

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

S E N A T E
S.B. No. 1408

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of prison management 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.

Over crowdedness have led to epidemics and other untoward incidents such as jailbreaks and fights. Due to the difficult conditions and situations the officials of these penal facilities face on a daily basis, there is a clear need to ensure that the heads of the penal facilities are properly educated, trained and experienced in handling the various and complex circumstances of the country's penitentiary system.

This measure requires that superintendents of the country's national prison system should hold a bachelor's degree in Law, preferably licensed practitioners, or have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, and have educational training in Psychology or Sociology. While the wardens of provincial, city or municipal jails must have a bachelor's degree in Law, Public Administration, Psychology or its equivalent with an educational background in Behavioral Science or Social Sciences. Nominees and incumbent superintendents and wardens are obliged to attend courses and seminars on Jail Management and Corrections Administration. Serving officials need to pass these said courses in order to retain their positions. Through this act, the prison officials may be sent for training abroad.

Furthermore, this bill ensures that superintendents and wardens enjoy the benefits and privileges of their rank and position provided they satisfy the requirements stated in this Act. The incumbents shall continue to perform the roles and responsibilities of their respective rank and position until they are reassigned, retire, separated from office or replaced by the appointing authority by a qualified official.

The country's penal system and the officials that head the organization play significant roles in the maintenance of justice and safety in our country. To guarantee that this integral agency and its officials continue to appropriately carry out their functions, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

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

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

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

8
9 a. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Law, preferably a member of the Philippine
10 Bar; or a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, or its equivalent with at
11 least twelve (12) units in Psychology or Sociology;

12
13 b. Training and experience of at least five (5) years in corrections and prison
14 management; and

15
16 c. Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for probity and
17 fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a criminal offense nor
18 charged administratively for an act involving moral turpitude.

19

1 **SEC. 3. *Qualifications of Wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails.*** -

2 All wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails shall have the following
3 qualifications:

- 4
- 5 a. Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Public Administration, Psychology or
6 its equivalent, with at least twelve (12) units in Behavioral Sciences, Sociology
7 or Psychology;
 - 8
 - 9 b. Training and experience of at least three (3) years in corrections and prison
10 management; and
 - 11
 - 12 c. Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for probity and
13 fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a criminal offense nor
14 charged administratively for an act involving moral turpitude.
- 15

16 **SEC. 4. *Jail Management and Corrections Administration Training.*** - The
17 Integrated National Police and/or the National Police Academy shall conduct
18 courses and seminars on jail management and corrections administration for
19 nominees and incumbents of Prison Superintendent or Jail Warden positions.
20 Incumbent superintendents and wardens shall be required to pass courses for jail
21 management and corrections administration in order to retain their positions.

22

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

34

1 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
3 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4
5 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or
6 regulation, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or
7 modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11
12 Approved,