

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
First Regular Session



16 JUL 19 AIO :33

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 440**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE PRACTICE OF PRISON MANAGEMENT AND SET FOR THAT PURPOSE THE QUALIFICATION FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE NATIONAL PRISON SYSTEM AND OF WARDENS OF PROVINCIAL, CITY OR MUNICIPAL JAILS**

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of prison management and set the qualifications of superintendents and wardens of prisons all over the country to ensure that the officials heading our penal system are duly capable and competent in performing their responsibilities.

This measure requires that superintendents of the country's national prison system should hold a bachelor's degree in law, or have a bachelor's degree in public administration, and have educational training in psychology or sociology. Further, the wardens of provincial, city or municipal jails must have a bachelor's degree in law, public administration, psychology or its equivalent with an educational background in behavioral science or social sciences. Nominees and incumbent superintendents and wardens are obliged to attend courses and seminars on jail management and corrections administration.

Furthermore, this bill ensures that superintendents and wardens enjoy the benefits and privileges of their rank and position provided they satisfy the requirements stated in this Act. The incumbents shall continue to perform the roles and responsibilities of their respective rank and position until they are reassigned, retire, separated from office or replaced by the appointing authority by a qualified official.

The country's penal system and the officials that head the organization play significant roles in the administration of justice in our country. To guarantee that this integral agency and its officials continue to appropriately carry out their functions, the timely passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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**LOREN LEGARDA**

Senator

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*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 "**Professionalization of**  
2 **Prison Management Act.**"  
3

4 **SEC. 2. Qualifications of Superintendents of Prisons in the National**  
5 **Prison System.** - All Superintendents of Prisons or Colonies or Prison  
6 Farms of the National Prison System shall have the following qualifications  
7 at the time of their appointment:  
8

- 9 a. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Law, preferably a member of the  
10 Philippine Bar; or a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, or its  
11 equivalent with at least twelve (12) units in Psychology or Sociology;  
12  
13 b. Training and experience of at least five (5) years in corrections and  
14 prison management; and  
15  
16 c. Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for  
17 probity and fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a  
18 criminal offense nor charged administratively for an act involving  
19 moral turpitude.  
20

21 **SEC. 3. Qualifications of Wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails.**  
22 - All wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails shall have the following  
23 qualifications:  
24

- 25 a. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Public Administration,  
26 Psychology or its equivalent, with at least twelve (12) units in  
27 Behavioral Sciences, Sociology or Psychology;  
28  
29 b. Training and experience of at least three (3) years in corrections and  
30 prison management; and  
31  
32 c. Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for  
33 probity and fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a  
34 criminal offense nor charged administratively for an act involving

1 moral turpitude.

2  
3 **SEC. 4. Jail Management and Corrections Administration Training.** -

4 The Integrated National Police and/or the National Police Academy shall  
5 conduct courses and seminars on jail management and corrections  
6 administration for nominees and incumbents of Prison Superintendent or  
7 Jail Warden positions. Incumbent superintendents and wardens shall be  
8 required to satisfactorily pass courses for jail management and corrections  
9 administration in order to retain their positions.

10  
11 **SEC. 5. Equivalence of Position, Rank, Salary and Privileges.** -

12 Superintendents of the National Prison System shall enjoy the position,  
13 rank, salary and privileges of an Assistant Bureau Director; while provincial,  
14 city and municipal jail wardens shall enjoy the position, rank, salary and  
15 privileges of a Division Head of a Bureau: *Provided*, That said  
16 Superintendents or Wardens shall have the qualifications herein set forth:  
17 *Provided, further*, That incumbents shall have to first satisfy the  
18 requirements herein set forth to qualify for the position before they can  
19 enjoy the position, rank, salary and privileges herein set forth: *Provided*,  
20 *finally*, That said incumbents shall continue to discharge their duties as  
21 Superintendent or Warden until reassigned, retired, or separated from  
22 office, or otherwise replaced by the appointing authority by a qualified  
23 official.

24  
25 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** - If any part of this Act is declared  
26 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not  
27 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

28  
29 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** - Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or  
30 regulation, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or  
31 modified accordingly.

32  
33 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
34 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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36  
37 Approved,