

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



22 NOV -3 P5 :40

SENATE

S. No. 1452

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution emphasizes that "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees respect for human rights"

Our prison population is perhaps our country's most neglected sector, and their welfare is possibly one of the lowest on the list of our nation's priorities due to our country's limited resources. However, even though they have broken the laws of the land, they are still entitled to their basic human rights and still deserve the care and attention of the State.

The Prison System is one of the major pillars of the criminal justice system. In the country, it is composed of the Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the local government units (LGUs) with regard to provincial and sub provincial jails, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) which likewise maintains detention facilities in its different police stations nationwide.

The country's resources may be limited, but that should not hinder the State to find ways to alleviate the living conditions of persons deprived of liberty (PDL). Most of their places of detention and imprisonment have become severely congested, filthy, and inhumane. These things become factors that are contributory to the deterioration

of a man's psyche. Our jails should not only be places of detention and imprisonment, it should also be a place of rehabilitation and correction for our convicted. This cannot be achieved with "indifferent" management. As long as our prison system is headed by people who are indifferent, prisons will not be able to achieve what they are meant to do, which is to rehabilitate and correct, instead they will become a breeding ground for repeating offenders and hardened criminals.

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of prison management and corrections administration 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. An enlightened management leads to an overall better jail system that can properly utilize the little amount allocated for the sector.

The country's penal system and the officials that head the organization play significant roles in the administration of justice in our country.

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



**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Professionalization of*  
2 *Prison Management Act of 2022*".

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

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

14           Sec. 3. *Qualifications of Wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails.* - All  
15 wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails shall have the following qualifications:

- 1 a. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Public Administration, Psychology or its  
2 equivalent, with at least twelve (12) units in Behavioral Sciences, Sociology or  
3 Psychology;
- 4 b. Training and experience of at least three (3) years in corrections and prison  
5 management;
- 6 c. Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for probity and  
7 fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a criminal offense nor  
8 charged administratively.

9 Sec. 4. *Jail Management and Correction Administration Training.* - The  
10 Philippine National Police (PNP) and/or the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA)  
11 shall conduct courses and seminars on Jail Management and correction administration  
12 for nominees and incumbents of Prison Superintendent or Jail Warden positions.  
13 Incumbent Superintendents and Wardens shall be required to pass courses for jail  
14 management and corrections administration in order to retain their positions. When  
15 feasible, Superintendents and Wardens shall be sent for training abroad in jail  
16 management and corrections administration.

17 Sec. 5. *Equivalence of Position, Rank, Salary and Privileges.* - Superintendents  
18 of the National Prison System shall enjoy the position, rank, salary and privileges of  
19 an Assistant Bureau Director; provincial, city and municipal jail wardens shall enjoy  
20 the position, rank, salary and privileges of a Division Head of a Bureau: *Provided*, That  
21 said Superintendents or Wardens shall have the qualifications herein set forth:  
22 *Provided, further*, That the incumbents shall have to first qualify for the requirement  
23 of the position herein set forth before they can enjoy the position, rank, salary,  
24 privileges herein set forth: *Provided, finally*, That said incumbents shall continue to  
25 discharge the duties of Superintendent or Warden until reassigned, retired or  
26 separated from office, or otherwise replaced by the appointing authority by a qualified  
27 official.

28 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any provision of law, presidential decree, executive  
29 order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is  
30 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1            *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect upon approval and  
2 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or at least two (2) newspapers of  
3 general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*