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SENATE 2350  
Senate Bill No. 2350

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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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**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 10, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states 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.”**

One important application of science and technology in the Philippines but that is not much recognized is its application in our criminal justice system, particularly in forensic science, which assists in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. However, present scientific and medical capabilities of our law enforcement agencies to evaluate and analyze physical evidence are lacking vis-à-vis the continuing rise in the country's crime rate.

Thus, this Bill seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines system in order to provide competent, scientific and modern technical services, and advanced medical facilities for the detection and investigation of crimes. Known for its commitment in upholding academic truth and excellence, this will help immensely in crime solution and help address concerns on the objectivity of cases solved by the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation. Although we do not question their integrity, being agencies involved in the prosecution of crimes, the fact that they also operate crime laboratories for examining and analyzing physical evidence that result to corroborating their findings in such prosecutions is often put into question in court proceedings.

With this Bill, the University of the Philippines will be in unchallenged position of conducting professional work through modern scientific methods and instrumentation of forensic investigation.

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

*[Signature]*  
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

**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:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Authority.*** - The Board of Regents of the University of  
9 the Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to  
10 carry out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the  
11 establishment of the Forensic Science Institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the  
12 objectives and at the execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this  
13 end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's  
14 faculty and staff.

15 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos  
16 (P300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not  
17 otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its  
18 effectivity until the next fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry  
19 out the provisions of the Act shall be included in the subsequent annual General  
20 Appropriations Act under the University of the Philippines System.

21 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules and regulations, or part thereof,  
22 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amend or modified  
23 accordingly.

24 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
25 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26 *Approved,*