

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

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SENATE

S. No. 384

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Upon graduation from college and passing the licensure examinations, most young choose to become members of their respective professional associations. Membership in a professional association provides an individual with useful links to the collective concerns such as continuing education and training, information about employment or business opportunities, and opportunities for advancement. In turn, an organization acquires strength from the size of its membership and the involvement of members in organizational projects and activities.

The high transactions costs involved in applying for membership however, constitutes an effective deterrent that keeps some young professionals from becoming members and gaining the benefits that come with membership.

This bill proposes to empower the Professional Regulator Commission (PRC) to confer upon successful licensure examinees full membership in his respective association. Automatic registration shall be guaranteed upon evaluation of the request by the association.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

S. Osmeña III

SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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S E N A T E

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Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONALS TO
RESPECTIVE ACCREDITED ASSOCIATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 **“Professional Membership Act of 2004.”**

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the expressed and declared
4 policy of the State to encourage and promote the rights of individuals to form
5 associations or societies for purposes not contrary to law and create a space
6 for the active involvement and participation of professionals or groups of
7 professionals of common interest thereby elevating the standard of practice of
8 every profession towards the promotion of human resource development.

9 Towards this end, the State shall pursue a policy of encouraging and
10 promoting public responsibility in every Filipino professional through the spirit of
11 unity and professionalism.

12 **SEC. 3. Automatic Membership.** - All individuals who have
13 successfully passed the Government regulated licensure examinations will be
14 granted full and automatic membership status for one year following his/her
15 passing of the licensure examination. The Professional Regulations

1 Commission shall in accordance with the Commission's rules and regulations
2 and upon release of the official roster of successful examinees, automatically
3 grant upon the professional the clearance for conferment of a full membership in
4 the association. The association concerned shall, upon receipt of the letter of
5 conferment from the PRC, act on the request to grant automatic membership to
6 the professional until the same is rendered null and void by virtue of a deficiency
7 in any of the requirements enumerated in Section 4 hereinafter. Otherwise, the
8 validity of the membership and license shall be for one year, renewable every
9 year thereafter.

10 A member who, after the lapse of his membership, fails to renew his
11 interest by paying the corresponding fees and dues to his association, shall be
12 deemed temporarily dropped from the roster of active membership. Only upon
13 fulfilling the requirements of the association shall he/she be readmitted and
14 entered into the roster of membership.

15 **SEC. 4 *Criteria for Membership.*** - To automatically become a
16 registered member of an association, the individual must meet the following
17 criteria:

- 18 1) He/she must be a citizen of the Philippines;
- 19 2) He/she must be of good reputation and high moral values;
- 20 3) He/she must be of legal age;
- 21 4) He/she must have qualified to take the licensure examination of the
22 PRC;
- 23 5) He/she must have successfully passed the licensure examination and
24 received a qualifying mark;
- 25 6) He/she must have a favorable written recommendation from the PRC.

26 **SEC. 5. *Accredited Professional Associations.*** - All associations of
27 professionals must be fully registered with the appropriate government agency
28 or agencies before they can fully operate and be recognized by the Professional

1 Regulations Commission. The registration of its members shall be for the
2 exclusive members of the common profession.

3 **SEC. 6. *Exemption.*** - Members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines
4 (IBP), holders of non-professional degrees and those who became members
5 under the lifetime membership scheme shall be exempted from the automatic
6 membership.

7 **SEC. 7. *Implementation.*** - The Professional Regulations shall be
8 tasked to formulate the necessary policies and guidelines for the implementation
9 of the provisions of this Act, in close coordination with the accredited
10 professional associations.

11 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** If any section or provision of this Act
12 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not
13 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

14 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules and regulations and other
15 issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed modified,
16 revoked or repealed accordingly.

17 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its
18 publication in two (2) leading newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,