

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

5 OCT -3 P3:10

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2136

Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rectify a rather iniquitous situation wherein the custodial force of the Bureau of Corrections in the Department of Justice receives far less remuneration for their services than the jail guards of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of Interior and Local Government even as they perform relatively similar functions.

In the interest of justice and fairness, it is imperative to even the pay scale of the aforementioned employees.

Moreover, our aspirations for a more efficient and effective corrections system in the country could be more easily attained by streamlining the Bureau of Corrections bureaucracy. This goal could be achieved early by promoting employee welfare and professionalizing the staff thru education and skills development.

It is opportune that the Bureau of Corrections is celebrating its centennial this year. For this reason and since justice delayed is justice denied, prompt approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL Jr.

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**AN ACT
STREAMLINING THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS
BUREAUCRACY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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 known as “THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS STREAMLINING ACT OF 2005.”

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is the declared policy of the State to promote the welfare of its citizens. Toward this end, and to attain greater efficiency in the service, the bureaucracy in the Bureau of Corrections, Department of Justice, shall be streamlined by professionalizing the staff thru education and skills development and upgrading employee benefits.

SEC. 3. UPGRADING. – In consonance with the aforestated policy, the salaries of the officials and custodial force in the Bureau of Corrections, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, shall be upgraded, with appropriate amendments in the nomenclature of certain positions, as follows:

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	
	From	To
1. Director V	29	30
2. Assistant Director IV	28	29
3. [Penal] Superintendent IV	26	27
4. [Penal] Superintendent III	24	25
5. [Penal] Superintendent II	22	24
6. [Penal] Superintendent I	20	23
7. [Penal] CORRECTIONS Institution Supervisor	18	22

8.	[Prison Security Officer III] CORRECTIONS INSTITUTION SUPERVISOR	18	22
9.	[Prison Security Officer II] CORRECTIONS SUPERVISING OFFICER III	15	20
10.	[Prison Security Officer I] CORRECTIONS SUPERVISING OFFICER II	11	18
11.	[Prison Guard III] CORRECTIONS SUPERVISING OFFICER I	10	15
12.	[Prison Guard II] CORRECTIONS OFFICER II	7	13
13.	[Prison Guard I] CORRECTIONS OFFICER I	5	10
14.	[Wardress II - Correctional Institution for Women] CORRECTIONS OFFICER II	7	13
15.	[Wardress I - Correctional Institution for Women] CORRECTIONS OFFICER I	5	10

SEC. 4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. – The Bureau shall draw up and implement an educational program to upgrade the professional knowledge and skills of its employees.

Without prejudice to efficiency in the service, members of the custodial force and other staff of the Bureau may avail of grants, scholarships and privileges, local and foreign, to increase their professional knowledge and hone their expertise and skills.

SEC. 5. INSURANCE COVERAGE. – Members of the custodial force shall be covered by life and accident insurance while in the performance of their official duties and functions.

SEC. 6. HEALTH CARE SERVICES. – Employees of the Bureau shall be provided with health care services thru a health maintenance organization (HMO) until such time that a hospital or health clinics can be established by the Bureau for that purpose.

SEC. 7. RETIREMENT BENEFITS. – Upon compulsory retirement, any custodial officer from the rank of Superintendent IV and below shall be entitled to retirement benefits computed on the basis of one grade higher than the position he last held.

SEC. 8. OTHER BENEFITS. – Subject to the availability of funds, the Bureau Director may grant employees such benefits as may be required by the exigencies of the service.

SEC. 9. RULES AND REGULATIONS. – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Justice shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. APPROPRIATIONS. – The amounts required for the upgrading of salaries, education and skills development, insurance coverage, health care services, retirement and other benefits of employees shall be taken from the budget of the Bureau of Corrections for the current fiscal year. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. EFFECTIVITY. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall be done within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act.

APPROVED,