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BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO  
Bangsamoro Transition Authority  
BARMM Compound, Cotabato City

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao  
Parliament  
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION

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Second Regular Session  
Bill No. 184

Office of the Minority Leader-BTA  
MP Atty. Laisa Alamia

RELEASED

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AN ACT

**INCENTIVIZING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WITH AGRICULTURE,  
FISHERIES, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEGREE PROGRAMS IN  
THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION, ESTABLISHING THE  
BANGSAMORO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION INCENTIVE FUND, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in session assembled:*

**Section 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Bangsamoro Education Incentive Act.”

**Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Consistent with the Philippine Constitution and the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the Bangsamoro Government shall maintain and support a complete and integrated system of quality education in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, relevant and responsive to the needs, ideals, and aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. The Bangsamoro Government shall promote its exercise and observance for the continuing intellectual growth, the advancement of learning and research, the development of responsible and effective leadership, the education of high-level and middle-level professionals, and the enrichment of our historical and cultural heritage. The Bangsamoro Government, in its exercise of powers and jurisdiction over agriculture and food security, shall likewise advance agriculture as a key development strategy and promote productivity measures and full employment based on agricultural development and agrarian reform.

Pursuant to these, the Bangsamoro Government recognizes the value of education and human resource development in its pursuit of agricultural growth. In recognition of the importance of higher education in such policy, the Bangsamoro Government shall forge partnerships with higher learning institutions aimed at improving the quality of agricultural education in the region. It shall support these institutions to sustain agriculture and related programs, achieve academic excellence, and produce competitive and passionate agri-professionals as active partners in uplifting the rural agricultural communities in the Bangsamoro.

**Section 3. Coverage. –**

- (a) This Act shall apply to and govern all higher education institutions (HEI), or the colleges and universities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) that are administered and regulated by the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, that offer agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and natural resources academic degree programs (“AFNR degree programs”).
- (b) AFNR degree programs refer to the academic degree programs, baccalaureate or ladderized, offered by HEIs that correspond to the requirements of the following professions as licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission:
  - (i) Agriculture;
  - (ii) Agricultural Engineering;
  - (iii) Fisheries Technology;
  - (iv) Food Technology;
  - (v) Foresters;
  - (vi) Landscape Architecture; and
  - (vii) Veterinary Medicine.
- (c) The AFNR degree programs shall include the following:
  - (i) Agriculture;
  - (ii) Agricultural Engineering;
  - (iii) Agribusiness, Agribusiness Management;
  - (iv) Agri-Biotechnology;
  - (v) Agricultural Technology;
  - (vi) Agricultural Education, Rural Sociology, Community Development;
  - (vii) Agricultural Economics;
  - (viii) Agro-Forestry, Forestry, Forest Ranger;
  - (ix) Agricultural Extension;
  - (x) Agricultural Extension;
  - (xi) Agricultural/Development Communication;
  - (xii) Agricultural Chemistry;
  - (xiii) Poultry-Animal Husbandry, Dairy-Animal Science;
  - (xiv) Entomology, Pest Management, Plant Pathology;

- (xv) Entrepreneurial Technology;
- (xvi) Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management, Landscape Architecture;
- (xvii) Fisheries, Fishery Technology;
- (xviii) Food Technology;
- (xix) Marine Biology;
- (xx) Plant Breeding;
- (xxi) Rubber Production; and
- (xxii) Veterinary Medicine

**Section 4. *Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Competitiveness Program.*** – The Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Competitiveness Program (“Program”) is hereby established to recognize and incentivize performing HEIs with AFNR degree programs in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. It shall seek to continually progress and improve their performance by:

- (a) Regularly assessing qualified HEIs based on a well-informed criteria that put primacy to academic excellence, competitiveness, and service to the Bangsamoro people;
- (b) Providing financial rewards, infrastructure projects, and faculty and research grants to HEIs that demonstrate excellence and make significant contributions to the regional agriculture sector;
- (c) Amplifying government-academe partnerships that can ensure the coordination of agricultural education with the agricultural policies of the Bangsamoro Government; and
- (d) Developing the linkages and engagement of HEIs with industry, private companies, community beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

**Section 5. *Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Council.*** – There is hereby established a Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Council (“Council”), which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE);
- (b) Office of the Bangsamoro Director-General for Higher Education;
- (c) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR);
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE);
- (e) Ministry of Finance, and Budget and Management (MFBM);
- (f) Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE);
- (g) Ministry of Trade, Investments and Tourism (MTIT);
- (h) Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA); and
- (i) Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST);

The Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education shall act as Chairperson of the Council, with the Director-General for Higher Education as Vice-Chairperson. The

appropriate office of the MBHTE, as the latter may designate, shall serve as the Secretariat of the Council.

**Section 6. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – The Council shall act as policy-making and advisory body to ensure the proper implementation of the Program. It shall perform the following powers and functions:

- (a) Determine and approve a set of criteria in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- (b) Develop and promulgate the corresponding performance indicators that shall serve as standards for evaluating the covered HEIs' compliance and/or satisfaction of each of the criteria prescribed in Section 7 of this Act: *Provided*, That the development of indicators should reflect outcomes that are performance-based and encourage outputs that reflect concrete benefits to the Bangsamoro community;
- (c) Review and/or revise the criteria and corresponding indicators consistent with labor market trends and needs and the long-term development plans of the Bangsamoro Government. *Provided*, That in the development and approval of the criteria and performance indicators, the Council shall take into consideration that the covered HEIs may not be similarly situated and that one (1) or more indicators may be peculiarly inapplicable or extremely difficult to meet given the inherent limitations or circumstances of the BARMM HEIs;
- (d) Conduct an evaluation of the impact of this Act on the performance of the HEIs to determine the need for enhancing or continuing the Program, rationalizing the regional agricultural education and HEIs, encouraging additional academic programs and institutions, and recommending any amendatory legislation. The Council shall institute an effective feedback mechanism for this purpose, where the concerns of HEIs and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Program are appropriately considered;
- (e) Determine, re-evaluate, and propose the amount to be appropriated for the Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Incentive Fund;
- (f) Promulgate and issue guidelines on the scoring and ranking system of the Program;
- (g) Submit to the Chief Minister, and the Speaker and Chairpersons of Committee on Basic, Higher and Technical Education and Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform of the Bangsamoro Parliament, every two years, copies of the performance indicators approved by the Council and the result of the impact assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Section; and
- (h) Perform such other functions necessary and incidental to properly carry out the purposes of this Act.

**Section 7. Implementing Agency.** – The MBHTE shall be the implementing agency of this Act. It shall, through its relevant offices and units, and in consultation and coordination with partner agencies or sectors, be responsible for the assessment and evaluation of each HEI covered by this Act relative to its compliance with the criteria. The MBHTE shall call on any other concerned ministries, offices, and civil society organizations, as it may deem necessary, to assist in carrying out its responsibilities under this Act.

**Section 8. *Additional Positions and Personnel for the MBHTE.*** – For purposes of this Act, the MBHTE shall, in accordance with pertinent civil service rules, create positions and enlist additional personnel to ensure the proper and appropriate implementation of the Program under this Act.

**Section 9. *Criteria and Performance Indicators.*** – Covered HEIs shall be evaluated to measure their compliance with and/or satisfaction of the criteria to be determined and approved by the Council, which shall include, among others:

- (a) Performance in licensure examinations;
- (b) Research and knowledge productivity;
- (c) Innovations and science productivity; and
- (d) Programs for sustainable agriculture.

Each criteria shall have corresponding performance indicators which shall serve as the standards for evaluation. The evaluation shall be conducted every after two (2) academic years following the effectivity of this Act. The criteria shall be reviewed and/or revised by the Council every four (4) years and the specific performance indicators every two (2) years.

**Section 10. *Scoring and Ranking System.*** – A scoring and ranking system shall be instituted to rate the performance of the qualified HEIs. The MBHTE shall only rank up to five (5) best-performing schools. Only the HEIs that have complied or satisfied the criteria shall be granted with the incentives under this Act.

**Section 11. *Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Incentive Fund.*** – To implement the policy enunciated in this Act, there is hereby created the Bangsamoro Agricultural Education Competitiveness Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund. The Fund shall be a special account under the Bangsamoro Appropriations Act to be only used to pay out the incentives granted to qualified HEIs.

The two-year regional ranking shall determine the amount of incentives that can be granted to qualified HEIs. *Provided*, That top-ranked HEIs shall be entitled with the highest allocation in the Fund. *Provided, further*, That all HEIs that fail to be ranked, but successfully comply with the criteria, shall likewise be granted access to the Fund. The Council shall promulgate the guidelines on the access, allocation, and utilization of the Fund within one (1) year after the enactment of this Act. The same shall be approved and issued by the MFBM six (6) months prior to the conduct of the evaluation.

**Section 12. *Utilization and Limitations on Expenditures of the Incentives under the Fund.*** – The incentives to be granted to qualified HEIs may be utilized for any of the following:

- (a) Faculty and research grants;

- (b) Construction or repair of research laboratories, classrooms, centers, and other facilities to be used for academic purposes;
- (c) Agricultural machinery and technology, including tools and implements;
- (d) Community outreach/extension activities for agri-fisheries; and
- (e) Development projects in support of the environment, climate change adaptation, and halal food industry.

All HEIs that are allocated with the Fund shall submit to the MFBM their monthly statements on the utilization of their funds and make an accounting thereof in accordance with the accounting and auditing rules of the Bangsamoro Government.

**Section 13. *Technical Assistance for Capacity-Building.*** – The MBHTE shall release the performance assessment report which shall, in part, identify the gaps and needs of the respective HEIs. The MAFAR or other ministries concerned shall provide technical assistance for capacity-building on identified gaps of HEIs which have not qualified for the Program.

**Section 14. *Management and Administration of the Fund.*** – The Fund shall be managed and administered by the MBHTE with the supervision of the Council. Appropriation to replenish the amount paid out from the Fund during the year and/or to augment the Fund shall be proposed by and included in the budget of the MBHTE under the Bangsamoro Appropriations Act.

**Section 15. *Program Operating Fund.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's Contingent Fund, as appropriated. Subsequent funding requirements for the activities and operational expenses, other than the incentive payouts, related to the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Bangsamoro Appropriations Act under the MBHTE, which shall include in its yearly proposed budget the necessary amount for the operation and maintenance of the Program.

**Section 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Council, in coordination and consultation with the relevant agencies, HEIs, and civil society and school-based organizations, shall formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity thereof.

**Section 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and binding.

**Section 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – All regional laws, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of local circulation in the BARMM.

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