

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }

*First Regular Session*

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 JUN 30 PM 10:10

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## SENATE

S. No. 689

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The alarming rise in the country's crime rate today makes it compelling for agencies and personnel involved in the criminal justice system to have the scientific and medical capability to evaluate and analyze physical evidence. Though efforts of prosecution lawyers and law enforcers are directed towards the solution of crimes, it has become imperative to develop a corps of professionals expert in forensic investigations.

The proposed bill seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines system for the purpose of providing competent, scientific and modern technical services and advanced medical facilities for the detection and investigation of crimes. It also aims to improve existing forensic laboratories and upgrade the skills of those already involved in forensic science.

Furthermore, the establishment of a Forensic Institute in the UP System will address concerns on the objectivity of cases solved by the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation. Though the integrity of both PNP and NBI is not in question, we know that these institutions operate crime laboratories that perform physical evidence analyses and examination. Both however, are also involved in the prosecution of crimes that, expectedly, results in findings which tend to corroborate their theory of cases under investigation.

The University of the Philippines will be in unchallenged position of conducting professional work though modern scientific methods and instrumentation of forensic investigation.

Establishing a Forensic Science Institute in the state-run university, known for its commitment in upholding academic truth and excellence will help immensely in crime solution.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Villar, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**  
Senator

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

1        **SECTION 1. *Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Forensic Science Institute  
2 **Act of 2004.”**

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

- 7  
8        (a) To promote research and development in the various fields of forensic science and  
9        advance the search for truth;  
10  
11        (b) To enhance the competence and capabilities of existing laboratories in the country  
12        and prepare them for accreditation;  
13  
14        (c) To develop a corps of professionals and prepare them for a career in forensic  
15        science; and  
16  
17        (d) To train and upgrade the technical, scientific and management skills of personnel  
18        presently involved in forensic science so as to improve the administration of  
19        justice.  
20

21        **SECTION 3. *Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.*** – The Board of  
22 Regents of the University of the Philippines System is hereby authorized to establish the  
23 Forensic Science Institute under the direct supervision of the Office of the President of the  
24 University, which shall have a faculty and staff with expertise in the disciplines of biology,  
25 chemistry, law, medicine, molecular biology, social sciences, statistics and other pertinent  
26 disciplines, who may be drawn within the System or outside.

1           **SECTION 4. *Functions of the Institute.*** – The Forensic Science Institute will have  
2 the following functions:

- 3  
4           (a) To provide competent scientific and advance medical and technical services for  
5           the detection and investigation of crimes.  
6  
7           (b) To maintain a network of modern laboratories for the development and adoption  
8           of analytical methods and procedures related to forensic evidence;  
9  
10          (c) To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the various  
11          areas of forensic science;  
12  
13          (d) To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and  
14  
15          (e) To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and  
16          instrumentation and on validation of forensic evidence to technicians and  
17          personnel of existing laboratories, medical centers, and educational institutions.  
18

19           **SECTION 5. *Implementing Authority.*** – The Board of Regents of the University of  
20 the Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry out  
21 the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the  
22 Forensic Science institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the objectives and at the  
23 execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall  
24 determine the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's faculty and staff.  
25

26           **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos  
27 (P300,000,000) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not  
28 otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its  
29 effectivity until the next fiscal year 2002-2003. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to  
30 carry out the provisions of the Act shall be included in the subsequent annual General  
31 Appropriations Act under the University of the Philippines System.  
32

33           **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules and regulations, or part thereof,  
34 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amend or modified  
35 accordingly.  
36

37           **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect upon its approval.  
38

39           Approved,