

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



14 JAN 22 P2:46

SENATE
S. NO. 2076

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Various entities across the country have generated skills certification programs based on local and regional needs. At the same time, some national groups have engaged in similar efforts.

As workers and employers search for a meaningful way to categorize skills, information about existing skills certification programs and certifications can be limited, and may lead to the development of new, duplicative certifications. As these skill certification programs may take less time than technical or vocational degrees, the programs provide important recognition for both employers and employees.

Nationally available, recognized standards for skills certification allow employers and employees the greatest possible flexibility by making the certification portable and meaningful. These standards benefit both incumbent, highly skilled workers and those workers with less specialized skills or just starting in the workforce. Widely recognized standards for skills certification provide regions, communities, and cities the option and ability to quantify and categorize their workforce in a meaningful way. There is a well-documented 'skills gap' in many industries, including manufacturing, that makes it difficult for employers to find workers.

The purpose for this law is to periodically evaluate skills certification programs that certify various employee skills and to determine which skills certifications are most

desired by employers and employees; and to make information, and materials if possible, about skills certification programs available to eligible entities providing job training.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
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1 AN ACT
2 IMPOSING A COMPULSORY EVALUATION OF SKILLS CERTIFICATION
3 PROGRAMS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Skills Standard Certification
5 Evaluation Act of 2013”.

6 SECTION 2. *Evaluation of Skills Standard Certification process.* - The
7 Secretary of Labor and Employment, Secretary of Education, Director General of
8 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in consultation with each other
9 through an inter-agency committee, shall:

10 A. Conduct an evaluation of skills certification programs;

11 B. 1. Determine best practices models for skills certification programs; or

12 2. Rank the skills certification programs available in an industry, based on the
13 evaluation criteria described in Section 3; and make recommendation on the
14 following issues:

15 i. the merits of a unified approach to programs of skills certification, as
16 compared to multiple regional and local skills certification programs; and

17 ii. ways to streamline, if possible, duplicative and similar skills
18 certification into a single, widely recognized certification.

1 SECTION 3. *Criteria for Evaluation.* – The evaluation of the skills certification

2 programs conducted under Section 2 (A) shall include the following criteria:

3 A. Overall usefulness of the skills certification programs for workers and
4 employers;

5 B. The demand from industry for workers with the skills provided and certified
6 through the skills certification program;

7 C. Industry involvement in the development of the skills standards included in the
8 skills certification program;

9 D. Industry recognition of the certification awarded under the skills certification
10 program;

11 E. The success of the skills certification program, based on criteria including:

12 1. The number of individuals who have successfully completed
13 the skills certification program;

14 2. The number of such individuals who are employed in a field
15 utilizing the skills provided and certified through the skills
16 certification program; and

17 3. The length of time that such individuals have been so employed.

18 F. The level of recognition of the skills certification program as of the the time of
19 the evaluation, including an assessment of:

20 1. How widespread the skills certification program is used;

21 2. The number of entities, including institutions of higher
22 education, that have used the skills certification program;

23 3. Whether the skills provided and certified through the skills
24 certification program are reasonably useful.

25 G. Cooperative creation in the development of the skills certification program, such
26 as whether the standards of the skills certification program were created in

1 consultation with relevant partners, including business, labor, and community
2 organizations, and whether such partners still support and use the standards.

3 H. The ease of sharing the skills certification program, including how portable the
4 materials are, how versatile the materials are, and whether the certification
5 programs requires the educator to have access to specific or extensive materials
6 or equipment not usually found in a classroom.

7 SECTION 4. *Information Dissemination.* – The inter-agency committee shall post the
8 results of the evaluation, the ranking of skills certification programs or the best practices
9 of such programs, and the recommendations, as described in Section 2, on the Internet;
10 and make the information available in print form to Congress and to interested parties,
11 including technical colleges, community organizations, and other groups providing
12 worker training, in partnership and cooperation with industry.

13 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or
14 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
15 amended accordingly.

16 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of this Act is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof not affected shall remain valid and
18 effective.

19 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
20 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/dpm