



S E N A T E

S. No. 2974

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2836, 2859, 2866, 2874, 2901,  
and 2902, taking into consideration House Bill No. 9726)

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PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY BASIC EDUCATION JOINT WITH THE  
COMMITTEES ON HIGHER, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS LAPID,  
ESTRADA, TOLENTINO, REVILLA JR., GATCHALIAN, AND  
ZUBIRI AS AUTHORS THEREOF

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AN ACT EXPANDING THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH  
SCHOOL SYSTEM, STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE  
AND MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

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

- 1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as  
2   the “Expanded Philippine Science High School (PSHS)  
3   System Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote science and technology (S&T), research and development, invention, innovation, and utilization. The State recognizes the need to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, training, and services, and support appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to increase productivity and enhance the quality of life for everyone. Towards this end, the State hereby establishes a PSHS System that will assume a leadership role in secondary STEM education.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act aims to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Establish strategically accessible PSHS campuses that provide, on scholarship basis, secondary education programs with special emphasis on STEM for students with exceptional aptitude or who are gifted in science and mathematics;

(b) Increase the pool of high school graduates who will pursue undergraduate courses in STEM, undertake research and development, or pursue careers in S&T;

(c) Consolidate existing and future campuses under a unified system of governance and management to ensure consistent quality standards and efficient operations; and

(d) Support the holistic development of scholars, faculty, and staff by facilitating and encouraging participation in international collaborations, local and international competitions, academic symposia, research projects, and other similar activities.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Administrative Regions* refer to the administrative regions where the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) holds regional offices.

(b) *Qualified Students* refer to those qualified for admission through the PSHS National Competitive Examination or similar other admission process approved by the Board, such as, but not limited to, the Lateral

Admission Qualifying Examination (LAQE), and Requirement for Admission, Criteria, and Evaluation (RACE).

SEC. 5. *Expansion of the PSHS.* – There shall be established a PSHS System under the administrative supervision of the DOST to be composed of at least two (2) PSHS campuses in each administrative region of the country: *Provided*, That PSHS campuses within the same region shall not be situated in the same province, or in the same city in the case of the National Capital Region: *Provided, further*, That the establishment of additional campuses shall be subject to a comprehensive review based on need, demand, and other criteria as determined by the Board.

The PSHS System shall offer, on scholarship basis, secondary education to qualified students.

SEC. 6. *PSHS System Campuses.* – The PSHS System shall be composed of the existing PSHS campuses herein mentioned and future campuses which shall be established

under this Act. The existing sixteen (16) campuses shall be known as follows:

(a) Philippine Science High School – Main Campus in Diliman, Quezon City;

(b) Philippine Science High School – Cordillera Administrative Region Campus in Baguio City, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cordillera Administrative Region Campus;

(c) Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus in Ilocos Sur, formerly Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus;

(d) Philippine Science High School – Cagayan Valley Campus in Nueva Vizcaya, formerly Philippine Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus;

(e) Philippine Science High School – Central Luzon Campus in Clark Freeport Zone, formerly Philippine Science High School - Central Luzon Campus;

(f) Philippine Science High School – CALABARZON Region Campus in Batangas City, formerly

Philippine Science High School – CALABARZON Region  
Campus;

(g) Philippine Science High School – MIMAROPA  
Region Campus in Romblon, formerly Philippine Science  
High School - MIMAROPA Region Campus;

(h) Philippine Science High School – Bicol Region  
Campus in Camarines Sur, formerly Philippine Science  
High School - Bicol Region Campus;

(i) Philippine Science High School – Western  
Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, formerly Philippine Science  
High School - Western Visayas Campus;

(j) Philippine Science High School – Central  
Visayas Campus in Cebu, formerly Philippine Science High  
School - Central Visayas Campus;

(k) Philippine Science High School – Eastern  
Visayas Campus in Leyte, formerly Philippine Science  
High School – Eastern Visayas Campus;

(l) Philippine Science High School – Zamboanga  
Peninsula Region Campus in Dipolog City, formerly

Philippine Science High School – Zamboanga Peninsula  
Region Campus;

(m) Philippine Science High School – Northern  
Mindanao Campus in Lanao del Norte, formerly Philippine  
Science High School – Central Mindanao Campus;

(n) Philippine Science High School – Davao Region  
Campus in Davao City, formerly Philippine Science High  
School – Southern Mindanao Campus;

(o) Philippine Science High School –  
SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus in Koronadal City,  
formerly Philippine Science High School –  
SOCCSKSARGEN Region Campus; and

(p) Philippine Science High School – CARAGA  
Region Campus in Butuan City, formerly Philippine  
Science High School – CARAGA Region Campus.

A new Philippine Science High School campus in the  
Negros Island Region shall also be established.

SEC. 7. *PSHS Board of Trustees.* – There is hereby  
created a PSHS System Board of Trustees, herein referred

to as the Board, which shall serve as the governing body of  
all PSHS campuses.

The Board shall be composed of the following:

(a) Secretary of the DOST as Chairperson;

(b) Secretary of the Department of Education as Vice  
Chairperson;

(c) President of the University of the Philippines;

(d) Executive Director of the PSHS System;

(e) Director of Science Education Institute;

(f) President of the PSHS National Alumni  
Association;

(g) One (1) representative each from the sectors of  
higher education, education for the gifted, agriculture, new  
and emerging technologies, and industry;

(h) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and  
Technology of the Senate of the Philippines; and

(i) Chairperson of the Committee on Science and  
Technology of the House of Representatives.



1           The private sector representatives shall be  
2 appointed by the Board upon recommendation of a duly  
3 constituted search committee, and shall serve for a fixed  
4 term of four (4) years.

5           SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the PSHS Board of*  
6 *Trustees.* – The Board shall exercise the following powers  
7 and functions:

8           (a) Formulate policies, guidelines, and criteria in the  
9 establishment, administration, operation, and monitoring  
10 evaluation of PSHS campuses to ensure consistent  
11 quality standards;

12           (b) Identify additional PSHS campuses as provided  
13 under Section 5 of this Act, and the naming or renaming  
14 existing or future campuses;

15           (c) Formulate policies for the expansion of  
16 enrollment in the PSHS System;

17           (d) Approve the curriculum drawn up by the  
18 Executive Committee under Section 17 of this Act;

1           (e) Approve the criteria for the selection and  
2 admission of students;

3           (f) Approve the grant and termination of  
4 scholarships, including stipend and allowances  
5 of students;

6           (g) Approve the graduation of successful candidates  
7 from the various PSHS campuses;

8           (h) Approve policies and rules of discipline for  
9 students, faculty members, and staff;

10          (i) Approve the organizational structure and  
11 staffing pattern of the PSHS System as prepared by the  
12 Executive Director in accordance with the revised  
13 Compensation and Position Classification System,  
14 civil service laws, rules and regulations, and other  
15 relevant laws;

16          (j) Formulate policies on appointment, promotion,  
17 retention or renewal of contracts, compensation, removal  
18 for just cause, rewards, incentives, and other conditions of  
19 employment;

1           (k) Appoint the Executive Director, Deputy  
2       Executive Directors, and Campus Directors;

3           (l) Reorganize the composition of the Executive  
4       Committee;

5           (m) Approve the extension of services of faculty  
6       members over the age of sixty-five (65) up to the age of  
7       seventy (70) in accordance with Republic Act No. 8439, or  
8       the “Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers  
9       and other Science and Technology Personnel in the  
10      Government”, as amended;

11          (n) Receive and appropriate for purposes herein  
12      specified such sums as may be provided by law for the  
13      support of the PSHS System;

14          (o) Receive grants, bequests, endowments, gifts,  
15      donations, and contributions of cash and real and personal  
16      properties of all kinds, and administer the same for the  
17      benefit of the PSHS System or for aid to any of its  
18      students;

(p) Authorize the utilization of income generated by the PSHS System to support its functions, and of donations received in trust by individual campuses, in accordance with the donor's specified purpose and the intended use of the donation: *Provided*, That for income or donations not designated for a particular campus, the Board shall allocate such income or donation for the benefit of the System or any of its campuses, as it may deem appropriate;

(q) Approve partnerships and collaborations entered into by the PSHS System and its campuses with local and international institutions; and

(r) Perform such other functions as may be required under this Act.

SEC. 9. *Executive Director.* – The PSHS System shall be headed by an Executive Director, with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over all campuses and

1 coordinate the implementation of policies and guidelines  
2 set by the Board.

3       The Executive Director shall be appointed by the  
4 Board for a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed  
5 for another term of six (6) years in accordance with the  
6 guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing  
7 rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act, preferably with a  
8 doctoral degree in the field of STEM, and substantial  
9 experience in managing an educational institution. In case  
10 a vacancy occurs before the expiration of the term of office,  
11 the appointment to such vacancy shall only be for the  
12 unexpired term, without prejudice to reappointment for  
13 another term of six (6) years.

14       SEC. 10. *Roles and Functions of the Executive*  
15 *Director.* – The Executive Director shall perform the  
16 following roles and functions:

17       (a) Coordinate the implementation of Board-approved  
18 admission processes, criteria, and standards;

(b) Facilitate and coordinate curriculum planning, review and evaluation activities, and research-based development in the PSHS System;

(c) Monitor, coordinate, and evaluate research projects and initiatives in all PSHS campuses;

(d) Manage the registration of intellectual property, prototype development, and the commercialization or adoption of research outputs of students;

(e) Provide legal and technical assistance to students, faculty members, and staff of the PSHS System in line with their studies and official functions;

(f) Establish strategic linkages, and coordinate exchange and training programs with local and international partners to enhance the expertise and competencies of students, faculty members, and staff;

(g) Facilitate networking and sharing of resources, expertise, equipment, and technology across PSHS campuses with partner institutions to ensure access to

1 advanced tools and facilities that support academic and  
2 research excellence;

3 (h) Supervise the development of a system-wide  
4 outreach program to upgrade STEM education and extend  
5 support to PSHS campuses within the capabilities and  
6 resources of various science high school campuses;

7 (i) Serve as secretariat to the Board; and

8 (j) Perform such other functions as may be required  
9 under this Act.

10 SEC. 11. *Deputy Executive Directors.* – There shall be  
11 three (3) Deputy Executive Directors, with the rank of  
12 Assistant Secretary, who shall assist the Executive  
13 Director. The Deputy Executive Directors shall be  
14 appointed by the Board for a term of six (6) years and may  
15 be reappointed for another term of six (6) years in  
16 accordance with the guidelines and qualifications set forth  
17 in the IRR of this Act, preferably with a master’s degree in  
18 the field of STEM, and substantial experience in managing  
19 an educational institution. In case a vacancy occurs before

1 the expiration of the term of office, the appointment to  
2 such vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term, without  
3 prejudice to reappointment for another term of six (6)  
4 years.

5 SEC. 12. *Campus Director of the PSHS System*  
6 *Campuses.* – Each PSHS campus shall have a Campus  
7 Director who shall serve as the administrative and  
8 academic head and be responsible for day-to-day  
9 operations. The Campus Director may constitute a  
10 consultative body to act as a citizen’s arm to assess and  
11 determine the educational needs of a campus service area.

12 The Campus Director shall be appointed by the  
13 Board, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, for  
14 a term of six (6) years and may be reappointed for another  
15 term of six (6) years in accordance with the guidelines and  
16 qualifications set forth in the IRR of this Act, preferably  
17 with a master’s degree in the field of STEM, and  
18 substantial experience in managing an educational  
19 institution.



1           SEC. 13. *Organizational Structure and Staffing*

2   *Pattern.* – The Executive Director shall prepare the  
3   organizational structure and staffing pattern required for  
4   the expanded PSHS System, including additional plantilla  
5   positions, reclassification or staffing modifications, and  
6   qualifications of the PSHS System personnel in accordance  
7   with the revised compensation and position classification  
8   system, civil service laws, rules, regulations, and other  
9   relevant issuances, taking into consideration the  
10  specialized science teacher status of faculty members.

11          Upon approval of the Board, the organizational  
12  structure and staffing pattern shall be submitted to the  
13  Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for review  
14  and approval. The PSHS System shall retain its existing  
15  organizational structure and staffing pattern pending  
16  approval by the DBM.

17          SEC. 14. *Executive Committee.* – There shall be an

18  Executive Committee composed of the Executive Director  
19  as *ex officio* chairperson, the Deputy Executive Directors as

1 *ex officio* members, and the Campus Directors and such  
2 other ranking PSHS System faculty members or officials as  
3 the Board may deem necessary, as members.

4 The Executive Committee shall develop and conduct a  
5 periodic review of the PSHS System curriculum and other  
6 training programs, and exercise such other functions,  
7 powers, and duties as the Board may prescribe.

8 SEC. 15. *Restriction on the Conversion of High Schools*  
9 *into a PSHS Campus.* – The conversion and inclusion of  
10 existing high schools into the PSHS System shall not be  
11 allowed.

12 SEC. 16. *Faculty Members Qualification.* – Faculty  
13 members of the PSHS System shall be exempt from any  
14 civil service examination or regulation as a requisite to  
15 appointment. They shall be selected in accordance with  
16 such criteria as may be formulated and approved by the  
17 Board, such as, but not limited to, screening and conduct of  
18 competitive examinations.

1        SEC. 17. *Curriculum.* – There shall be a PSHS  
2        System STEM Curriculum for Grades 7 to 10, and Grades  
3        11 to 12, which shall be recognized as Junior High School,  
4        and Senior High School levels, respectively.

5        SEC. 18. *Exemption from Tax.* – All grants, bequests,  
6        endowments, gifts, donations, and contributions actually,  
7        directly, and exclusively used for educational purposes by  
8        the PSHS System shall be exempt from donor's tax and  
9        considered as allowable deductions from gross income for  
10       purposes of computing the taxable income of the donee, in  
11       accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8424 or  
12       the "National Internal Revenue Code of 1997", as  
13       amended.

14       All duties and taxes arising from the PSHS System's  
15       importation of scientific and research equipment for  
16       educational purposes shall be chargeable against the tax  
17       expenditure fund under the General Appropriations Act.

18       SEC. 19. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to  
19       carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be

1 charged against the current year's appropriations of the  
2 PSHS System. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for  
3 its continued operation shall be included in the annual  
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 20. *Transitory Provision.* – Upon the effectivity  
6 of this Act, the following incumbent key officials of the  
7 PSHS System shall acquire new terms of office:

8 (a) Non *ex officio* members of the Board under  
9 Section 7 of this Act shall assume a term of four (4) years;

10 (b) The Executive Director and Deputy Executive  
11 Directors, subject to meritorious performance and upon  
12 approval of the Board, shall assume a term of six (6) years  
13 and may be renewed for another term of six (6) years; and

14 (c) Campus Directors, subject to meritorious  
15 performance and approval of the Board, shall assume a  
16 term of six (6) years and may be renewed for another term  
17 of six (6) years.

18 SEC 21. *Fallback Position.* – At the end of two (2)  
19 consecutive terms, the Executive Director, Deputy

Executive Director, or Campus Director may opt to remain with the PSHS System and occupy the highest faculty rank.

SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board shall formulate and issue, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the necessary IRR to carry out the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 3661 or “An Act to Establish the Philippine Science High School”, and Republic Act No. 8496 as amended by Republic Act No. 9036, or the “Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act of 1997” are hereby repealed. All laws, proclamations, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

1           SEC. 25. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen  
2   (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a  
3   newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,