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SENATE

S. NO. 898

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

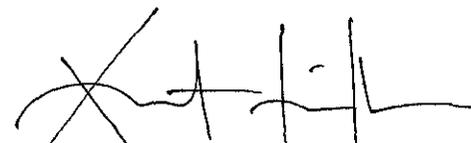
During the last two decades, the rapid development of the marine profession as well as the marine industry, both in the academic and technological aspects, has made the requirements of future marine officers per P.D. No. 97 quite obsolete. The advances in the international field have been more phenomenal among the Western countries who are members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with the Philippines lagging behind.

Of utmost concern to the country is the state of affairs of its domestic or coastwise shipping industry where there are numerous vessels with lower than 200 gross tons capacity that are manned by unqualified seafarers. Based from the reports of sea disasters, these accidents may just have been due to human errors/negligence, which is primarily due to the lack of sound and solid education on the field despite the years of actual sailing.

The age of computerization and automation only heightens the problem. Procedures and equipment of modern merchant vessels have not only increased in complexities but have been constantly improving by the adoption of new developments in science and technology further promoting efficiency and safety of operations. We cannot be caught flat-footed. We, therefore, have to upgrade not just the techniques, but most of all, the basic academic and hands-on experience qualifications.

Stiffer competition with our Asian neighbors and Eastern European countries only emphasizes our lack of these essentials pre-requisites. For this reason, we need to use our naval vessels when they are not engaged in emergencies for the training of our future deck officer, engineers and crewmen apart from the traditional vessels that lend them apprenticeship training.

Approval of the bill, therefore, is earnestly urged.



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

13 JUL 18 P1 31

SENATE

REPLY

BY: *fia*

S. NO. 898

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AN ACT  
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED  
NINETY-SEVEN, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE MERCHANT  
MARINE OFFICERS LAW"

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 15 of the Presidential Decree Numbered Ninety-Seven, as  
2 amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Law is hereby amended  
3 to read as follows:

4           "Sec. 15. *Admission Requirements for Examination.* - No person shall be qualified for  
5 examination as a marine officer unless he/she is:

6           "[(a) male; ]

7           "[(b) ] (A) Citizen of the Philippines;

8           "[(c) ] (B) At least twenty-one years of age;

9           "[(d) ] (C) Mentally-sound and physically fit with normal vision perception, as certified  
10 by a competent physician; and

11           "[(e) ] (D) Of good moral character."

12

13           **SECTION 2.** Paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of Section 16 of the Decree are hereby amended  
14 as follows:

15           "SEC. 16. Requirements of Deck Officers. -

2 “(d) third Mate. – applicant must be a holder of a degree of Bachelor of  
3 Science in Marine Transportation, major in Navigation and Seamanship, after  
4 completion of a nautical curriculum of academic and theoretical studies, and  
5 twelve months of practical apprenticeship which must be served on [merchant  
6 marine] BOARD SEAGOING VESSELS of not less than two hundred [fifty]  
7 gross tons registered for foreign or coastwise trade to qualify for third mate  
8 license. A LOGBOOK SHALL HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND [the]  
9 certification of service issued by the Master and Chief Mate of the vessel. The  
10 apprenticeship shall be under the supervision of a permanent staff of the  
11 institution assigned solely for such purpose.

12 “(e) Major Patron – An applicant for Patron in major coastwise trade shall  
13 be at least twenty-five ONE years of age and shall produce a certificate showing  
14 that he/she has COMPLETED TWO YEARS IN NAUTICAL SCIENCE or its  
15 equivalent in an officially recognized school and he/SHE has navigated on a  
16 coastwise or a [high sea] SEA-GOING vessel as boatswain, quartermaster,  
17 [sailor] ABLE SEAMAN or apprentice mate [on a merchant marine vessel] of not  
18 less than tow hundred [fifty] gross tons for a period of at least [ten] TWO (2)  
19 years [ or that he has navigated as minor patron for at least five years].

20 “(f) Minor Patron – An applicant for certificate for patron in [the] Minor  
21 coastwise trade shall not less than twenty-five ONE years of age and shall  
22 produce satisfactory evidence showing that he/SHE has passé [high school] THE  
23 ONE YEAR BASIC MERCHANT SEAMAN’S COURSE or its equivalent in an  
24 officially-recognized school and that he has [navigated] SERVED AS  
25 APPRENTICE OR SEAMEN FOR ONE YEAR ON BOARD a coastwise vessel  
26 of NOT LESS than thirty (30) gross tons [or over a period of not less than five  
27 years] AND ONE (1) YEAR ON BOARD COASTWISE VESSEL OF NOT

1 LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED GROSS TONS as boatswain, quartermaster, [or  
2 sailor] ABLE SEAMAN.”

3  
4 SEC. 3. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of Section 17 of the same Decree are hereby  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “SEC. 17. Engine Officers. –

7 x x x

8 “(d) Fourth Marine Engineer. – An applicant must be at least a  
9 [second year high school] GRADUATE OF THE FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF  
10 SCIENCE IN MARINE ENGINEERING IN A SCHOOL recognized by the  
11 government, having served for at least SIX MONTHS as apprentice IN A  
12 SHIPYARD AND SIX MONTHS AND/OR ONE YEAR CONTINIOUS ON  
13 BOARD VESSEL AS APPRENTICE, engineer, oiler, or machinist on vessels  
14 propelled by motor or steam engines of not less than two hundred fifty BHP [.  
15 Under this category, he must pass through a review class before admitted to take  
16 examinations]: *Provided, however,* That [if the applicant is a marine engineer  
17 graduate, of a recognized school, he must have at least served two years as  
18 apprentice engineer, oiler, or machinist: *Provided, further,* That a certificate of  
19 service is issued] AN ENGINEER MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED AND DULY  
20 SIGNED by the Chief Engineer and Master of the vessel and duly authenticated  
21 by the ship owner or by the ship representative of the vessel.

22 “(e) Motor Engineer. – An applicant shall be at least twenty-one  
23 years of age, a graduate [of elementary school] IN ASSOCIATE IN MARINE  
24 ENGINEERING OR ITS EQUIVALENT RECOGNIZED BY THE  
25 GOVERNMENT, and shall produce satisfactory evidence showing that he has  
26 served as APPRENTICE ENGINEER, WIPER, oiler, machinist or apprentice  
27 motor engineer FOR SIX MONTHS IN A SHIPYARD AND SIX MONTHS ON

1, BOARD A motor vessel OR CRAFT PROPELLED [for at least five years]  
2 WITH NOT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY BHP OR ONE YEAR OF  
3 CONTINOUS SERVICE.”

4

5 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,