

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

'04 JUN 30 P 3:54

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SENATE

S. No. 308

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine merchant marines (or seamen) constitute a sizable proportion of our labor exports. In any given year, annual remittances of Philippine seamen amount to no less than US\$350 million, significantly easing the pressure on the economy's balance of payments.

The Philippines supplies the world's merchant marine industry with almost half of its personnel needs. We have a comparative advantage in this area, with an abundance of trainable labor who have a relative facility with the English language.

This bill proposes to introduce simulator courses in the merchant marine training courses in substitution of proportional periods of required shipboard apprenticeship. The proposal harnesses the advantage of advanced technology in instruction in order to reduce the cost of training our merchant marine workers, and upgrade the quality of skills imparted on local students.

It is said that in this century, knowledge will be the most important source of income and wealth. This measure seeks to upgrade the wealth of knowledge that will be imparted to our merchant marine workers.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

S. Osmeña III

SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
TO ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF BETTER TRAINED AND QUALIFIED
MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS IN THE MERCHANT
MARITIME INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATE SIMULATOR
COURSES AND REDUCING THE PERIOD OF SHIPBOARD
APPRENTICESHIP

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

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, requirements
2 and rule and regulations to the contrary, a cadet of the Bachelor of Science in
3 Maritime Transportation, major in Navigation and Seamanship, shall only be
4 required to complete three (3) months simulator course and six (6) months
5 shipboard apprenticeship, and a cadet of the Bachelor of Science in Marine
6 Engineering shall only be required to complete four (4) months simulator course
7 and one (1) year shipboard apprenticeship.

8 SEC. 2. The appropriate simulator courses may be provided by the
9 Department of Labor and Employment through the National Maritime Polytechnic
10 or other institutions duly authorized by the Government.

11 SEC. 3. All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders of rules and regulations
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of
15 general circulation.

Approved,