

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Batasan Hills, Quezon City

4
5 **EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

6 First Regular Session

7 House Bill No. **1584**



10
11
12 Introduced by
13 **HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**
14 and
15 **HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
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21 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
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23 This bill seeks the conversion of the University of the Philippines Visayas
24 Tacloban College (UPVTC) into an autonomous constituent university within
25 the UP system, to be known as UP Tacloban.

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27 The University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College is presently
28 a regional unit of the University of the Philippines Visayas, which is one of the
29 constituent universities of the University of the Philippines System. It was
30 established on May 23, 1973 during the 823rd meeting of the UP Board of
31 Regents then headed by UP President Salvador P. Lopez, upon the request of
32 the Provincial Government of Leyte led by Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez.

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34 At present, UP Tacloban has seven undergraduate programs and one
35 graduate program offered by four divisions: Division of Humanities, Division of
36 Management, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Division
37 of Social Sciences.

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39 UP Tacloban was established as an answer to the urgent need for quality
40 education in Eastern Visayas, with particular emphasis on science, humanities
41 and agriculture. Through the years, the UP community in Tacloban has
42 contributed significantly in the social and economic development of the region,
43 with many of its graduates occupying key leadership positions in the academe,
44 business organizations, government and civil society.

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46 The institutional growth of UP Tacloban, however, has been limited
47 owing to a relationship of dependency with its current mother unit, UP Visayas.
48 It operates at a distance from the mother unit, and with a limited budget. It
49 continues to face significant challenges in terms of the infrastructure and other

1 resources needed to deliver its mandate. Nevertheless, these limitations, UP
2 Tacloban is able to perform well and clearly has the potential to perform even
3 better. For UP Tacloban to better serves the needs not only of its faculty and
4 students, but that of the wider region, a grant of autonomy is urgently required.
5

6 The grant of autonomy, and the conversion of UP Tacloban into a
7 constituent university within the UP system will strengthen UP Tacloban's
8 capability to create and apply new knowledge through teaching, research,
9 extension and to develop minds that will not only invent new products and
10 technologies but innovate and improve existing ones as well as shape leaders
11 with the moral character to ensure a just and sustainable future.
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13 In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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20 **Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**
21 Representative, Tingog Sinirangan
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28 **Rep. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
29 Representative, First District of Leyte
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21 **AN ACT SEEKING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE**
22 **PHILIPPINES VISAYAS TACLOBAN COLLEGE AS AN AUTONOMOUS**
23 **CONSTITUENT UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE**
24 **PHILIPPINES SYSTEM TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE**
25 **PHILIPPINES TACLOBAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND**
26 **FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
27

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29 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of the Representatives of the*
30 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
31

32 **Section 1.** - This Act shall be known as the "University of the Philippines
33 Tacloban Act of 2019".
34

35 **Section 2.** Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9500,
36 otherwise known the "University of the Philippines Charter of 2008", the
37 University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College is hereby elevated into
38 an autonomous constituent university within the University of the Philippines
39 System, to be known as the University of the Philippines Tacloban, hereafter
40 referred to as UP Tacloban.
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1 **Section 3.** The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines
2 shall have the full authority to determine the instruction, research, extension
3 programs, schedule of preparatory work and initial operations, qualifications
4 and number of academic and other personnel, enrollment and other matters
5 related to the administration and operation of UP Tacloban.

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7 **Section 4.** The University of the Philippines Tacloban shall offer
8 graduate and undergraduate courses with the areas of specialization and
9 according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents of the University of the
10 Philippines may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in order
11 to realize its mandate and meet the needs of the region. UP Tacloban is also
12 mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide
13 progressive leadership in these areas.

14
15 **Section 5.** The University of the Philippines Tacloban shall network and
16 coordinate with other state universities and colleges (SUCs) in such areas that
17 shall contribute to the development of Eastern Visayas.

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19 **Section 6.** The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines
20 shall submit a report to the President of the Philippines, Congress, and the
21 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on the actions that the University
22 has taken pursuant hereto within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

23
24 **Section 7.** The amount of three hundred million pesos (P
25 300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the current year's unappropriated
26 balance to finance the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, a
27 supplemental appropriation of one hundred million pesos (P 100,000,000.00)
28 shall be set aside annually and included in the General Appropriations Act for
29 four (4) years or until the provisions of this Act are fully implemented.

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31 Furthermore, this supplemental budget appropriated by this Act is
32 separate from and in addition to the appropriations and internal operating

1 budget that will be earmarked for UP Tacloban as a constituent unit of the
2 University of the Philippines System, as provided in the Annual Appropriations
3 Act.

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5 **Section 8.** The provisions of Republic Act No. 9500, otherwise known
6 as the "University of the Philippines Charter of 2009" shall form an integral part
7 of this Act.

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9 **Section 9.** If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or
10 invalid, other parts for provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue
11 to remain in full force and effect.

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13 **Section 10.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
14 parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
15 deemed amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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17 **Section 11.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
18 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2)
19 newspapers of general circulation.