



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2185**



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Introduced by  
**REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INTEGRATION AND MAINSTREAMING OF  
CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY'S  
NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Explanatory Note**

Our culture is our story as a nation. It is the narrative that binds Filipinos regardless of ethnicity, social class, or educational background into a common chronicle of tradition, trials, and triumph. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), there are two approaches for preserving cultural heritage. The first approach is to record it in a tangible form, documenting and putting it in archives; the other is preservation through living form to ensure that it will be passed on to the next generation as well as practiced in everyday life.

The Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs) were established in response to the latter approach with the aim of preserving and transmitting indigenous skills and techniques to the younger generation. It hopes to create and nurture the talents of cultural master to "continue with their own work, develop and expand the frontiers of that work, and train younger people to take their place in the future."

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has successfully instituted and managed the growth of SLTs. The number of SLTs across the country among different ethno-linguistic groups since it has been established has grown in number. The mode of teaching of SLTs is usually non-formal, oral and through practical demonstrations.

The establishment of SLTs shows that the government has already taken concrete steps to address the need to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the country. What the country needs, however, is a major leap in making sure the country's unique and diverse cultural heritage will flourish.

This bill provides that the country's key educational agencies – the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), collaborate and work with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in formulating

and implementing plans and programs that will integrate and mainstream Philippine arts and culture in the national education system.

The Cultural Education Program Act of 2019 led by the NCCA-DepEd-CHED- TESDA Cultural Education Program Committee (NDCEPC) will have five major components – (a) develop and implement an enhanced Special Program for the Arts (SPA); (b) mainstream Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Skills and Practices through the institutionalization of SLTs model in the formal education system; (c) support K to 12 Programs of DepEd especially on heritage culture and the arts through training teachers, resource materials, and creation of specialized jobs for graduates; (d) institutionalize the training of students and teachers on arts and culture for both in-service and degree programs under the NCCA Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP) in line with Article X of Section 38 of R.A. 10066 or the Cultural Heritage Law; and (e) to execute cultural enrichment activities.

For the above-cited rationale, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.



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

1 **SECTION 1.** Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Cultural Education  
2 Program Act of 2019.”

3 **SECTION 2.** Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 foster the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national  
5 culture based on the principle of unity in diversity. Recognizing that culture as a  
6 human right shall be accorded with respect, the State shall foster an environment  
7 which allows the evolution and development of a Filipino national culture developed  
8 by the people themselves in a climate of freedom and responsibility.

9 **SECTION 3.** Cultural Education Program (CEP). – The National Commission for  
10 Culture and the Arts (NCCA), together with the Department of Education (DepEd) for  
11 basic education, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for state universities  
12 and colleges, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
13 (TESDA) for technical-vocational schools, shall establish a strong collaboration for  
14 the formulation and implementation of plans and programs for the integration and  
15 mainstreaming of Philippine arts and culture in the educational system.

SECTION 4. Components of the CEP. – The CEP shall have the following components:

- a. Develop and implement an enhanced Special Program for the Arts (SPA) curriculum with production and instructional resource materials;
- b. Mainstream Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Skills and Practices (IKSSP) through the institutionalization of an appropriate “School for Living Tradition (SLTs)” model in the formal education system;
- c. Support the K to 12 Program of DepEd (both in the formal and informal systems), particularly the subjects on heritage, culture and the arts through teacher training, resource materials and by formulating competencies for arts-related careers;
- d. Institutionalize the training of students and teachers on arts and culture for both in-service and degree programs under the NCCA Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP) in line with Article X of Section 38 of R.A. No. 10066 or the Cultural Heritage Law;
- e. Initiate the design and roll-out of culture-based technical and vocational courses; and
- f. Cultural enrichment activities for students, teachers, and education administrators in the formal and non-formal systems.

SECTION 5. The NCCA-DepEd-CHED-TESDA Cultural Education Program Committee. – Comprising of seven (7) members, seven (7) assigned by or organic with the NCCA, two (2) from DepEd, two (2) from CHED and two (2) from TESDA, the NCCA-DepEd-CHED, TESDA Cultural Education Program Committee (NDCTCEPC) shall be in charge of ensuring that the NCCA, DepEd, CHED, and the TESDA, fully implement and operationalize the components of the Cultural Education Program.



1 The NCCA-DepEd-CHED-TESDA Cultural Education Program Committee  
2 (NDCEPC) shall be composed of the NCCA Plan/Policy Formulation and  
3 Programming Division (PPFPD) or its successors in interest shall be the Secretariat.

4 SECTION 6. Appropriations. The amount needed for the implementation of this Act  
5 shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DepEd, NCCA,  
6 CHED and TESDA for the purpose. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for  
7 the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
8 Appropriations Act (GAA).

9 In addition, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation shall contribute an  
10 amount of Five hundred mullion pesos (P500,000,000.00) per year for five (5) years  
11 from its gross income to fund the establishment of a trust fund supporting the various  
12 projects under NDCEPC.

13 SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The NDCEPC in consultation  
14 with appropriate government agencies and nongovernment organizations, shall  
15 formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after  
16 the effectivity of this Act.

17 SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any provision or part of this Act is declared  
18 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain  
19 in full force and effect.

20 SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
21 rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are  
22 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

23 SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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26 *Approved,*