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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

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SENATE
S. B. No. 700

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Forensic science applies a broad spectrum of sciences to answer questions of interest to the legal system often in relation to a crime or civil action.

As such, forensic science is a specialized subject with unlimited applications and thus of inherent interest to the justice system. With this distinction, other countries have made strides in developing their forensic science capabilities and have begun reaping the rewards with better techniques in evidence gathering and airtight cases in litigation.

It is the intent of this bill, therefore, to create a Forensic Science Institute which shall promote, enhance, develop, and upgrade the forensic capability of the country.

Earnest passage of this bill is thus sought.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO



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

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

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

3 **SEC.2. Creation and objective of the Institute.** - There is hereby created a
4 Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines System with the following
5 objectives:
6

- 7 a. To promote research and development in the various fields of forensic science
- 8 and advance the search for truth;
- 9 b. To enhance the competence and capabilities of existing laboratories in the
- 10 country and prepare them for accreditation;
- 11 c. To develop a corps of professionals and prepare them for a career in forensic
- 12 science; and
- 13 d. To train and upgrade the technical, scientific and management skills of
- 14 personnel presently involved in forensic science so as to improve the
- 15 administration of justice.
- 16

17 **SEC. 3. Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.** - The Board of
18 Regents of the University of the Philippines System is hereby authorized to
19 establish the Forensic Science Institute under the direct supervision of the Office
20 of the President of the University, which shall have a faculty and staff with
21 expertise in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, law, molecular biology, social
22 sciences, statistics and other pertinent disciplines, who may be drawn within the
23 system or outside.
24

25 **SEC. 4. Functions of the Institute.** - The Forensic Science Institute will have the
26 following functions:
27

- 28 a. To provide competent, scientific and advance medical and technical services
- 29 for the detection and investigation of crimes;

- 30 b. To maintain a network of modern laboratories for the development and
31 adoption of analytical methods and procedures related to forensic evidence;
32 c. To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the
33 various areas of forensic science;
34 d. To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and
35 e. To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and
36 instrumentation and on validation of forensic evidence to technicians and
37 personnel laboratories, medical centers and educational institutions.
38

39 **SEC. 5. Implementing Authority.** - The Board of Regents of the University of the
40 Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to carry
41 out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the
42 establishment of the Forensic Science Institute shall aim at the speedy realization of the
43 objectives and at the execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards this
44 end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, and size of the Institute's
45 faculty and staff.
46

47 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos
48 (P300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not
49 otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from its
50 effectivity until the next fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry
51 out the provisions of the Act shall be included in subsequent annual General
52 Appropriations Act under the University of the Philippines System.
53

54 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, rules and regulations or part thereof
55 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended
56 or modified accordingly.
57

58 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect upon its approval fifteen (15) days
59 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general
60 circulation in the Philippines.
61

62 *Approved,*