

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
S. No. **1517**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Academic credentials are very important in obtaining employment, a promotion or higher compensation in employment, or admission to a qualified institution. It is likewise important when presented in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation. Thus, there is the temptation on the part of unscrupulous people to use or claim to have false academic credentials in the hope that will get the job, promotion, admission, loan or recognition they seek. The evil result of this deception is the possible damage to the other party and to the public because unqualified or under qualified people may get jobs, positions or responsibilities which they are ill-equipped to handle, or recognition and adulation which they do not deserve.

This bill seeks to protect the public from falling prey to other people's use or claim to having of false academic credentials. It likewise penalizes those engaged in the issuance, manufacture and sale of such false academic credentials.¹


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROHIBIT THE USE, ISSUANCE, MANUFACTURE AND SALE
3 OF FALSE ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Authentic Academic
5 Credentials Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the general
7 welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to protect the public from falling
8 prey to other people's use or claim to having of false academic credentials. It likewise penalized
9 those engaged in the issuance, manufacture and sale of such false academic credentials.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For purposes of this Act:

11 (A) "Academic credential" means a degree or a diploma, transcript, educational or
12 completion certificate, or similar document that indicates completion of a program of study or

1 instruction or completion of one or more courses at an institution of higher education or the grant
2 of an associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degree.

3 (B) "False academic credential" means an academic credential issued or manufactured by
4 a person that is not a qualified institution, or by a person who is not the qualified institution
5 which purportedly issued the academic credential.

6 (C) "Qualified institution" means an educational institution in any that:

7 (1) Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a
8 school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;

9 (2) Is legally authorized within such to provide a program of education beyond secondary
10 education;

11 (3) Provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree
12 or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree;

13 (4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and

14 (5) Is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, or if not so accredited, is an
15 institution that has been granted pre-accreditation status by such agency, and the Secretary of
16 Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the
17 accreditation standards of such the agency within a reasonable time.

18 SECTION 4. *Prohibition against Using or Claiming to Have False Academic*
19 *Credentials.* - It shall be unlawful for any individual to knowingly use a false academic
20 credential to obtain employment; to obtain a promotion or higher compensation in employment;
21 to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business, trade,
22 profession, or occupation.

1 It shall likewise be unlawful for individual who does not have an academic credential to
2 knowingly use or claim to have that academic credential to obtain employment or a promotion or
3 higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in
4 connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation.

5 SECTION 5. *Prohibition against the Issuance, Manufacture or Sale of False Academic*
6 *Credentials.* - It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly issue, manufacture or sell a false
7 academic credential to any person in order for him to obtain employment or a promotion or
8 higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in
9 connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation.

10 SECTION 6. *Penalties.* - Any person found guilty of violating the preceding Section
11 shall be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor*, or a fine of not more than Ten
12 Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into consideration
13 all attending circumstances. If the person found guilty of the violation is a corporation, trust or
14 firm, partnership, association or any other entity, the penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor*
15 may be imposed on the entity's responsible officers, including, but not limited to, the owner,
16 proprietor, operator, president, vice-president, chief executive officer, general manager,
17 managing director or officer directly responsible therefore, if any of them are found to have
18 knowingly consented to such issuance, manufacture or sale. The court shall take into
19 consideration all attending circumstances.

1 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,