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OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 MAY -5 P6:07

SENATE

S.B. No. 3209

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Forensics is a science dedicated to the methodical gathering and analysis of evidence to establish facts that can be presented in a legal proceeding. It is the application of a broad spectrum of sciences to answer questions of interest to the legal system. This may be in relation to a crime or to a civil action. ([wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org))

Obstacles to the wider use of forensic science in criminal investigations must be understood as obstacles to the protection of human rights, and taken up by governments and the public in these terms. Forensic science can verify through the DNA the innocence or probable guilt of an alleged law breaker, solve parentage disputes, and identify disaster victims.

The shortage of forensic professionals in most parts of Asia, including the Philippines is a serious concern. Even in a country like Thailand, for instance, there are only five forensic pathologists. Nowhere are there enough qualified persons available to afford proper services to the public. As a consequence, many suspicious deaths are not properly investigated. Murders and extrajudicial killings may go undetected, or be deliberately concealed, in the absence of competent personnel. It follows that to increase the number of forensic experts is a key challenge.

The proposed bill seeks to establish for the purpose of providing competent, scientific and modern technical services and advanced medical facilities for the detection and investigation of crimes.

Immediate passage of this bill is highly needed.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.  
Senator

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Forensic Science Institute Act."

**SECTION 2. Creation and Objective of the Institute.** - There is hereby created a Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines System with the following objectives:

- (a) To promote research and development in the various fields of forensic science and advance the search for truth;
- (b) To enhance the competence and capabilities of existing laboratories in the country and prepare them for accreditation;
- (c) To develop a corps of professionals and prepare them for a career in forensic science; and
- (d) To train and upgrade the technical, scientific and management skills of personnel presently involved in forensic science so as to improve the administration of justice.

**SECTION 3. Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.** - The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System is hereby authorized to establish the Forensic Science Institute under the direct supervision of the Office of the President of the University, which shall have a faculty and staff with expertise in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, law, medicine, molecular biology, social sciences, statistics and other pertinent disciplines, who may be drawn within the System or outside.

**SECTION 4. Functions of the Institute.** - The Forensic Science Institute will have the following functions:

- (a) To provide competent scientific and advance medical and technical services for the detection and investigation of crimes;

- (b) To maintain a network of modern laboratories for the development and adoption of analytical methods and procedures related to forensic evidence;
- (c) To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the various areas of forensic science;
- (d) To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and
- (e) To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and instrumentation and on validation of forensic evidence to technicians and personnel of existing laboratories, medical centers, and educational institutions.

**SECTION 5. Implementing Authority.** - The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the establishment of the Forensic Science institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the objectives and at the execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's faculty and staff.

**SECTION 6. Appropriations.** - The initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its effectivity until the next fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act shall be included in the subsequent annual General Appropriations Act under the University of the Philippines System.

**SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason whatsoever, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions not declared as such.

**SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby expressly repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,