

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

04 JUL 22 2019

SENATE
S. B. No. 1460

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 12, Section 14, provides:

The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower, and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State.

P.D. No. 223, created the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) which is tasked to administer, implement, and enforce regulatory policies of the national government with respect to the regulation and licensing of the various professions and occupations under its jurisdiction, including the maintenance of professional and occupational standards and ethics and the enforcement of the rules and regulations relative thereto.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), there are more than forty (40) recognized professions in the country. Each of these professions has their own organizations or associations. Unfortunately, many professionals, for some reason or another, fail to become members of such organizations or associations. Thus, these professionals are unable to avail of benefits given to members.

This bill seeks to address this problem by mandating that all examinees who pass the PRC licensure examination shall automatically become members of their respective accredited professional organization upon compliance with the membership requirements.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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**AN ACT
 PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONALS
 IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be cited as the “Automatic Professional Membership Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall enhance, promote, and protect various professional disciplines and towards this end, shall unify and strengthen the bond amongst all professionals and shall encourage their active involvement and participation in organizations or societies which will serve as vehicles for nurturing and enhancing the standard of practice of their profession, thereby ensuring the contribution of professionals to the upliftment of the general welfare, economic growth, and development of the nation. In pursuit of these objectives, automatic membership of professionals in their respective accredited professional organizations shall be required.

SECTION 3. *Accredited Professional Organization.* – There shall be one professional organization for each profession which shall be accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), herein referred to as the Commission, which shall serve as the umbrella organization for all professionals in their respective professions. The establishment of this accredited professional organization shall not be a bar to the formation and continued existence of other voluntary organizations which may co-exist with the accredited professional

organization. Duly accredited professional organizations now existing shall continue to be recognized as such by the Commission.

Each Accredited Professional Organization (APO) shall coordinate and work together with their respective Professional Regulatory Board (PRB), here referred to as the Board, in the exercise of its function for the effective enhancement of their profession particularly in the promotion of programs and activities which will advance and foster excellent and globally competitive professionals in their respective fields of expertise.

The functions and responsibilities of the APO are as follows:

- (1) Maintain an updated roster of membership in the organization;
- (2) Enforce rules and regulations for membership in good standing;
- (3) Organize, conduct, and accredit continuing professional education and training programs for its members;
- (4) Monitor and supervise the activities and operations of organizations belonging under APO;
- (5) Assist the Board in monitoring and ensuring that members maintain the highest professional competence and comply at all times with their professions' Code of Ethics;
- (6) Report and recommend sanctions to the Board on illegal and malpractice cases of the profession;
- (7) Assist the Board in enforcing compliance with member registration and renewal of licenses;
- (8) Select, evaluate, and submit to the Commission nominees to fill up any vacancies in the Board;
- (9) Assist the Board in the preparation, adoption, and issuance of syllabi or tables of specifications of the subjects for licensure examinations;
- (10) Assist government agencies in activities related to the delivery of services and improvement of the professionals and the profession; and
- (11) Perform such other functions and responsibilities normally performed by accredited professional organizations.

SECTION 4. *Automatic Membership.* – All examinees who pass the PRC licensure examinations and who have been issued a Certificate of Registration and a Professional License or Certificate of Competency, as the case may be, shall automatically become members of their respective accredited professional organizations upon compliance with the membership requirements. All professionals, whose names now appear in the roster of professionals or who may hereafter be included, upon registration and payment of required fees, shall automatically become members of their respective accredited professional organization and shall be issued a certificate of membership. Professionals with more than one profession shall automatically be considered as members of all the appropriate APOs under the same terms and conditions provided herein.

A Certificate of Membership in Good Standing from each respective APO shall be presented by the professional to the Commission before the latter may renew his license to practice his profession.

SECTION 5. *Inactivation of Membership.* – The Accredited Professional Organization shall consider a member under inactive status in the event that the member decides to discontinue the practice of the profession, in which case, his name shall not be dropped from the roster of membership, provided, however, that if he wants to resume the practice of the profession, he shall follow the procedure and requirements for registration for new members of the organization.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Professional Regulation Commission shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act in consultation with the representatives of the existing accredited professional organizations and professional regulatory boards.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, or rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.