. 7. School Director.** – There shall be a School Director who shall serve as
18 the chief academic officer, head of the school faculty and the chief executive officer of
19 the School. The functions, powers and duties, in addition to those specifically
20 described in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the principal of
21 any high school in the Philippine education system, and those which are related or
22 necessary to the School Director's functions.

23 The School Director shall coordinate the implementation of policies and
24 guidelines with the Advisory Board, and shall articulate to the Board all concerns of
25 the School. The School Director shall be appointed by the DepEd Regional Director,

1 subject to the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and
2 regulations, upon recommendation of a duly constituted Search Committee.

3 A Search Committee shall be constituted by the DepEd Regional Director in
4 consultation with the representatives of NCCA, the CCP, and the Provincial Governor
5 of Antique to select the School Director. It shall be formed immediately upon the
6 approval of the implementing rules and regulations mandated in Section 20 of this Act,
7 and shall reconvene again within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of
8 the School Director.

9 In case of vacancy in the Office of the School Director by reason of death,
10 compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity to perform
11 functions of the office, the DepEd Regional Director shall designate an officer-in-
12 charge of the School within one (1) month from the date of vacancy, pending the
13 selection and appointment of a new School Director.

14 The duly appointed successor shall have a fresh term of five (5) years and shall
15 be eligible for reappointment.

16 The salary of the School Director shall be in accordance with the Revised
17 Compensation and Position Classification System, and shall be comparable to that
18 being received by any principal of a public high school.

19 The School Director shall be assisted by a Deputy Director for Student and
20 Academic Affairs and a Deputy Director for Administration, who shall both be
21 appointed by the DepEd Regional Director from a list of nominees to be submitted by
22 the School Director. The salaries of the Deputy Directors shall likewise be in
23 accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, and
24 shall also be comparable to that being received by officers of the same level of similar
25 educational institutions.

1 **SEC. 8. Deputy Director for Student and Academic Affairs.** – There shall be a
2 Deputy Director for Student and Academic Affairs and shall have the power to review
3 and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the School, subject
4 to the approval of the School Director. The Director for Student and Academic Affairs
5 shall likewise have disciplinary power over students of the School, and shall formulate
6 academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of
7 the School Director.

8 The Director for Student and Academic Affairs shall work in consultation with
9 the school department heads and other ranking faculty members in developing the
10 curricular offerings and rules of discipline.

11 **SEC. 9. Deputy Director for Administration.** – There shall be Deputy Director
12 for Administration who shall assist the School Director and the Advisory Board on
13 policies governing the administration, financial management and development
14 planning of the School.

15 **SEC. 10. Admissions Council.** – There shall be an Admissions Council
16 consisting of the School Director, the Deputy Directors for Student and Academic
17 Affairs and for Administration, the heads of each faculty department, and such other
18 ranking faculty member or official of the School as may be determined by the School
19 Director. The Council shall have the power to screen and select the students to be
20 admitted to the School, and to select the students who shall be recipients of stipends
21 and other allowances, in accordance with existing policies and guidelines.

22 The Admissions Council shall propose to the Advisory Board financial
23 assistance schemes and other affirmative programs to assist underprivileged students
24 who qualify for admissions to the school.

25 No students shall be denied admission to the School by reason of gender,

1 religion, cultural or community affiliation, or ethnic origin.

2 **SEC. 11. Position Structure and Staffing Patterns.** – The position structure and
3 staffing pattern of the School shall be prescribed by the DepEd upon the
4 recommendation of the School Director, subject to the approval of the Department of
5 Budget and Management, based on existing rules and regulations.

6 **SEC. 12. Civil Service Coverage.** – Except for visiting professors and other arts
7 instructors engaged by the School, all faculty members and personnel of the School
8 shall be covered by all civil service rules and regulations.

9 **SEC. 13. Faculty.** – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or community
10 affiliation, ethnic origin, and religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry
11 in the appointment of faculty members of the School: Provided, That the appointment
12 of faculty shall be subject to the guidelines and qualification standards set by the
13 School Director upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board: Provided further,
14 That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or
15 religious sector.

16 **SEC. 14. School Fund.** – All government appropriations for and other income
17 generated by the School, as well as all legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments,
18 contributions and other similar transfers of real and personal properties of all kinds
19 received by the School, shall constitute the School Fund. The School Funds shall be
20 expended or used by or with authority from the School Director upon the
21 recommendation of the Advisory Board.

22 If, for reasons beyond its control, the School shall not be able to pursue any
23 project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved
24 program of expenditures, the School Director, upon the recommendation of the
25 Advisory Board, may authorize use of said funds for any other reasonable purpose

1 which, in his/her discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the
2 objectives and goals of the School.

3 **SEC. 15. Authority to Solicit, Receive Donations, Grants and the Like.** – Upon
4 the recommendation of the Advisory Board, the School Director may solicit, negotiate
5 with, and receive in trust form any public or private domestic or foreign sources
6 legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or other transfers of
7 ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of all kinds in favor and for
8 the benefit of the School: Provided, That, the School Director shall, upon
9 recommendation by the Advisory Board and in accordance with pertinent accounting
10 and auditing laws, rules and regulations, prescribe the measures necessary for the
11 proper use, maintenance and safekeeping of said donations, grants, endowments,
12 contributions or transfers and the compliance of terms and conditions therewith, if any.

13 **SEC. 16. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of Education shall immediately
14 include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the Antique High
15 School for the Arts, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
16 Appropriations Act.

17 The LGUs concerned may likewise provide financial assistance to the School.

18 **SEC. 17. Development Plan, Organizational Structure.** – Within the period of
19 one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, and the approval of its
20 implementing rules and regulations, the School shall accomplish the following:

- 21 (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding
22 program budget to the DepEd, for subsequent recommendation to the DBM;
23 and,
- 24 (b) Set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure,
25 including the appointment of the school officials, subject to the qualifications

1 set forth in this Act.

2 **SEC. 18. Filing of Report.** – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second
3 month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the School Director shall
4 file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Secretary of
5 DepEd, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress,
6 conditions, and needs of the School.

7 **SEC. 19. Suppletory Application.** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 9155,
8 otherwise known as the “Governance of the Basic Education Act of 2001” shall be
9 made an integral part of this Act, and shall serve as part of the governing charter of
10 the School.

11 **SEC. 20. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred twenty
12 (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the NCCA
13 and CCP, shall issue the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this
14 Act.

15 **SEC. 21. Separability Clause** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this
16 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
17 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

18 **SEC. 22. Repealing Clause** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
19 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
20 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

21 **SEC. 23. Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon the
22 approval and publication thereof.

23 Approved .