

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session



23 JUL 26 P1:10

SENATE
S.B. No. 2363

RECEIVED BY: _____

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE USE OF NEO-ETHNIC PHILIPPINE TEXTILES IN THE
ACADEMIC REGALIA OF ALL STATE AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) defines neo-ethnic textiles as “natural and/or indigenous materials, sourced and/or produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations by spinners, dyers, weavers and artisans.” These kinds of textiles are described as neo-ethnic because they emphasize the “fusion of modern technologies in the creation of indigenous textiles.” This means that traditional patterns and designs are preserved while these textiles pass through contemporary technologies.

Meanwhile, academic regalia is a trademark of any educational institution. It distinguishes an institution from the others; it is a mark unique to that institution. Its use is particularly common during graduations and other important scholastic events in colleges and universities.

This bill seeks to prescribe the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in academic regalia of all state and local universities and colleges in the country. Apart from an increased sense of *ownership* imparted by traditional textiles, this will boost the local economy by helping our local weavers gain additional income as well as the due recognition they truly deserve.

For the preservation of our culture and the development of our local weaving industry, consideration of this bill is earnestly sought.

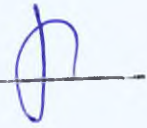

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Academic
2 Regalia Act of 2023.”

3

4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism and
5 nationalism among the youth whose academic preparation for adulthood and responsible
6 citizenship include values formation on love of country and pride in the uniqueness of
7 their cultural heritage. In this regard, opportunities for displaying these values shall be
8 encouraged by the school system not only as part of values development, but to preserve
9 Philippine culture and certain local traditions, and create avenues, such as the wearing of
10 academic regalia that is based on Filipino ethnic and traditional design to promote the
11 production of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles, boost the national effort to develop culture-
12 based industries, and in the process generate more jobs in local communities.

13 Pursuant thereto, the use of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles in the academic regalia
14 of all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) is
15 therefore prescribed.

1 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

2
3 a. *Academic Regalia* refers to the official garb worn by university officials, faculty,
4 graduates, and awardees during graduation, commencement exercises, and other
5 academic functions; and

6 b. *Neo-ethnic Philippine textiles* refer to textiles made of or containing natural or
7 indigenous materials, sourced and produced in the Philippines using updated, relevant,
8 and green, scientific, and technological approaches and innovations, while integrating
9 and retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs and approaches.

10
11 **Sec. 4. Creation of the Philippine Academic Regalia Council.** – There is hereby
12 created a Philippine Academic Regalia Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”,
13 which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on higher
14 Education and the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department
15 of Science and technology (DOST-PTRI), respectively. The Council shall have the
16 following as members:

17 a. Representative from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts
18 (NCCA);

19 b. Representative from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
20 (NCIP);

21 c. Representative from the Philippine Association of State Universities and
22 Colleges (PASUC);

23 d. Representative from the University of the Philippines (UP) System;

24 e. Representative from the Association of Local Colleges and Universities
25 (ALCU); and

26 f. Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

27
28 **Sec. 5. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – The Council shall have the following
29 powers and functions:

30 a. Formulate the National Academic Regalia Policy;

- 1 b. Review, standardize, and adopt the academic regalia for graduates,
2 administrators, faculty, and awardees of SUCs and LUCs;
3 c. Ensure sustainability, quality control, and availability of yarns, dyes, and
4 loom parts;
5 d. Propose ways to incorporate neo-ethnic textiles in the academic regalia;
6 e. Prepare and publish a handbook containing information on the academic
7 regalia and its proper use, protection trade, and management; and
8 f. Protect the intellectual property rights as regards design silhouettes, textile
9 pattern, color, and textile specification for the academic regalia.

10
11 **Sec. 6. *Mandatory Coordination with the Council.*** – Pursuant to the provisions of
12 this Act, all SUCs and LUCs shall be required to coordinate with the Council to ensure that
13 neo-ethnic Philippine textiles shall be prescribed in their academic regalia, specifically in
14 the hood, robe or gown worn by students in important occasions, such as hooding
15 ceremony or in graduation from either a bachelor’s, master’s or doctorate degree, as well
16 as the faculty and other members of the academic community, and may be incorporated
17 in the headgear (mortarboard cap or tam), mortarboard tassel, stole, and cord, among
18 others.

19
20 **Sec. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation
21 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22
23 **Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
24 effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in consultation with the DOST-PTRI, NCCA, UP
25 PASUC, ALCU, DTI and other relevant stakeholders, issue the rules and regulations for
26 the effective implementation of this Act.

27
28 **Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or part hereof be
29 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain
30 valid and effective.

1

2 **Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portions
3 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed,
4 amended, or modified accordingly.

5

6 **Sec. 11. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
7 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.