

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

MAY 22

SENATE

S. NO. 2321

RECEIVED



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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Through the years the function of the Congress has evolved from just plenary work alone, it now also includes the conduct of committee hearings and legislative inquiries on various socio-economic and political issues. Legislative research, bill drafting and administrative management are also additional roles that must be performed efficiently in order to complement the lawmaking functions of our legislators.

In this manner, there is a need to ensure that the people employed in Congress are able to provide administrative and technical support to our legislators. There now arises a need to set qualification standards for legislative personnel that must conform not only to Civil service rules but to parliamentary rules, precedents, practices, and traditions as well.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a Legislative Career Service that would allow the admission and training of competent and qualified civil servants in Congress. It also seeks to create a Legislative Career Service Board and a Legislative Academy that would ensure the recruitment and training of a pool of properly selected and development-oriented legislative personnel.

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



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING AND RATIONALIZING THE CAREER SERVICE OF THE**  
**CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE**  
**CAREER SERVICE AND A LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

1           **Section 1. Legislative Career Service.** There shall be established a  
2 Legislative Career Service (LCS) for the Congress of the Philippines composed  
3 of: (a) The Legislative Career Service Officers (LCSO) –to include the positions  
4 of Deputy Secretary of the Senate, Deputy Secretary General of the House of  
5 Representatives, Deputy Secretary of the Commission on Appointments, and  
6 their equivalents, Executive Director, Bureau Director, Assistant Bureau Director,  
7 Service Chief, down to Director I Level, and equivalent levels which involve  
8 professional and technical work in a supervisory capacity;

9 (b) The Legislative Career Service Employees (LCSE) – to include Legislative  
10 Staff Officer positions which involve professional and technical work in a non-  
11 supervisory capacity;

12 (c) The Legislative Sub-career Service (LSCS) – to include Legislative Staff  
13 Assistant Employee positions which involve clerical, trades, crafts and custodial  
14 services in a non-supervisory capacity.

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16           **Sec. 2. Coverage.** The Legislative Career Service (LCS) shall include the  
17 career officers and employees of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and  
18 the Commission on Appointments.  
19

1           **Sec. 3. Objective.** This act aims to professionalize, upgrade and  
2 strengthen the work force of the Legislative Branch to ensure that Congress and  
3 its members shall be provided with qualified, efficient and effective legislative,  
4 administrative and security support services. Towards this end, a continuing pool  
5 of competent and development-oriented legislative career service officers and  
6 employees shall be maintained.

7  
8           **Sec. 4. Legislative Career Service Board.** – There shall be a Legislative  
9 Career Service Board hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of the  
10 Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House, as Co-  
11 Chairpersons; one (1) Career Official to be designated by the President of the  
12 Senate, one (1) Career Official to be designated by the Speaker of the House,  
13 and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission. The two (2) Career  
14 Officials for both Houses shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

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16           **Sec. 5. Functions of the Board.** – The Board shall:

- 17 (a) Determine and evaluate the qualification of the applicants for LCSO  
18 positions;
- 19 (b) Prepare the examination questions for LCSO positions and conduct the  
20 examination, correct and rate examinations papers in coordination with the Civil  
21 Service Commission and submit the results to the President of the Senate and  
22 Speaker of the House;
- 23 (c) Conduct an annual review of the qualifications of LCSO and recommend  
24 deserving officers for appointment to the rank of LCSO;
- 25 (d) Establish and conduct a performance evaluation system for LCSOs;
- 26 (e) Keep a roster of those who have passed the LCSO examinations; and
- 27 (f) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the President of the  
28 Senate of the Speaker of the House pursuant to its mandate.

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30           **Sec. 6. Legislative Career Service Officers' (LCSO) Eligibility.** – LCSO  
31 eligibility shall be conferred by the Board to any person who meets such  
32 managerial and legislative experience and competence, leadership qualities and  
33 other relevant qualifications, and who passes the examination prescribed by the  
34 Board. The examination shall consist of two stages: (a) Legislative/ Management  
35 Aptitude Test; and (b) Assessment of managerial capability and competence.

1 Those who pass the managerial assessment will be subject to a validation  
2 process involving their superiors in order to ascertain their on-the-job  
3 performance. Successful completion of the managerial assessment and  
4 favorable results of the validation process and a final interview by the Board shall  
5 qualify the candidate for the grant of LCSO eligibility. An incumbent officer or  
6 employee who is a holder of a Career Executive Service (CES) eligibility prior to  
7 the effectivity of this Act shall automatically be conferred LCSO eligibility.

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9 **Sec. 7. Qualification Requirements.** – An applicant for LCSO  
10 examination must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- 11 (a) Holder of at least a Bachelor's degree;  
12 (b) Must have had at least three (3) years of supervisory work experience;  
13 (c) Must be a citizen of the Philippines; and  
14 (d) Must not have been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a  
15 crime involving moral aptitude.

16  
17 **Sec. 8. Appointments.** – Appointments to appropriate positions in the  
18 Legislative Career Service shall be made by the President of the Senate, the  
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Commission on  
20 Appointments, as the case may be. No person shall be eligible for appointment to  
21 any position in the Legislative Career Service unless he/ she meets the  
22 qualification standards approved by the Legislative Career Service Board (LCSB)  
23 which shall at least be at par with the standards set by the Civil Service  
24 Commission.

25  
26 **Sec. 9. Incumbents.** – Upon approval of this Act, all incumbent officers  
27 and employees who hold permanent regular positions shall continue to hold such  
28 positions in a permanent capacity and receive the corresponding salary grade of  
29 the positions including their salary step level.

30  
31 **Sec. 10. Legislative Academy.** – There shall be established a Legislative  
32 Academy, hereinafter referred to as the Academy, which shall be a separate  
33 component unit of the Congress of the Philippines and shall operate under the  
34 administrative control and supervision of both the Senate, House of  
35 Representatives and the Commission on Appointments.

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**Sec. 11. *Functions of the Academy.*** – The Academy shall serve as a training school for legislators, legislative staff officers and employees and other aspirants for legislative positions. For this purpose, it shall provide and implement a curriculum for legislative education and shall conduct seminars, workshops and other training programs designed to upgrade legislative knowledge, moral fitness, efficiency and capability. It shall perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary in carrying out its mandate.

**Sec. 12. *Board of Trustees.*** – The Academy shall have a Board of Trustees to be composed of the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission as Chairman, the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments, one Deputy Secretary of the Senate to be designated by the Senate President, one Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives to be designated by the Speaker of the House, and the Chancellor of the Academy as members.

**Sec. 13. *Special Fund.*** – All legacies, gifts, and donations to the Academy shall constitute a special fund to be known as the Legislative Academy Fund which shall be administered by the Board of Trustees exclusively for the use of Academy. All legacies, gifts, donations for the benefit of the Academy shall be exempt from donor's tax as provided for under the National internal Revenue Code, as amended.

**Sec. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Congress. The President of the Senate, with respect to the Senate and the Commission on Appointments, and the Speaker, with respect to the House of Representatives, are hereby authorized to realign any portion of their respective appropriations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**Sec. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly promulgate such rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

1           **Sec. 16. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provision of this Act that  
2 may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other  
3 portions or provisions thereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist  
4 and be given effect in their entirety.

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6           **Sec. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and  
7 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith, are  
8 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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10           **Sec. 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
11 from its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,