

Republic of the Philippines
House of the Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1281



Introduced by: Congressman Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the conversion of the Marinduque State College (MSC) including its Satellite Campuses in the Province of Marinduque into a State University to be known as the Marinduque State University (MSU).

As a state institution of learning, Marinduque State College beginning and development could be traced to a number of legislation that catapulted MSC to its present status as a premier college in the province and in the region – as manifested by its impressive performance in instruction, research and extension and production.

MSC was founded on June 21, 1952 when House Bill No. 2743 authored by then Congressman Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque was signed into law as Republic Act 805 by President Elpidio Quirino.

Since its establishment, MSC continues to develop as an institution of higher learning. It revolutionize its methodologies and strategies to live up to its mission of providing quality, responsive and dynamic leadership in the areas of Education, Technology, Engineering, Fisheries, Culture, Arts, Arts and Sciences to empower God-fearing individuals who are innovators and protectors for the sustainable development of the province and the country as a whole vis-a-vis its vision of achieving the status of being a premier college in the Region along the fields of Instruction, Research, Extension and Production.

At present, Marinduque State College in its 25th Anniversary as a State College is progressing rapidly toward the attainment of its Universityhood. Courses in Engineering, Allied Medicine, Entrepreneurship, Communication and Tourism, and Information Technology are offered in addition to the Industrial Technology and Teacher Education. As an evidence of the high quality of education, its graduates attained the 7th place in Civil Engineering Board Examination, 8th Place in Agriculturist Licensure Examination and 8th Place in Electrical Engineering Board Examination this School Year while other courses obtained passing percentage higher than national passing percentage.

Given all the foregoing, it is already high time for its conversion to a University. The conversion of the MSC into a university will bring the government closer to the poor but deserving students who cannot afford private higher education in the Province of Marinduque and neighboring provinces.

Consistent with the constitutional mandate which provides that the State must establish and maintain a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the goals of national development, this bill becomes imperative.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly recommended.



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE MARINDUQUE STATE COLLEGE IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BOAC, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE INTO A STATE
UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARINDUQUE STATE UNIVERSITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Conversion.* – The Marinduque State College in the Municipality of Boac, Province of Marinduque is hereby converted into a state university to be known as the Marinduque State University (MarSU), hereinafter referred to as the University integrating therewith the satellite campuses of Sta. Cruz, Gasan and Torrijos. The main campus of the University shall be in the Municipality of Boac.

SECTION 2. *General Mandate.* – The University shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological and professional instruction and training in education, science and technology, engineering, environment, agriculture, fisheries, arts and sciences, administration, business and management, health sciences and other relevant fields of study. It shall also undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SECTION 3. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* – The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 4. *Curricular Offerings.* – The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of education, science and technology, engineering, environment, agriculture, fisheries, arts and sciences, business administration and management, health sciences and other degrees/courses within the University's areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly to meet the needs of the Province of Marinduque and Region IV-B.

The existing high school shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Education (DepED); Provided, that the high school shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the College until the existing students shall have completed their high school education: Provided, further, that the college may operate reasonably-sized laboratory school under its College of Education: Provided, furthermore, that the existing graduate school shall become an integral part of the College of Education.

SECTION 5. *Administration.* – The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68 as amended, otherwise known as the “Corporation Code of the Philippines”. The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

SECTION 6. *The Governing Board.* – The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairperson;
- (b) The President of the University, Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;
- (e) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;
- (f) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), member;
- (g) The President of the Federation of faculty associations of the University, member;
- (h) The President of the federation of student councils of the University, member;
- (i) The president of the federation of alumni associations of the University, member;
- (j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization, as members.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Marinduque, whose nominations were submitted to the Board after publication of at least two (2) consecutive weeks, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

SECTION 7. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.* – The Board 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 existing laws:

- (a) To promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies and provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the policies standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;
- (b) To promulgate rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- (c) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- (d) To import economic, technical and cultural books and/or publications;
- (e) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any.
- (f) To fix, the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors. Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the University: Provided, that all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which these are collected.

If, for reasons beyond its control, the University shall 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 funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

- (g) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;
- (h) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;
- (i) To appoint upon recommendation of the President of the University, Vice-Presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the University;
- (j) To fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws including those governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absences under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;
- (k) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;
- (l) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;
- (m) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, agriculture or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University; and to authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;
- (n) To establish and absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Marinduque as branches or centers in coordination with the CHED, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;
- (o) To establish research and extension centers of the University where such will promote the development of the latter;
- (p) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

- (q) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the President and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;
- (r) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA); and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;
- (s) To collaborate with other governing boards of state colleges and universities within the Province of Marinduque or Region IV-B, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and work towards restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;
- (t) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the University;
- (u) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;
- (v) To develop academic arrangement for institutional capability with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time or visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;
- (w) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge, such as the use of information technology, the dual learning system, open learning or distance education and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to education;
- (x) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;
- (y) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, management of non-academic services such as health, food building or grounds or property maintenance and such other similar activities; and
- (z) To extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been unanimously rated by the Board as outstanding based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

SECTION 8. *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly convene once every three (3) months. Whenever necessary, the Chairperson of the board may call, upon three (3) days' prior written notice, a maximum of two (2) special meetings within the same period.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the time of meeting: *Provided, however,* that the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting. *Provided, however,* that the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting. If the Chairperson of the CHED is unable to attend, a Commissioner may be designated as representative to the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member. *Provided, however,* that during this meeting, the President of the University as Vice-Chairperson shall be the Presiding Officer: *Provided, further,* That this *proviso* notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chair of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as presiding officer.

In case the Chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 9. *The University President* – The University shall be headed by a President, who shall render full-time service. He/She shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The University President shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent president of the Marinduque State College, shall serve as the first President of the University.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency (SCP).

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause of incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Office-in-Charge of the University within six (6) months from date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new President. The successor of the Officer-In-Charge shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the President of similar universities, and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System, as modified by Joint Resolution No.4 dated June 17, 2009 and other pertinent budget and compensation laws, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions.

The President of the University shall be assisted by the Vice-President/s, who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President.

SECTION 10. *Heads of the University Campuses.* – Campus Directors shall head the university campuses and they shall render full-time service. They shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the search committee and the President of the University, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That the incumbent College Administrators of the extension campuses, if qualified, shall serve as the respective Campus Directors.

SECTION 11. *The Secretary of the University.* – The board shall appoint a Secretary, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. The Secretary shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of Board meetings

SECTION 12. *The Treasurer of the University.* – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex officio Treasurer of the University.

SECTION 13. *The Administrative Council.* – There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the University as Chairperson, Vice-Presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the University.

SECTION 14. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council to be composed of the President of the University, who shall act as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least assistant professor, as members.

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

SECTION 15. *The Faculty.* – No political beliefs, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, and religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the University; *Provided*, That said appointment shall be

subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: *Provided further*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SECTION 16. *Scholarship Program/Admission*. – The University shall provide a scholarship program and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the University.

No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of sex, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

SECTION 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus/Equipment/Supplies and Detail of Personnel*. – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University and to detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service. The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

SECTION 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel*. – All assets, real and personal, personnel and records of the Marinduque State College, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the University. The positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the conversion into a University shall be respected.

All parcels of land belonging to the government and occupied by the Marinduque State College are hereby declared to be the property of the University, and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert to the LGUs concerned.

SECTION 19. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations*. – The importation of economic, technical and cultural books or publications, which are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes made by the University upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended.

Donations in any form to the University shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 20. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Marinduque State College. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Marinduque State University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 21. *Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational/Administrative/Academic Structure.* – Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

- (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED, for corresponding recommendations to the DBM;
- (b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with CHED; and
- (c) Set up its organizational, administrative, as well as academic structure, including the appointment of the key officials of the University.

SECTION 22. *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd) month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the Chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, and needs of the University.

SECTION 23. *Supplementary Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292 otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the University.

SECTION 24. *Parity Clause.* – All other powers, functions and privileges, responsibilities and limitations to state universities and/or their officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the University and/or its officials whenever appropriate.

SECTION 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board, in consultation with CHED, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 26. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reasons, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 27. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive order, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 28. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,