

25 JUL -7 P2:05

SENATE

S. No. 236

REC'D [unclear] 

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Introduced by **Senator Francis G. Escudero**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A TRIPARTITE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF**  
**UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, JOB-SKILLS MISMATCH AND**  
**TECHNOLOGY-INDUCED JOB DISPLACEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While the rapidly developing economic landscape provides unprecedented access to financial, logistical, and other forms of resources, the same can also give rise to many socio-economic predicaments. Rapid modernization, for instance, can affect the labor market of a country, creating problems such as unemployment and underemployment particularly among college graduates, mismatch between available jobs and skills, and technology-induced job displacement. These concerns impair the realization of inclusive economic growth and threaten the livelihood and productivity of Filipino workforce, particularly those from the younger and older generations.

To address such predicaments, and in cognizance of the wisdom behind House Bill No. 7370 which was approved on third reading by the House of Representatives last Nineteenth Congress, this bill seeks to establish a coordinating and policy-formulating tripartite council composed of representatives from the government, academe, and industry sectors. The duties and responsibilities of the tripartite council shall complement interventions of the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Inter-Agency Council, created pursuant to Republic Act No. 11962, by ensuring that graduates produced by higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions can adequately support the employment interventions identified by the latter.

Ultimately, the establishment of the tripartite council is seen to ensure that the government's efforts to educate and train its citizens would help realize the inclusive and comprehensive development of the country.

Respectfully submitted.



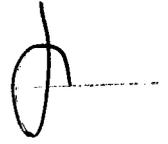
**FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**

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

1           Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared the policy of the State to reduce  
2 the levels of unemployment and underemployment, increase productivity, improve the  
3 standards of living, and reduce the vulnerability of the Filipino workforce to rapid  
4 introduction of technology and innovation through the sustained development of a  
5 skilled citizenry and maintenance of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino  
6 scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower,  
7 and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields.

8           To this end, the State shall ensure the relevance and adequacy of academic  
9 programs of higher education institutions (HEIs) and training programs offered in  
10 technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) in relation to the needs and requirements of  
11 the business and industry sectors and the overall human resource requirement of the  
12 country pursuant to its socioeconomic development goals.

13           *Sec. 2. Creation of a Tripartite Council.* – There is hereby established a Tripartite  
14 Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, that shall formulate policies and  
15 programs to address the problems of unemployment, underemployment, job-skills  
16 mismatch, and technology-induced job displacement in the country. It shall be a  
17 coordinating body among the government, academe, and industry sectors to primarily

1 monitor economic trends in the global and domestic markets, including those  
2 pertaining to business and commerce and the local labor market, and to generate  
3 information relative to employment, unemployment, underemployment, job-skills  
4 mismatch, and technology-induced job displacement. The Council shall be made up of  
5 representatives from the government, academe, and industry.

6 The government representatives shall be composed of the following: a  
7 Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); a Deputy Director-  
8 General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); an  
9 Undersecretary of the Department of Education (DepEd); an Undersecretary of the  
10 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT); an  
11 Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); an  
12 Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST); an  
13 Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); a Commissioner of  
14 the Civil Service Commission (CSC); and a Commissioner of the Professional  
15 Regulation Commission (PRC).

16 The representatives of the academe shall be composed of the presidents of the  
17 federations of public and private HEIs, public and private TVIs, and accreditation  
18 bodies of higher and technical-vocational educational institutions, which shall include  
19 the following: Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges; Association of  
20 Local Colleges and Universities; Coordinating Council of Private Educational  
21 Associations; Technical-Vocational Schools and Associations of the Philippines;  
22 National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies; and the Federation of Accrediting  
23 Agencies of the Philippines.

24 The representatives of the industry sector shall be composed of the presidents  
25 of the following business and industry federations: Philippine Chamber of Commerce  
26 and Industry; Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines; Employers Confederation of  
27 the Philippines; Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines  
28 Foundation, Incorporated; Information Technology and Business Process Association  
29 of the Philippines; Philippine Business for Education; Management Association of the  
30 Philippines; Philippine Business for Social Progress; and the People Management  
31 Association of the Philippines.

1 The Council shall be headed by a CHED Commissioner as Chairperson, and the  
2 Deputy Director-General of the TESDA shall be its Vice-Chairperson. The members of  
3 the Council, except for the ex officio members, shall receive per diem for every  
4 meeting attended in accordance with existing rules and regulations. The Council shall  
5 be attached to the CHED for administrative and budgetary purposes.

6 The CHED shall provide a secretariat to the Council to be manned by the organic  
7 personnel of the CHED and may be augmented by the employees from the member-  
8 agencies of the Council through detail or secondment.

9 For the effective performance of its functions, the Council may, upon the  
10 recommendation of the CHED and the TESDA, revise the composition of its members.

11 *Sec. 3. Powers and Functions of the Council.* – The Council shall have the  
12 following specific powers and functions:

13 a) Monitor the trends in the domestic and international labor market *vis-à-vis*  
14 the incidence of unemployment, underemployment, job-skills mismatch, and  
15 technology-induced job displacement in the country;

16 b) Formulate policies, plans and programs that shall address job-skills  
17 mismatch, unemployment, and technology-induced job displacement;

18 c) Conduct an inventory, review and evaluation of courses, academic programs  
19 and curricula of HEIs and technical education and training programs of TVIs;

20 d) Conduct an assessment of qualifications, skills and competencies of  
21 students and graduates of higher education courses and technical-vocational  
22 education and training and benchmark these with national and international standards  
23 such as the Philippine Qualifications Framework, Association of Southeast Asian  
24 Nations Qualifications Reference Framework, and other relevant frameworks and  
25 international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory.

26 e) Conduct an inventory of job specifications and skills requirement of various  
27 industries;

28 f) Recommend to the President of the Philippines, Congress, and other  
29 government institutions such policies to address the problems of unemployment,  
30 underemployment, job-skills mismatch, and technology-induced job displacement;

- 1           g) Request the assistance of government agencies in the performance of its  
2 duties and functions;  
3           h) Hold regular quarterly meetings; and  
4           i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operation  
5 to achieve the objectives of this Act.

6           *Sec. 4. Annual Report and Assessment.* - Upon effectivity of this Act, the Council  
7 shall submit an annual report to Congress on the status of employment of college  
8 students and new HEI or TVI graduates for the last five (5) years, as well as an  
9 assessment of the trends in the labor market and the skills required by various  
10 industries and business establishments.

11           *Sec. 5. Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the effective  
12 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13           *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days after the  
14 effectivity of this Act, the CHED shall, in coordination with the TESDA, DepEd, DOLE,  
15 DOST, DTI, CSC, and PRC, as well as other education stakeholders, promulgate the  
16 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

17           *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
19 remain in full force and effect.

20           *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances,  
21 and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with  
22 this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

23           *Sec. 9. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately following its  
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,