

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 19 P2:08

SENATE

S. No. 508

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

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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

Article XIV Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides 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. In furtherance of this policy, this measure seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines, the first in the country.

Science has been reaching out aggressively to the legal system through a number of innovative forensic applications now being introduced in the country, such as DNA testing. Inasmuch as it is the responsibility of the courts to search for truth, when that process can be aided by forensic science that yields reliable results, the interests of the justice system and society are served. However, forensic science is relatively new in the country. Forensic laboratory caseloads exceed the growth of qualified forensic scientists who are adequately prepared to handle the analysis of evidence.

It is in this light that this measure seeks to establish a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines. The University's impeccable reputation of integrity and independence in its commitment to the truth and the highest standards of academic and professional excellence place it in a leadership role in this endeavor. It is hoped that the passage of this bill shall address the scarcity of forensic pathologists in the country, promote research and development in forensic science, strengthen and improve the administration of justice by educating and training forensic scientists, forensic pathologists, law enforcement and legal and medical professionals.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Forensic Science*  
2 *Institute Act*".  
3

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

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

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

26           **SEC. 4. Functions of the Institute.** - The Forensic Science Institute will have the  
27 following functions:  
28

- 29           a. To provide competent scientific and advance medical and technical services for the  
30           detection and investigation of crimes;  
31

- 1 b. To maintain a network of modern laboratories for the development and adoption of  
2 analytical methods and procedures related to forensic evidence;  
3  
4 c. To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the various  
5 areas of forensic science;  
6  
7 d. To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and  
8  
9 e. To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and instrumentation  
10 and on validation of forensic evidence to technicians and personnel of existing  
11 laboratories, medical centers, and educational institutions.  
12

13 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Authority.*** - The Board of Regents of the University of the  
14 Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry out the  
15 provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the  
16 Forensic Science Institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the objectives and at the  
17 execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall  
18 determine the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's faculty and staff.  
19

20 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of Three hundred million pesos  
21 (P300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not  
22 otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its  
23 effectivity until the next fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out  
24 the provisions of the Act shall be included in the subsequent annual General Appropriations  
25 Act under the University of the Philippines System.  
26

27 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason whatsoever, any provision of this  
28 Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions  
29 not declared as such.  
30

31 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules and regulations, or part thereof,  
32 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amend or modified  
33 accordingly.  
34

35 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
36 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*