

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

23 JAN 12 P5:49

SENATE
S. No. 1673

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ACADEMY, ALLOCATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippines is known as one of the largest maritime nation. Composed of 7,641 islands, the country has a rich source of marine resources. Protection of the Philippine's maritime trade therefore is necessary to sustain its socio economic development.

In order to secure our maritime trade, it is vital to protect maritime trade from any internal and external threat. This is the role of the Philippine Coast Guard as it is mandated and responsible among others to perform maritime safety, maritime environmental protection and maritime security.

It is the humble position of this representation that we can only ensure the economic development of this country if its maritime resources is secured and free from any danger. For this purpose, there is a need to further strengthen the Philippine Coast Guard and ensure its capability to deliver its mandate by increasing its manpower and enhancing its technical, operational and legal capability for Maritime Law Enforcement.

To achieve this purpose, this bill seeks to establish a Philippine Coast Guard Academy for the training of selected candidates for permanent commission as officers in the PCG Corps of Officers. The said Academy shall provide programs and courses specific to the need of the PCG in order to produce qualified individuals that are able not only to continue, but to further enhance, the great service of the incumbent and past PCG corps.

In view hereof, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARK A. VILLAR

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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 “Philippine Coast
2 Guard (PCG) Academy Act of 2023”.
- 3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
4 promote welfare and modernization of the PCG, geared towards the enhancement of
5 the Service, by ensuring adequate and professional Officer that will perform the
6 multifarious tasks and functions of the PCG .
- 7 The State shall create the appropriate institutional arrangement in order to
8 establish an effective and well-trained PCG Officers Corps., comparable with the
9 Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy, sufficient to
10 carry out the mandated tasks of the PCG under Republic Act No. 9993, otherwise
11 known as the PCG Law of 2009, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR),
12 and to competently carry out missions given by the Department of Transportations
13 (DOTr) or the Department of National Defense (DND) during national emergencies
14 or in times of war, respectively.
- 15 Sec. 3. *The PCG Academy.* – There shall be established a PCG training
16 school, to be named as the PCG Academy for the training of selected candidates for

1 permanent commission as officers in the PCG Corps of Officers, in an area with the
2 following minimum requirements:

- 3 a) An area with at least twenty (20) hectares of land;
- 4 b) Adjacent or in close proximity to a ship dock; and
- 5 c) Adjacent or in close proximity to a hospital.

6 The PCG academy shall be an independent and distinct unit of the PCG,
7 however, it shall follow and adopt the doctrines and principles on the customs and
8 tradition developed by the Coast Guard Education and Training Command for the
9 Coast Guard Services.

10 *Sec. 4. Facilities.* – The arms, ammunition, and all training equipment needed
11 by the cadets for their practical instruction shall be furnished by the Commandant of
12 the PCG, by order of the President of the Philippines.

13 *Sec. 5. The Superintendent.* – The PCG Academy shall be headed by the
14 Superintendent, who shall be appointed by the Commandant of the PCG from among
15 the active PCG Officers.

16 The powers and duties of the Superintendent, in addition to those specifically
17 provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the president
18 of a college or a university.

19 The position of the Superintendent shall carry the rank of Vice-admiral in the
20 PCG Table of Organization; Provided, that, the Superintendent shall have a
21 maximum tenure in position for three (3) years.

22 *Sec. 6. The PCG Academy Board.* – The government of the Academy is
23 hereby vested in the PCG Academy Board, hereinafter called "Board", which shall be
24 composed of the following:

- 25 a) The Deputy Commandant for Administration, which shall be the Chairman
26 of the Board;
- 27 b) The Superintendent, which shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Board;
- 28 c) The Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Education and Training
29 Command;
- 30 d) Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services
31 Command;

- 1 e) Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection
- 2 Command;
- 3 f) Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Maritime Security Command;
- 4 g) Dean of the PCG Corps of Professors; and
- 5 h) Dean of Civilian Faculty.

6 Members of the Board shall, in addition to their pay, allowances, and
7 collateral entitlement under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR, receive a reasonable
8 per diem for each attendance in the regular and special meetings of the Board and
9 reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred for the aforementioned
10 purposes, as may be authorized by a resolution of the Board in accordance with
11 existing accounting rules and regulations.

12 *Sec. 7. Duties and Powers of the PCG Academy Board.* – The Board shall have
13 the following duties and powers in addition to its general powers of administration:

- 14 a) To confer such degree as may be determined by the Academic Council to
- 15 successful candidates for graduation;
- 16 b) To appoint, upon consideration of the Superintendent, civilian instructors,
- 17 professors, and other employees of the Academy;
- 18 c) To fix the compensation, hours of service, and other duties of the
- 19 Superintendent, civilian instructors, professors and other employees of the
- 20 Academy, as may be deemed proper under the Civil Service Laws;
- 21 d) To grant leaves of absence to the Superintendent, civil instructors,
- 22 professors and other employees of the Academy under existing laws and
- 23 regulations;
- 24 e) To recommend to the Commandant for the removal of the Superintendent
- 25 with collateral recommendation that such officer be made to face the
- 26 Efficiency and Separation Board of the PCG to verify fitness to remain in
- 27 the service;
- 28 f) To approve the curricula, rules of discipline and creation of the different
- 29 departments drawn up by the Academic Council as herein under provided;
- 30 g) To provide academic fellowship and scholarship for members of the Corps
- 31 of Professors and Faculty Members;

- 1 h) To provide rules for the administration of the Academy such general
2 ordinances and regulations consistent with the herein provisions;
- 3 i) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal
4 property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the
5 Academy or for the aid of the cadets, in accordance with the directions
6 and instructions of the donor, and in, default thereof, in such manner as
7 the Academy Board may, in its discretion, determine;
- 8 j) To receive and appropriate such sums as may provided by law for the
9 support of the Academy;
- 10 k) To manage and utilize such income as maybe generated by the Academy
11 for the maintenance, support, and improvement of the same; and
- 12 l) To authorize the Superintendent to enter into Contract, Memorandum of
13 Understanding, Memorandum of Agreement, and such other instruments,
14 to the extent as may be allowed by law, relative to the performance of
15 his/her powers and functions and for the effective implementation of the
16 herein provisions.

17 *Sec. 8. Progress Report.* – Within thirty (30) days after the close of the
18 Academic Year, the Board shall file with the Commandant of the PCG a detailed
19 report setting forth the progress, condition, and needs of the Academy.

20 *Sec. 9. The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council
21 consisting of the Superintendent and the Directors of all the department of the
22 Academy.

23 The Academic Council shall have the following powers:

- 24 a) To determine the applicable tuition fees and academic charges;
- 25 b) To prescribe the curricula;
- 26 c) To prescribe rules of discipline; and
- 27 d) To create various departments as it may be necessary, subject to the
28 approval of the PCG Academy Board.

29 The Academic Council shall fix the requirements for admission to the
30 Academy as well as for graduation and the conferment of a degree. The Academic
31 Council alone shall have the power to recommend students or others to be recipients
32 of degrees.

1 Sec. 11. *The Faculty.* – The body of Civilian Professors and Instructors of the
2 Academy shall constitute the faculty of the Academy. The faculty shall be headed by
3 a Dean, who shall be appointed by the Superintendent upon recommendation by the
4 members of the Faculty.

5 In the appointment of Professors and Instructors of the Academy, neither
6 religious test shall be applied nor shall the religious opinions or affiliations of the
7 faculty of the Academy be made a matter of examination or inquiry. Provided, that
8 no Professor or Instructor in the Academy shall inculcate sectarian tenets in any of
9 their teachings or attempt either directly or indirectly, under penalty of dismissal by
10 the PCG Academy Board, to influence students of the Academy for or against any
11 particular church or religious sect.

12 Sec. 12. *Relevant Civil Service and Licensure Examinations.* – The Civilian
13 Professors and Instructors in the Academy must have passed the relevant civil
14 service or licensure examinations as a requisite to their appointment.

15 The PCG Academic Council may require from both the members of the Corps
16 of Professors and Faculty additional educational training, schooling, and Masteral
17 and/or Doctoral degrees to raise the academic standards of the Academy. The same
18 will be adopted in the career pattern of the members of the Corps of Professors.

19 Similarly, it may also be used as basis for the promotion and career
20 advancement of the members of the Faculty.

21 Sec. 13. *The Registrar.* – There shall be a Registrar of the Academy, which
22 shall be appointed by the PCG Academy Board. He or she shall sit as the Secretariat
23 of the PCG Academy Board and shall be the custodian of all the records of the same.
24 He or she shall also fulfill such other duties and responsibilities, as may be deemed
25 proper by the Superintendent.

26 Sec. 14. *PCG Cadets.* – The PCG cadets shall be admitted to the PCG
27 Academy upon the approval of the Commandant of the PCG; Provided, that they
28 meet the qualification and entry requirements prescribed in this Act.

29 The PCG cadets' years of Government Service shall start on the date of
30 admission in the PCG Academy for purposes of computation of PCG Active Service
31 and entitlement to long pay benefits.

1 Sec. 15. *Exchange Program.* – The Academy may admit students from the
2 counterparts of the PCG from foreign coast guards, naval and/or maritime police
3 organizations, especially those from members of the Association of South East Asian
4 Nations (ASEAN), as cadets/cadettes, in order to foster regional cooperation and
5 facilitate the coordination among the aforementioned organizations. Similarly, the
6 Academy may send cadets to the appropriate Academy of the aforementioned
7 organizations.

8 Students from the foreign coast guards, naval and/or maritime police
9 organizations, which provide scholarship and sponsorship from their own Academy
10 to cadets sent by the Academy, shall also receive corresponding privileges from the
11 Academy. Otherwise, they shall be required to pay such fees and charges as may be
12 determined by the Academic Council. Upon graduation, they shall then return to
13 their respective Organizations.

14 Sec. 16. *The PCG Academy Cadet Corps.* - The PCG Academy cadet corps
15 shall be the student body of the PCG Academy. The cadet corps shall be composed
16 of PCG cadets and foreign cadets; Provided, that the foreign cadets shall not exceed
17 ten percent (10%) of the total student population of the Academy.

18 Sec. 17. *Qualification and Entry Requirements.* – All Cadets shall be selected
19 from among the candidates by the Academic Council. The minimum qualifications for
20 admission into the PG Academy are as follows:

- 21 a) Natural-born Filipino citizen (applicable only to candidates for PCG Cadets);
- 22 b) Single with no parental obligations;
- 23 c) In good physical condition;
- 24 d) Seventeen (17) to twenty-two (22) years of age, on the first day of the
25 Academic Year; and
- 26 e) At least secondary level graduate (High School or its equivalent)

27 The Academic Council may determine such other requirements for admission to
28 the PCG Academy, as may be necessary, that are applicable either separately for the
29 PCG Cadets, Foreign Cadets only or common to all of them.

30 Sec. 18. *Discipline and Justice System.* – Within three (3) months from the
31 effectivity of this Law, the PCG Academy Board will prepare the discipline and justice

1 system applicable to all cadets of the Academy for approval of the Commandant of
2 the PCG.

3 *Sec. 19. Commission to the active PG Service.* – Upon satisfactory completion
4 of the course of instruction at the PCG Academy, PCG Cadets shall be commissioned
5 as Ensigns in the active PG Service with relative seniority in the order of their final
6 general academic standings.

7 PCG Cadets who shall suffer, before graduation, permanent and total
8 disability by reason of injury or sickness while in the Academy shall be retired with
9 the rank of cadet and shall be entitled to the retirement benefits of an Ensign in the
10 PCG.

11 *Sec. 20. Conferment of the Degree.* – Graduates of the PCG Academy shall be
12 conferred upon graduation of a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree. The PCG Academic
13 Council shall develop such curricula that will cater to the primary functions of the
14 PCG under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR and responsive to the needs of the
15 maritime stakeholders and the maritime interest of the Country, for approval of the
16 PCG Academy Board.

17 *Sec. 21. Commissionship to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.* – graduates
18 of the PCG Academy, subject to the rules to be issued by the Armed Forces of the
19 Philippines (AFP), shall be given the option to be a commissioned officer of the
20 Philippine Navy.

21 *Sec. 22. Pay, Allowances, and Collateral Entitlements.* – Members of the PCG
22 Corps of Professors and other PCG Uniformed Personnel assigned at the PCG
23 Academy shall receive such pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements
24 corresponding to their ranks as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR.

25 Members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel appointed as such in the
26 PCG Academy shall receive the pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements enjoyed
27 by their counterparts in the Philippine National Police Academy or Philippine Military
28 Academy, whichever is higher, subject to applicable rules and regulations. PCG
29 Cadets shall receive pay and allowances as provided under Republic Act No. 9993
30 and its IRR reckoned from admission in the Academy.

31

1 *Sec. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within three (3) months from
2 the effectiity of this Law, the PCG shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules
3 and Regulations to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation
4 of the same for the approval of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

5 Similarly, the Table of Organization and Equipment, including the Plantilla
6 Positions of members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel, of the Academy will
7 be established by the PCG Academy Board for approval by the Secretary,
8 Department of Transportation.

9 *Sec. 24. Appropriations.* – For purposes of this Act, the sum of One Billion
10 Five Hundred Million Pesos (Php1,500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the
11 purpose of the establishment of the PCG Academy. The appropriation shall be
12 treated as a separate and distinct budget item from the regular appropriations of the
13 PCG. The appropriations shall be implemented in a staggered basis, Five Hundred
14 Million Pesos (Php500,000,000.00) shall be released by the Department of Budget
15 and Management (DBM) annually for three (3) years.

16 Eight Hundred Million Pesos, (Php800,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for
17 the purpose of acquiring a modern training ship for the PCG Academy to supplement
18 classroom instructions.

19 Sixty Million Pesos (Php60,000,000.00) shall be included in the yearly General
20 Appropriations Act for the maintenance and operation of the PCG Academy.

21 *Sec. 25. Separability Clause.* – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared
22 invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

23 *Sec. 26. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
24 inconsistent with or contrary with the provisions of this Act hereby repealed or
25 amended accordingly.

26 *Sec. 27. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
27 following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official
28 Gazette, whichever comes first.

Approved,