

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 2509

Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The conversion of the Philippine Nautical School founded in 1820 to Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) was enacted into law by virtue of RA 3680 in 1963. The PMMA confers Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Transportation, Major in Navigation and Seamanship and Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Transportation Major in Steam Engine and Electrical Engineering.

PMMA's dedication to produce quality merchant marine officers has placed most of its graduates to work in different parts of the world to be in charge of international vessels utilized for commercial trade and similar marine industry.

While the government is duty bound to subsidize the PMMA students throughout their four-year course, the cadets are not obliged to render service to the government after they are conferred with a bachelor's degree. It has been the long time sentiment among the maritime industry players, as well as the government, to require the graduates to render mandatory service to the civil service sector.

This bill simply seeks to amend the existing charter of PMMA by including a provision that mandates all graduates to render at least 24 months of service in any government agency right after their graduation.

In order to keep with the international marine industry standards, this bill likewise amended the term for the positions of "third mate" to "**OPERATIONAL LEVEL DECK WATCH KEEPING OFFICER**" and the term "fourth stream engineers" to "**OPERATIONAL LEVEL ENGINE WATCH KEEPING OFFICERS**", which effectively removed distinctions in the different grade levels in third mate and fourth stream engineers positions.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO GRADUATES
OF PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA), AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3680 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act no. 3680 is hereby amended to read:

Section 12. Graduates of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy who are holders of a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation, major in navigation and seamanship, shall be exempted from taking the [third mate] **OPERATIONAL LEVEL DECK WATCH KEEPING OFFICERS'** examination. Likewise, those who are holders of a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering shall be exempted from taking the [fourth stream engineers' examination] **OPERATIONAL LEVEL ENGINE WATCH KEEPING OFFICERS'** examination.

SECTION 12-A. ALL CADETS OF THE PMMA UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR ACADEMIC DEGREE, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO RENDER A CONTINUOUS OR STAGGERED SERVICE OF A MINIMUM OF TWENTY FOUR (24) MONTHS IN ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY, BUREAU, INSTITUTION OR INSTRUMENTALITY. SAID SERVICE SHALL COMMENCE AFTER GRADUATION AND MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE THE FIFTH YEAR AFTER GRADUATION.

PROVIDED THAT, IN THE EVENT THAT THE CADET IS DETERMINED TO HAVE FAILED OR REFUSED TO CARRY OUT SUCH GOVERNMENT SERVICE OBLIGATION, THE TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT FOR THE STUDY WILL BE TREATED AS A LOAN AND COLLECTED FROM THE CADET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY THE PMMA.

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other section or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,