

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session**

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24 SEP 25 A10:52

**SENATE
S.B. No. 2840**

REGISTERED



Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7836, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "PHILIPPINE TEACHERS PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 1994" AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9293**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions. In pursuit of these objectives, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7836 or the "Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994" was enacted for the promotion, development and professionalization of teachers and the teaching profession, and the supervision and regulation of the licensure examination. The law was amended in 2004 by R.A. No. 9293, amending in particular Sections 15, 16, and 31.

Schools all over the world regard licenses as an essential employment entry in the teaching field.¹ In the Philippines, the licensure examination became one

¹ Yauney, J.M. (2022). K-12 CS teacher licensing in the US. In Proceedings of the 53rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, 2, 1171. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3478432.3499202>

of the factors that signaled the quality of educators and the instruction they provided. It has become a key safeguard for the caliber of a teacher to be employed in schools and offers a standard by which to judge whether a graduate has the minimal proficiency necessary to engage in the teaching profession.²

The Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) is the measure by which the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Board for Professional Teachers (Board) ascertain the educational preparedness of future educators. From 2017 to 2019, the average national passing rates for elementary and secondary education examinees were below 50%.³ A World Bank study⁴ examined data from 2009 to 2017 with findings implying the need to improve teacher preparation as teachers performed poorly on tests measuring teacher content knowledge. Considering the importance of the LET in determining teaching quality, the need to revisit the “Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994” is necessary.

In support of strengthening the professional standards and pool of qualified teachers while enabling the Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) to reinforce the constructive alignment between the curriculum, teacher training, and licensure examination, this bill seeks to amend Sections 5, 7, 8, and 13 to 16, through the following provisions:

- (1) Expanding the nominations for the members of the Board and posting the final list of nominees on the PRC official website;
- (2) Providing that the members of the Board who are employees or officials of government agencies be seconded to the PRC for the duration of their term;

² Abao EL, Petancio JAM, Sanchez JMP and Sumalinog GG (2023) Performance of beginning teachers in the licensure examination for teachers: a national study. *Front. Educ.* 8:1240658. doi: 10.3389/educ.2023.1240658

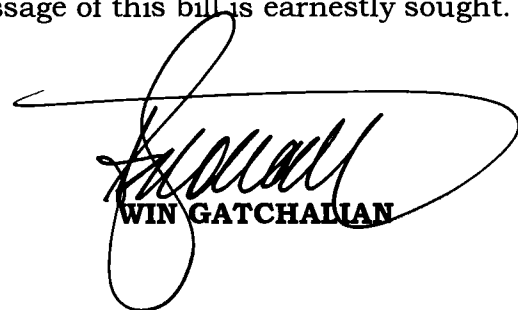
³ *Ibid.*

⁴ World Bank. (2019). Philippines basic education: public expenditure review. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3d726a60-03c8-553f-8de8-214e29234b45/content>

- (3) Setting additional qualifications and necessary expertise of the Board Members and the prohibition on the conflict of interest in the conduct and release of the licensure examination to be set by the PRC;
- (4) Introducing pathways for the application for registration as professional teachers, which shall either be through a licensure examination or the submission of a portfolio of attainment of the professional standards for teaching, in lieu of taking the examination, for those who graduated from an accredited Teacher Education Center of Excellence with a consistent passing rate of at least 80% in the last five years;
- (5) Prescribing the scope of examinations for the early childhood, elementary, and secondary levels;
- (6) Proposing other applicable fields of specialization with qualifications as may be determined by the TEC and the requirement of a refresher course for those who failed to pass the licensure examination three (3) times;
- (7) Mandating the release of LET questions and answers by the PRC immediately after the administration of the examination; and
- (8) Requiring the report of the ratings obtained by each candidate in each component to the PRC and mandating the Board to make public the licensure examination performance of TEIs.

This bill also introduces a new Section 13-A, which enables the registration without examination of qualified applicants to highlight the State's recognition of the knowledge and expertise acquired that is comparable to the professional standards.

With the end goal of providing transformative education through refocused and qualified educators, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



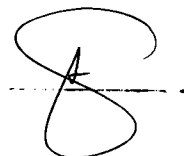
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AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9293

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

1 Section 1. Section 5 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7836 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* – There is
4 hereby created under this Act a Board for Professional
5 Teachers, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under
6 the general supervision and administrative control of the
7 Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as
8 the Commission, composed of five (5) members who shall be
9 appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the
10 recommendees chosen by the Commission.

11 **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED),**
12 **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TEACHER**
13 **EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC), EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE**

1 **AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ECCDC), ASSOCIATION OF**
2 **LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ALCU), PHILIPPINE**
3 **ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**
4 **(PASUC), AND AN ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION OF**
5 **TEACHERS SHALL EACH RECOMMEND A NOMINEE WHO**
6 **SHALL BE EVALUATED BY THE COMMISSION BASED ON,**
7 ~~who duly possess all~~ the qualifications prescribed in Section 8
8 **3 of this Act. THE FINAL LIST OF NOMINEES SHALL BE**
9 **POSTED ON THE COMMISSION'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE.**

10 The chairman**PERSON** and vice-chairman**PERSON** of the
11 Board shall be appointed from these five (5) members by the
12 President; *Provided*, That the members of the first Board
13 appointed under this Act shall be automatically registered as
14 professional teachers and issued with the certificate of
15 registration and professional license upon payment of the fees
16 for examination, registration, and other fees prescribed by the
17 Commission.”

18
19 Section 2. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

20 “SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall hold
21 office for a term of three (3) years from the date they assume
22 office: ~~*Provided*, That the first appointees to the Board under~~
23 ~~this Act shall hold office according to the following terms: one~~
24 ~~(1) member shall serve for one (1) year; one (1) member for two~~
25 ~~(2) years; the chairman, vice chairman, and one (1) member for~~
26 ~~three (3) years.~~ **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO ARE**
27 **EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**
28 **SHALL BE SECONDED TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE**
29 **DURATION OF THEIR TERM.** Vacancies shall be served for the
30 unexpired term only. No person who has served **AS MEMBER**

1 **OF THE BOARD** for two (2) consecutive terms shall be eligible
2 for reappointment. Appointment to fill an unexpired term shall
3 be considered an appointment to a complete term.

4 x x x”

5
6 Section 3. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

7 “SEC. 8. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – Each Board
8 member must at the time of his **OR HER** appointment:

9 (a) Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;

10 (b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity,
11 and possessed of high moral values in his **OR HER**
12 personal as well as professional conduct and has not been
13 convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;

14 ~~{(c) Be a holder of the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor~~
15 ~~of Science in Education and preferably a holder of a~~
16 ~~master's or doctorate degree in education, or their~~
17 ~~equivalents, from a university, school, college, academy~~
18 ~~or institute duly constituted, recognized and/or~~
19 ~~accredited by the Philippine government;}~~

20 (c) **BE A HOLDER OF AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE,**
21 **PREFERABLY AN EARNED DOCTORATE DEGREE, IN**
22 **TEACHER EDUCATION OR OTHER ALLIED**
23 **DISCIPLINES** from a **REPUTABLE UNIVERSITY,**
24 **COLLEGE, INSTITUTION, OR SCHOOL,** duly recognized
25 and/or accredited by the Philippine government;

26 (d) Be a professional teacher with a valid certificate of
27 registration and valid professional license, save those
28 members who shall compose the first Board for
29 Professional Teachers;

30 (e) Has been a professional teacher in the active practice of

1 the teaching profession for at least ten (10) years in
2 elementary ~~and~~ **OR** secondary **LEVELS, OR A FACULTY**
3 **IN A TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION (TEI)**
4 **ENGAGED IN TEACHING COURSES IN PROFESSIONAL**
5 **EDUCATION, GENERAL EDUCATION, OR ANY FIELD**
6 **OF SPECIALIZATION FOR AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS;**
7 and

8 (f) Not be, **AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT**, an official
9 member of the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in
10 any university, college, school, or institution conferring a
11 bachelor's degree in education or its equivalents ~~for at~~
12 ~~least three (3) years prior to his appointment~~, and neither
13 connected with a review center or with any group or
14 association where review classes or lectures in
15 preparation for the licensure examination are offered or
16 conducted, **NOR HAVE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN**
17 **SUCH.**

18 **PROVIDED, THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE**
19 **THE APPROPRIATE RULES TO GOVERN THE PRACTICE**
20 **OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT**
21 **NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST SHALL ARISE IN THEIR**
22 **FUNCTIONS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE**
23 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND RELEASE OF THE**
24 **RESULTS.**

25 *Provided, FURTHER*, that the membership to the Board
26 shall be evenly distributed to cover all levels of education,
27 including equitable representation of the different fields of
28 specialization.

29 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE**
30 **BOARD SHALL ALSO HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE**

1 **IN IMPLEMENTING TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
2 **THAT ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE TEC AND REGULATED**
3 **BY THE CHED, TEST DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT AND**
4 **ANALYSIS, AND LOGISTICS IN IMPLEMENTING WIDE-**
5 **SCALE ASSESSMENTS AND SYSTEM**
6 **ACCREDITATIONS.”**

7
8 Section 4. Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

9 “SEC. 13. *Examination, Registration and License Required.* –

10 Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions
11 **SECTION 5** of this Act, all applicants for registration as
12 professional teachers shall ~~be required to~~ **EITHER (1)** undergo
13 a ~~written~~ **LICENSURE** examination which shall be given at least
14 once a year in such places and date as the Board may
15 determine upon approval by the Commission; **OR (2) SUBMIT**
16 **TO THE COMMISSION A PORTFOLIO OF ATTAINMENT OF**
17 **THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHING IN LIEU**
18 **OF TAKING THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION, FOR THOSE**
19 **GRADUATES OF ACCREDITED TEACHER EDUCATION**
20 **CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE WITH A CONSISTENT PASSING**
21 **RATE OF AT LEAST 80% IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.**

22 **THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE THE CRITERIA OF**
23 **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS AND**
24 **DETERMINE THE SATISFACTORY DEMONSTRATION OF**
25 **SUCH IN THE SUBMITTED PORTFOLIO TO ENSURE THAT**
26 **ONLY QUALIFIED AND COMPETENT APPLICANTS SHALL**
27 **BE GIVEN THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATE OF**
28 **REGISTRATION AND LICENSE TO TEACH.**

29 A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional
30 license from the Commission are required before any person is

1 allowed to practice as a professional teacher in the Philippines,
2 except as otherwise allowed under **SECTION 8 OF R.A. NO.**
3 **10533, OR THE “ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF**
4 **2013”: PROVIDED, THAT THEY PASS THE LICENSURE**
5 **EXAMINATION WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE DATE**
6 **OF HIRING.”**

7
8 Section 5. A new Section 13-A is hereby inserted in R.A. No. 7836, to
9 read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 13-A. REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION. – A**
11 **PERSON WHO POSSESSES THE QUALIFICATIONS**
12 **REQUIRED TO TAKE THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR**
13 **TEACHERS MAY BE REGISTERED WITHOUT**
14 **EXAMINATION: PROVIDED, THAT THE APPLICANT HAD**
15 **TAUGHT FOR AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS PRIOR TO THE**
16 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT AND FILES WITH THE BOARD,**
17 **WITHIN THREE (3) YEARS FROM EFFECTIVITY, AN**
18 **APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF A**
19 **CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL**
20 **IDENTIFICATION CARD BY SUBMITTING A TEACHING**
21 **EXPERIENCE PORTFOLIO FOR PURPOSES OF THOROUGH**
22 **EVALUATION AND RECOGNITION OF KNOWLEDGE OR**
23 **EXPERTISE ACQUIRED, COMPARABLE TO PROFESSIONAL**
24 **STANDARDS.**

25 **FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE COMMISSION IN COORDINATION**
26 **WITH THE TEC, SHALL PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE**
27 **GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, AND**
28 **EQUIVALENCY OF PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE TOWARDS**
29 **THE AWARDING OF A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE TO TEACH.”**

1 Section 6. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – The examinations for the
4 elementary and secondary school teachers shall be separate.
5 The examination for teachers in the **EARLY CHILDHOOD,**
6 elementary, **AND SECONDARY** levels shall consist of **THE**
7 **FOLLOWING** parts, namely: professional education, general
8 education, and/**OR** field of specialization, **AS APPLICABLE.**”
9

10 Section 7. Section 15 of the same Act is hereby further amended to
11 read as follows:

12 “SEC. 15. *Qualification Requirements of Applicant.* – No
13 applicant shall be admitted to take the examinations **OR**
14 **SUBMIT A PORTFOLIO OF ATTAINMENT OF THE**
15 **TEACHING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN LIEU OF**
16 **TAKING THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION,** unless, on the date
17 of the filing of the application, he **OR SHE** shall have complied
18 with the following requirements:

- 19 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has
20 reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the
21 teaching profession;
- 22 (b) At least eighteen (18) years of age;
- 23 (c) In good health and of good reputation with high moral
24 values;
- 25 (d) Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court for an
26 offense involving moral turpitude;
- 27 (e) A graduate of a ~~school, college or university~~ **TEI DULY**
28 recognized by the ~~government~~ **CHED** and possesses the
29 minimum educational qualifications, as follows:
30 (1) For teachers in ~~preschool~~ **THE EARLY CHILDHOOD**

1 **LEVEL**, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education
2 (BECED) or its equivalent;

3 (2) For teachers in the elementary grades, a bachelor's
4 degree in elementary education (BSEED) or its
5 equivalent;

6 (3) For teachers in the secondary grades, a bachelor's degree
7 in education or its equivalent with a major ~~and minor~~ or
8 a bachelor's degree in arts and sciences with at least
9 eighteen (18) units in professional education;

10 (4) For teachers of vocational and two-year technical
11 courses, a bachelor's degree in the field of specialization
12 or its equivalent, with at least eighteen (18) units in
13 professional education; and

14 (5) **OTHER APPLICABLE FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION**
15 **WITH QUALIFICATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE**
16 **COMMISSION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE TEC.**

17 (f) **HAS COMPLETED A REFRESHER COURSE IN A CHED-**
18 **RECOGNIZED TEI WITHIN ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE**
19 **DATE OF THE EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS WHO**
20 **FAILED TO PASS THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION**
21 **THREE (3) TIMES.”**

22
23 Section 8. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as
24 follows:

25 “SEC. 16. **RELEASE OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS;**
26 Report of the **EXAMINATION RESULTS. – THE LICENSURE**
27 **EXAMINATION QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDING**
28 **ANSWERS SHALL BE RELEASED BY THE COMMISSION TO**
29 **THE TEC IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION OF**
30 **THE EXAMINATION.**”

1 **FURTHER**, the Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120)
2 days after the examination, report the ratings obtained by each
3 candidate **IN EACH COMPONENT** to the **COMMISSION** for
4 approval and appropriate action.

5 **THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO MAKE PUBLIC THE**
6 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION TEST QUESTIONS AND**
7 **PERFORMANCE OF TEIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE**
8 **RELEASE OF EXAMINATION RESULTS.”**

9
10 Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days
11 from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall update its implementing
12 rules and regulations (IRR) necessary for the full and effective implementation
13 of this Act.

14
15 Section 10. *Transitory Provision.* – The Commission and the Board shall
16 update their existing policies and issuances relevant to this Act and ensure
17 their alignment with the Act within the period of six (6) months from its
18 effectivity and report the same to Congress on the first year of its
19 implementation.

20
21 Section 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
22 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts not
23 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

24
25 Section 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, executive orders,
26 presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances,
27 or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
28 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

29
30 Section 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after

- 1 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,