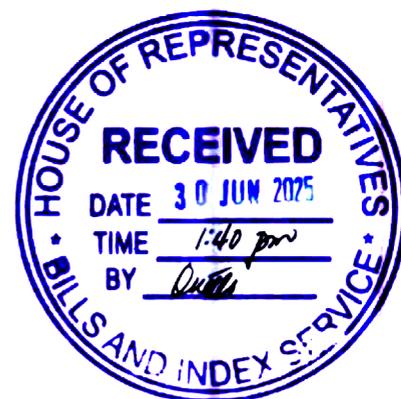




Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 378



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**Introduced by Representative JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bukidnon State University (BukSu) has established itself as an institution of excellence in healthcare education. Notably, BukSu has earned the distinction of being one of the top-performing nursing schools in the Philippines, achieving a 97.50% passing rate in the Professional Regulation Commission's November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Exam. Moreover, BukSu was recognized as the 9th Top Performing School during the May 2024 Nurses Licensure Examination, with three graduate placing among the topnotchers.

It is evident that the University has remained firm in its mandate to provide equitable, accessible, and quality education, particularly for marginalized communities in Northern Mindanao. Through the years, the University has been proactive in improving its status in the medical field and producing an increasing number of medical professionals for the country.

The establishment of a College of Medicine in BukSu is a monumental step toward advancing the study of medicine in the country, considering that it would be the first medical school in the Province of Bukidnon. Likewise, the College is envisioned as an inclusive learning environment that will enable students, especially those from Bukidnon's Indigenous People (IP) communities, to excel academically and emerge as leaders in the medical field.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a College of Medicine in Bukidnon State University - Main Campus located in Malaybalay City, Province of Bukidnon. Furthermore, said medical school shall be officially named the "Bukidnon State University — College of Medicine".

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought

**JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of Bukidnon





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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE BUKIDNON STATE  
UNIVERSITY IN MALAYBALAY CITY, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1. *Establishment.*** - There is hereby established a medical school in the Bukidnon State University located in Malaybalay City, Province of Bukidnon, which shall be known as the "Bukidnon State University-College of Medicine".

**SEC. 2. *General Mandate.*** - The Bukidnon State University (BukSU) - College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the "College", shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine Program, including an Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine Program, consisting of basic science and clinical courses, and using a learner-centered, competency-based, and community-oriented approach. The primary goal of the College shall be to develop a corps of professional physicians to strengthen the healthcare system of the country, as well as to respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Bukidnon and Northern Mindanao Region.

The College is also mandated to undertake research and extension services and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

**SEC. 3. *Governance.*** - Being an integral unit of the BukSU System, the governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the BukSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers and functions are defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9456, entitled "An Act Converting the Bukidnon State College in the City of Malaybalay, Province of Bukidnon, Into a State University, to be Known as the Bukidnon State University and Appropriating Funds Therefor", and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act.

**SEC. 4. *Administration.*** - The administration of the College shall be vested in the Dean of the College insofar as may be authorized by its Board.

**SEC. 5. *The College Dean.*** - The College shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines, qualifications, and standards, upon the recommendation of the President of the BukSU, and pursuant to the policies, standards, and guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The Dean shall render full-time service, serve a term of three (3) years, and may be reappointed to another term.

Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the President of the BukSU shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

The powers and duties of the Dean shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the President.

The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with RA No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the Deans of similar educational institutions.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the Dean by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Dean to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President, designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean: Provided, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

The Dean of the College shall be assisted by a College Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Board.

**SEC. 6. *The Faculty.*** – The Board shall, upon the recommendation of the President of the BukSU, appoint the faculty members of the College: Provided, That no political belief, sex, gender, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the College: Provided, further, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board in accordance with the policies of the CHED: Provided, finally, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular religious denomination.

**SEC. 7. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.*** – The College shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the College. Students who have availed themselves of the scholarship program under RA No. 11509, otherwise known as the "Doktor Para sa Bayan Act", shall render a return service in accordance with the said law. Students availing themselves of other nationally-funded scholarship programs to complete the medicine degree program under the College may be required to render a return service depending on the contract to be signed between the student and the College.

No student shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability, ethnic origin, or any other forms of discrimination.

**SEC. 8. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.*** – The College shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

**SEC. 9. *Loan or Transfer of Supplies, Apparatuses, or Equipment, and Detail of Personnel to the College.*** – Heads of national government agencies and instrumentalities may, upon the request of the Board through the President of the BukSU, loan or transfer of supplies, apparatuses, or equipment, and detail personnel to the College: Provided, That such loan, transfer or detail shall not be detrimental to public service.

The personnel to be detailed to the College shall perform such duties as may be deemed required by the Dean of the College and the time spent for such duties shall be counted as part of the detailed personnel's regular service.

**SEC. 10. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.*** – All appropriations, assets, both real and personal, personnel, and records of the College, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall be titled or named after the BukSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College shall be the property of the BukSU and titled under its name: Provided, That should the BukSU cease to exist or be abolished or such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the BukSU, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

**SEC. 11. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.*** - The importation by the College of medical books or publications, medical equipment or instruments which are for medical, laboratory or scientific purposes shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the College, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

**SEC. 12. *Compliance with the CHED Requirements.*** - The provisions of this Act notwithstanding, the establishment of the medical course shall become effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the recommendation of a panel of experts, which shall constitute for the purpose that the institution has complied with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the Doctor of Medicine Program: Provided, That the panel of experts may issue such a recommendation when the institution has substantially complied with the requirements provided in the aforesaid order.

**SEC. 13. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of RA No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

**SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

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

**SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*