

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
AUG 24 2013

SENATE

S. No 3402

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The state shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life. In furtherance of this policy, this measure seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines, the first in the country.

Science has been reaching out aggressively to the legal system through a number of innovative forensic applications now being introduced in the country, such as DNA testing.<sup>1</sup> Inasmuch as the responsibility of the courts is to provide the search for truth, when that process can be aided by forensic science that yields reliable results, the interests of the justice system and society are served.<sup>2</sup> However, forensic science is relatively new in the country. Forensic laboratory caseloads exceed the growth of qualified forensic scientists who are adequately prepared to handle the analysis of evidence.

It is in this light that this measure seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines. The university's impeccable reputation of integrity and independence in its commitment to the truth and the highest standards of academic and professional excellence places it in a leadership role in this endeavor. It is hoped that the passage of this bill shall address the scarcity of forensic pathologists in the country, promote research and development in forensic science, strengthen and improve the administration of justice by educating and training forensic scientists, forensic pathologists, law enforcement and legal and medical professionals.

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

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Information retrieved from: <http://www.up.edu.ph/upforum.php?i=125&archive=yes&yr=2006&mn=11>. Retrieved on 3 June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Information retrieved from: <http://asialaw.tripod.com/articles/dnavilches.html>. Retrieved on 3 June 2009.

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Forensic Science Institute*  
2 *Act.*"

3  
4           **SEC. 2. *Creation and Objective of the Institute.*** - There is hereby created a Forensic  
5 Science Institute in the University of the Philippines System with the following objectives:

6 (a) To promote research and development in the various fields of forensic science and advance  
7 the search for truth;

8 (b) To enhance the competence and capabilities of existing laboratories in the country and  
9 prepare them for accreditation;

10 (c) To develop a corps of professionals and prepare them for a career in forensic science; and

11 (d) To train and upgrade the technical, scientific and management skills of personnel presently  
12 involved in forensic science so as to improve the administration of justice.

13  
14           **SEC. 3. *Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.*** - The Board of Regents of the  
15 University of the Philippines System is hereby authorized to establish the Forensic Science  
16 Institute under the direct supervision of the Office of the President of the University, which shall  
17 have a faculty and staff with expertise in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, law, medicine,

1 molecular biology, social sciences, statistics and other pertinent disciplines, who may be drawn  
2 within the System or outside.

3 **SEC. 4. *Functions of the Institute.*** - The Forensic Science Institute will have the  
4 following functions:

5 (a) To provide competent scientific and advance medical and technical services for the detection  
6 and investigation of crimes;

7 (b) To maintain a network of modern laboratories for the development and adoption of analytical  
8 methods and procedures related to forensic evidence;

9 (c) To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the various areas of  
10 forensic science;

11 (d) To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and

12 (e) To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and instrumentation and on  
13 validation of forensic evidence to technicians and personnel of existing laboratories, medical  
14 centers, and educational institutions.

15

16 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Authority.*** - The Board of Regents of the University of the  
17 Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry out the  
18 provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the  
19 Forensic Science institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the objectives and at the  
20 execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall determine  
21 the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's faculty and staff.

22

23 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000)  
24 is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to  
25 carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its effectivity until the next fiscal year.  
26 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act shall be  
27 included in the subsequent annual General Appropriations Act under the University of the  
28 Philippines System.

29

1           **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason whatsoever, any provision of this Act is  
2 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions not  
3 declared as such.

4

5           **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules and regulations, or part thereof, inconsistent  
6 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7

8           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication  
9 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,