



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2888



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

By virtue of Republic Act 9998, the North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU) was established on 22 February 2010. The NEMSU is a state university established through the amalgamation of Bukidnon External Studies Center (BESC) in Tandag City and four (4) BESC – supervised school in the municipalities of Cagwait, Tagbina, Lianga and San Miguel into one system. This development also led Surigao del Sur Institute of Technology (SSIT) in Municipality of Cantilan to join other external campuses under the umbrella of Surigao del Sur Polytechnic State College (SSPSC) further spreading the newly-established states college’s influence and services into the northern part of the province. Both campuses are located in Northern Mindanao, which offers a strategic locational advantage for the institution to train and develop students from all the other regions of Mindanao.

In order to fully realize the potential of the NEMSU, the University needs to have a College of Medicine. This will give students from CARAGA Region another high-quality medical school, especially those deserving and qualified students who do not have the financial resources to go to private medical schools.

The establishment of a College of Medicine in NEMSU will offer excellent medical education and training to prospective doctors in the region. Moreover, it will address the shortage of physicians currently prevalent in the CARAGA Region. A study reveals that there is a severe deficit in the number of practicing medical doctors in the Philippines relative to the accepted standard 1.1 doctors per 1000 population (David, Ducanes, Bacigalupo, Tengco, & Yee, 2019). As a result of this deficit, there is poorer health management for Filipinos. By providing accessible medical education, the new College of Medicine will generate a greater number of healthcare professionals who can address the healthcare needs of the local populace.

The establishment of medical schools in state universities can benefit students in many ways. It can offer affordable education to students, enhance the diversity of the student population, provide

opportunities to learn about community health challenges and deliver culturally-sensitive care to their patients. A medical school can also provide access to research opportunities, which can attract promising students to the medical school program, thereby producing more competent medical professionals that will serve their communities and beyond.

Notably, the presence of a medical school in NEMSU will create better employment opportunities and contribute to the overall development of the region. It can attract talented individuals interested in pursuing a medical career to Surigao del Sur, augmenting the province's intellectual capital. It can also promote the growth of allied healthcare industries, which can expand opportunities for other related local sectors.

In light of the benefits and considering the pressing need to address the shortage of physicians in the CARAGA Region, I respectfully request the immediate approval of this measure. By establishing a College of Medicine in NEMSU, we can provide high-quality medical education and stimulate socio-economic growth in the area, significantly contributing to the overall development of the region and the country.



ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.



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House Bill No. **2888**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE NORTH EASTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (NEMSU) MAIN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANDAG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE “NORTH EASTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY (NEMSU) – COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

Section 1. Establishment. – There is hereby established a medical school in “North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU), Main Campus in the Municipality of Tandag City, Province of Surigao del Sur as the North Eastern Mindanao State University – College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the College.

Section 2. General Mandate. – The NEMSU – College of Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the “College”, shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine Program, including the Integrated Liberal Arts and Medicine (INTARMED) Program, consisting of basic science and clinical courses, and using learner-centered and competency-based 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 Surigao del Sur and the CARAGA region.

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

Section 3. Governance. – Being an institution within the NEMSU System, the governance of the College shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the NEMSU, hereinafter referred to as the Board, whose powers are defined under Republic Act No. 9998, as amended, otherwise known as “An Act Converting the Surigao Del Sur Polytechnic State College (SSPSC) In the Province of Surigao Del Sur Into A State University To Be Known As The Surigao Del Sur State University And Appropriating Funds Therefor”, and other applicable laws and regulations, unless otherwise provided or amended elsewhere in this Act,

Section 4. Administration – The administration of the College shall be vested in the Campus Director of the NEMSU – Tandag City Campus insofar as authorized by the Board and the President of the University, through the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Section 5. The College Dean – The College faculty shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and standards, and based on the recommendation by the Personnel Selection Board chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. 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 of the effectivity of this Act, the Personnel Selection Board chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs of NEMSU-Tandag City Campus, shall constitute the Search Committee for the Deanship.

The powers and duties of the Dean of the College, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the Dean of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the Dean of the College shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or 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 a 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, upon the recommendation of the Personnel Selection Board chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the College, pending the appointment of a new Dean: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge 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.

Section 6. The Faculty – The Board shall appoint, upon the recommendation by the Personnel Selection Board chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the faculty members of the College: *Provided*, That no political belief, no gender preference, 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 standard set by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

The DBM shall allocate for the creation of plantilla positions for teaching and non-teaching faculty of the College.

Section 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.

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

Section 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.

Section 9. Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies and Detail of Personnel – Upon the recommendation of the President, as approved by the Board, the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may loan or transfer to the college such apparatus, equipment, or supplies as may be needed by it, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, the 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 Dean of the College, and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular service.

Section 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 NEMSU.

All parcels of land belonging to the government to be occupied by the College shall be the property of the NEMSU, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That should

the College cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the NEMSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

Section 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 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 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 deduction 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.

Section 12. Suppletory Application. – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

Section 13. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with the CHED, issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 15. 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.

Section 16. 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.

Section 17. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.