

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



13 JUL 23 P4 51

SENATE  
S.B. NO. 1089

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Introduced by **Senator TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

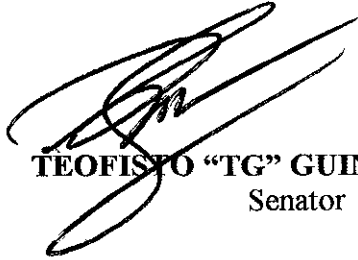
The Philippines is an archipelago consisting of several island provinces, wherein shipping as well as seaborne or river transport is an indispensable component in the country's economic development. The need therefore to provide government regulations for safe navigation and the protection of the marine environment cannot be under emphasized, and in this manner the role of harbor pilots and pilotage in general in ensuring the safe navigation of vessels (both foreign and domestic) seeking berths in all ports of the country whether privately or government owned should be recognized and given due attention by way of uniformity in practice and regulatory control.

It is the purpose of this Bill to pass a Pilotage Act which provides for an integrated and comprehensive legislation on pilotage in accordance with the generally accepted international principles of pilotage, and which is highly responsive to changing needs and requirements affecting the Harbor Pilots and their pilotage services.

Presidential Decree 857 which granted the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) regulatory powers over Pilotage has already become unresponsive to the declared national policy of uniformity on the regulatory control of pilotage matters by the establishment of various Port Authorities under Special Charter/s separate and distinct from the PPA. While PD 857 has exclusively granted the PPA the express mandate to exercise regulatory control and supervision over Harbor Pilots and Pilotage, it has failed to effectively exercise the same with the creation of several Port Authorities in the country (including Special Economic Zones) which arrogated upon themselves the regulatory control over Pilots in their respective territorial jurisdiction without any express legislative mandate in their respective Special Charter/s. There is therefore a pressing need to place regulatory control and supervision of pilotage and the conduct of Harbor Pilots under a Pilotage Commission to rationalize regulatory policies on pilotage services in the interest of uniformity and general application of all pilotage administrative policies in all ports of the Philippines.

The proposed Bill also seeks to define the legal responsibility and liability of Harbor Pilots in the event of damage to property or death and injury to persons caused by a vessel under pilotage in line with the generally and international prevailing rules in other maritime jurisdiction on Harbor Pilot's liability.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.



**TEOFISTO "TG" GUINGONA III**  
Senator



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**AN ACT CREATING A HARBOR PILOTAGE COMMISSION,  
REGULATING HARBOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AND THE CONDUCT OF  
HARBOR PILOTS IN ALL PORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR  
RELATED PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title-** This Act shall be known as the "Pilotage Service Act of  
2 2013."

3  
4 **SECTION 2. Scope-** This Act shall apply to all harbor pilots and pilotage  
5 organizations providing pilotage services in all ports in the country, whether owned  
6 by the government or private persons.

7  
8 **SECTION 3. Policy and Objectives-** It is hereby recognized by the State that  
9 pilotage service plays a vital and complementary role in the efficient operation of  
10 ports and the protection of marine environment. It is, therefore, the policy of the state  
11 through the Pilotage Commission to regulate, and supervise pilotage services and the  
12 conduct of pilots in all ports in the country to attain the following objectives:

- 13  
14 a) To ensure the safety of life at sea, port facilities, vessels, and their passengers  
15 and cargoes;  
16  
17 b) To ensure safe and efficient pilotage service at all times, the protection of  
18 marine environment, and rationalize charges based on the provisions of  
19 Executive Order 1088.  
20  
21 c) To promote and develop professionalism of Harbor Pilots.

22  
23 **SECTION 4. Definition of Terms-** For purpose of this Act, the words and phrases  
24 used herein shall, unless the context indicates otherwise, mean or be understood as  
25 follows:

- 1 a) **“Appointment”** is a designation by the Pilotage Commission granted to a  
2 harbor pilot to exercise his profession and render pilotage service in a  
3 particular pilotage district.  
4
- 5 b) **“Authority”** refers to the Philippine Ports Authority in general and to such  
6 other Port Authority, under a Special Charter, and granted with jurisdiction,  
7 supervision and control over port operation and management at a specific port  
8 in the Philippines.  
9
- 10 c) **“Harbor Pilot”** is a Master Mariner, who is not part of the regular  
11 complement of the vessel, taken on board at a particular place, is in charge of  
12 its conduct and navigation, and is duly licensed and appointed to act as such  
13 by the Pilotage Commission to render pilotage service within a specific  
14 pilotage district.  
15
- 16 d) **“Non-Governmental Organization” (NGO)** includes non-stock, non-profit  
17 private organizations with proven track record or experience in the  
18 conservation, management and protection of marine environment.  
19
- 20 e) **“Pilotage Commission”** refers to the Pilotage Commission created under this  
21 Act.  
22
- 23 f) **“Pilotage License”** is the permit or license granted by Pilotage Commission  
24 to a Master Mariner to exercise his profession and to render pilotage services  
25 in a particular pilotage district.  
26
- 27 g) **“Pilotage Organization”** is an association of Harbor Pilots duly licensed and  
28 appointed by the Pilotage Commission for a particular Harbor Pilotage District  
29 as defined in this Act.  
30
- 31 h) **“Pilotage Service”** is the act of conducting, navigating or maneuvering a  
32 vessel to/from berth or anchorage, along rivers, channels and estuaries,  
33 including all related activities thereof.  
34
- 35 i) **“United Harbor Pilots Association of the Philippines, Inc.” (UHPAP)** is the  
36 umbrella national organization of all harbor pilots of the country, duly licensed  
37 and appointed to render pilotage services in their particular pilotage district.  
38

39 **SECTION 5. *The Pilotage Commission*** – A Pilotage Commission is hereby created  
40 consisting of five (5) members, namely: the General Manager of the Philippine Ports  
41 Authority, the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, the incumbent President  
42 of the United Harbor Pilots Association, Inc., a representative of a National  
43 Association of Philippine registered Shipowners who shall be appointed by the  
44 President of the Philippines and a representative of a recognized non-governmental  
45 organization (NGO) likewise to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from  
46 among a list of recommendees to be submitted by the aforesaid last two Sectors.  
47

48 The PPA General Manager shall act as Chairman of the Pilotage Commission. The  
49 members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

1 The Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications shall fix the  
2 compensation of the members of the Pilotage Commissioners upon the  
3 recommendation of the Pilotage Commission. The Pilotage Commission is hereby  
4 placed under the administrative control and supervision of the Secretary of the  
5 Department of Transportation and Communications.

6  
7 The presence of three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
8 exercise of its functions and the affirmative vote of at least three members shall be a  
9 valid and a binding act of the Commission. In case the chairman is absent in any  
10 meeting, the members present shall elect a temporary chairman to preside over the  
11 meeting.

12  
13 Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the chairman and members of  
14 the Commission shall receive a per diem for every meeting actually attended. The  
15 Commission shall hold regular meetings once a month and in no case shall it hold  
16 more than one special meeting in any month.

17  
18 The per diem of the chairman and members of the Board shall be chargeable to the  
19 Pilotage Safety Development Trust Fund provided in Section 18 of this Act.

20  
21 **SECTION 6. Powers and Duties-** The Pilotage Commission shall have the following  
22 powers and functions:

- 23  
24 a) To exercise administrative control, regulation, and supervision on pilotage  
25 and the conduct of pilots in any Port District.  
26  
27 b) To adopt rules and regulations necessary for the enforcement and  
28 administration of pilotage and the conduct of pilots;  
29  
30 c) To issue Harbor Pilot licenses to pilot applicants meeting the qualifications  
31 herein set forth and such additional qualifications as may be determined from  
32 time to time by the Pilotage Commission;  
33  
34 d) To appoint duly licensed Harbor Pilots to conduct pilotage service;  
35  
36 e) To establish a comprehensive training program to assist in the training and  
37 evaluation of pilot applicants before final licensing, and formulate such other  
38 additional training requirements for Harbor Pilots, including but not limited to  
39 a program of continuing education on pilotage services;  
40  
41 f) To maintain a register of pilots, records of pilot accidents, and other history  
42 pertinent to pilotage;  
43  
44 g) To determine from time to time the number of pilots necessary to be licensed  
45 in each Harbor Pilotage District in order ensure the operation of a safe,  
46 efficient, and competent pilotage service in each district;  
47  
48 h) To determine and fix uniform pilotage fees for pilotage services, and review  
49 the same every five (5) years thereafter.

- 1  
2 i) To conduct investigations and render a report involving any marine casualty of  
3 vessels under pilotage, and to submit recommendations to the Secretary of  
4 Transportation and Communications and to Congress any measure to ensure  
5 the safety of life at sea, property and the protection of environment;  
6

7 The Chairman or any member of the Pilotage Commission in his absence, shall have  
8 power to administer oaths in any matter before the Commission for consideration or  
9 inquiry and to issue subpoenas requiring witnesses to appear before the Commission.  
10 Such subpoenas shall be signed by a member of the Commission. A witness willfully  
11 disobeying such subpoena served upon the witness shall be liable for contempt to be  
12 filed with the appropriate court of law.  
13

14 **SECTION 7. *Power to Define Pilotage services and Prescribe Rates-*** The Pilotage  
15 Commission shall have the power to define pilotage services, necessary tug assistance  
16 and other related requirements subject to appropriate consultations with the  
17 representatives of the United Harbor Pilots' Association of the Philippines and the  
18 ship agents or ship owners of vessels calling at ports. It shall also have the power to  
19 determine, establish and adjust the prevailing rates upward for said services based on  
20 the present individual fees and charges provided under Executive Order No. 1088 as  
21 well as the generally accepted international rates on pilotage services. The factors to  
22 be considered in the adjustment of rates shall include, among others tonnage, draft or  
23 length of vessels, peculiarity and characteristics of the harbor, port and distance  
24 covered by the service as well as pilotage services at nighttime, and during Sundays  
25 and holidays. The rates thus determined shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
26 publication in any newspaper of general circulation.  
27

28 Unpaid Pilotage Fees shall be considered a maritime lien on the vessel in which  
29 pilotage services as defined under this Act are rendered.  
30

31 **SECTION 8. *Compulsory Pilotage-*** Pilotage services shall be compulsory in  
32 government and private wharves, berths, piers or anchorage. Every vessel engaged in  
33 foreign trade shall be always under compulsory pilotage. Pilotage for vessels engaged  
34 in domestic trade shall also be compulsory except those engaged in domestic regular  
35 ferry services, including fast craft ferry vessels, not over 500 gross tons.  
36

37 **SECTION 9. *Establishment of Harbor Pilotage district-*** , There shall be Twenty Six  
38 (26) Harbor Pilotage Districts for the entire Country, namely-  
39

- 40 a) For Luzon: Manila, Aparri, Batangas, San Fernando, Masinloc-Sta.Cruz-  
41 Sual, Siain-Hondagua & Casiguran, Subic, Bicol Region, Puerto Princesa;  
42  
43 b) For Visayas: Cebu, Iloilo, North Panay, Pulupandan, Tacloban, Catbalogan,  
44 Tagbilaran, Dumaguete, Maasin-Surigao;  
45  
46 c) For Mindanao: Davao, Zamboanga, Jolo, Masao, Iligan, Cagayan De Oro,  
47 General Santos (Dadiangas), Polloc.  
48

49 The Pilotage Commission may from to time increase or decrease the number of

1 Pilotage Districts as well as the number of Harbor Pilots thereof upon prior  
2 consultation and with the conformity of the United Harbor Pilot Association and the  
3 concerned Harbor Pilotage District. The number of pilots for each pilotage district  
4 shall depend on economic viability and the need of the service.  
5

6 The prevailing territorial jurisdiction of each Harbor Pilotage District and the number  
7 of existing Harbor Pilots per District shall remain unless otherwise changed by the  
8 Pilotage Commission pursuant to this Act.  
9

10 **SECTION 10. *Qualification of a Harbor Pilot*** - No person shall be appointed as  
11 Harbor Pilot unless he is a Filipino citizen, of sound physical and mental condition,  
12 good moral character and has been a Master Mariner on board sea-going vessels of  
13 not less than 5,000 gross tons for at least 5 years.  
14

15 No person who is above fifty-five (55) years of age shall be appointed as Harbor Pilot.  
16

17 **SECTION 11. *Appointment of Harbor Pilots*** - The Pilotage Commission in  
18 consultation and coordination with the Philippine Ports Authority, the United Harbor  
19 Pilots' Association of the Philippines and the pilot association concerned shall appoint  
20 the harbor pilot in each particular pilotage district.  
21

22 Upon certification of the Chief Pilot of a vacancy in his Harbor Pilotage District, the  
23 Pilotage Commission shall cause the publication of the vacancy for the said Harbor  
24 Pilotage District at least once in a newspaper of general circulation.  
25

26 Master Mariners who are qualified for evaluation and licensing as Harbor Pilot shall  
27 submit their applications at the Harbor Pilotage District concerned. After proper  
28 evaluation and assessment, the Chief Pilot and the Harbor Pilotage District concerned  
29 shall have the full discretion to choose whom to undergo on the job training from  
30 among the most qualified candidates for Harbor Pilot.  
31

32 Every Harbor pilot must undergo actual and on the job training for at least ninety (90)  
33 days under the direct supervision of regular pilots of the Harbor Pilotage District and  
34 shall only be appointed by the Pilotage Commission upon certification of the chief  
35 pilot of the district of his competency.  
36

37 The Pilotage Commission shall simultaneously issue the corresponding Harbor  
38 Pilotage License upon his appointment as the Harbor Pilot in a particular Harbor  
39 Pilotage District.  
40

41 The appointed pilot shall serve until he reaches the age of seventy (70) years unless he  
42 becomes incapacitated to perform his duties and responsibilities by reason of illness  
43 or injury. Each Pilot shall undergo an annual physical and medical examination by  
44 any physician duly accredited by the Department of Health to determine his fitness to  
45 continue discharging his duties as Harbor Pilot.  
46

47 The appointment of harbor pilots shall not create an employer-employee relationship  
48 between the harbor pilot and the Pilotage Commission or the Authority. Any Harbor  
49 Pilot in a particular pilotage district shall be subject to cancellation or suspension for

1 cause by the Pilotage Commission, as provided in Section 14 hereof, upon the  
2 recommendation of the Chief Pilot of the said Pilotage District and the United Harbor  
3 Pilots' Association of the Philippines, and after due process.

4  
5 The Pilotage Commission shall automatically issue a Pilot License and Appointment  
6 to all existing, incumbent and active Harbor Pilots to perform pilotage services at their  
7 respective individual Harbor Pilotage District wherein he belongs at the time of the  
8 passage of this Act.

9  
10 **SECTION 12. *Compulsory Retirement of Pilots-*** Harbor pilots appointed under this  
11 Act shall be considered retired at the age of seventy (70) years.

12  
13 **SECTION 13. *Establishment of a Pilotage Organization-*** Appointed harbor pilots in  
14 a pilotage district shall register and organize themselves into a Pilotage Organization,  
15 and must be members in good standing of the said Pilotage Organization for the  
16 pilotage District as well as with the United Harbor Pilot Association of the  
17 Philippines, Inc.

18  
19 **SECTION 14. *Harbor Pilotage District Organization.*** There shall only be one  
20 Harbor Pilotage District Organization for every Harbor Pilotage District. Each Harbor  
21 Pilotage District Organization shall submit to the Pilotage Commission its Articles of  
22 Incorporation and By Laws as well as the list of its officers and members, all of whom  
23 are duly appointed Harbor Pilots for the particular pilotage District.

24  
25 The Pilotage Organizations presently organized and constituted for the specific  
26 pilotage District shall continue to act as a pilotage organization under this Act. It is the  
27 obligation of each pilotage organization to elect and submit to the Pilotage  
28 Commission the name of one of its member to act as the Chief Pilot for the pilotage  
29 district.

30  
31 All Harbor Pilotage District Organization and their active and practicing Licensed  
32 Harbor Pilot members must be a member of the Umbrella Organization for Harbor  
33 Pilots, which for purposes of this Act shall be the United Harbor Pilots' Association of  
34 the Philippines, Inc.

35  
36 **SECTION 15. *Suspension or Cancellation of Appointment-*** The appointment of a  
37 harbor pilot, after due process and investigation, may be suspended or cancelled by  
38 the Pilotage Commission for the following causes:

- 39
- 40 a) Refusal or failure to render pilotage service without just or reasonable cause;
  - 41
  - 42 b) Gross negligence, incompetence or inefficiency which compromises the  
43 safety of port facilities, vessels and their passengers and cargoes;
  - 44
  - 45 c) Charging rates not agreed by the parties or authorized or prescribed by the  
46 Pilotage Commission;
  - 47
  - 48 d) Involvement or participation in smuggling or related activities through its  
49 harbor pilots, members or officers;



- 1  
2 e) Failure to post the required performance bond or indemnity insurance;  
3  
4 f) Refusal to submit to the authority of the Pilotage Commission without  
5 justifiable cause;  
6  
7 g) Intoxication and use of prohibited drugs at the time and during the  
8 performance of his duties as Harbor Pilot;  
9  
10 h) Use and submission of any false or forged documents for the purpose of  
11 obtaining the Harbor Pilot License and/or Appointment;  
12  
13 i) Acts prejudicial to the professional Code of Conduct for Harbor Pilots;  
14  
15 j) Physical or mental impediment to render pilotage services as may be  
16 determined by a physician accredited by the Department of Health.  
17

18 **SECTION 16. *Administrative Sanctions***- Upon deliberate and unjustified refusal or  
19 failure of a harbor pilot of the pilotage organization to perform services, the Pilotage  
20 Commission upon recommendation of the Chief Pilot may order other duly appointed  
21 harbor pilots of the same pilotage organization to render such required services  
22 without prejudice to suspension or removal of such pilot as provided in this Act, after  
23 observance of due process.  
24

25 **SECTION 17. - Limitation of Pilot's Liability.** A Harbor pilot licensed to act as such  
26 by the Pilotage Commission and authorized to provide pilotage services in the  
27 different Harbor Pilotage Districts shall not be liable for damages in excess of the  
28 amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) for damages or loss  
29 occasioned by a pilot's errors, omissions, fault, or neglect in the *performance of*  
30 *pilotage services*, except as may arise by reason of his willful misconduct or gross  
31 negligence.  
32

33 Each Harbor Pilots shall post an Indemnity Insurance Bond from the Government  
34 Service Insurance System (GSIS) or from such reputable Insurance Company  
35 acceptable to the Pilotage Commission, to cover the limit of his liability or for such  
36 amount as may be required by the Commission after consultation with the United  
37 Harbor Pilot Association of the Philippines.  
38

39 The Harbor Pilot shall be free from responsibility for damage, injury or death arising  
40 from the negligence of the Master and crew of the vessel under pilotage,  
41 unseaworthiness of the vessel, breakdown of its machineries and equipment, *force*  
42 *majeure* or fortuitous event.  
43

44 Upon actual boarding a vessel to provide pilotage services, that pilot becomes a  
45 servant of the vessel and its owner and operator. Nothing in this section exempts the  
46 vessel, its owner, or its operator from liability for damage or loss occasioned by that  
47 ship to a person or property on the ground that (a) the ship was piloted by a duly  
48 licensed Pilot, or (b) the damage or loss was occasioned by the error, omission, fault,  
49 or neglect of a pilot duly licensed by the Commission.

1 The safety and protection of human life and property in maritime commerce under  
2 compulsory pilotage is declared to be in the public interest, and the limitation and  
3 regulation of the liability of Harbor pilots licensed and authorized under this Act to  
4 provide harbor pilotage services, is necessary to such safety and protection and is  
5 deemed to be in the public interest.

6  
7 The Harbor Pilot on board a vessel under pilotage service shall serve as adviser of the  
8 Master during and at the time of his engagement in the conduct and maneuver of the  
9 vessel. The Master of the vessel, its owners and agents are not relieved of  
10 responsibility for any loss or damage caused by or to the vessel even while the vessel  
11 is under compulsory pilotage.

12  
13 **SECTION 18. *Marine Accident and Casualty.*** In the event of a marine accident and  
14 casualty in which a vessel under pilotage is involved, the Pilotage Commission shall  
15 immediately conduct its own inquiry and investigation of the incident, and shall  
16 secure the necessary data, information and documents, needed in the further  
17 proceedings of the investigation including depositions of witnesses, before a vessel  
18 involved in the incident is cleared for departure from port or place of incident.

19  
20 **SECTION 19. *Pilotage Safety Development Trust Fund.*** - There shall be an  
21 independent and separate trust fund established under this Act, to be administered by  
22 the Pilotage Commission in accordance with existing government auditing rules and  
23 regulations.

24  
25 An amount equivalent to Five (5% ) of the gross amount of Pilotage Fees paid to the  
26 Harbor Pilots for rendering pilotage services shall be collected to establish the  
27 Pilotage Safety Development Trust Fund , which shall be exclusively and solely be  
28 disbursed and utilized for the following purposes:

- 29
- 30 a) Installation and/or upgrading of Pilotage equipment and facilities to conform  
31 with international safety standards for navigation;
  - 32
  - 33 b) Developmental Loans by way of Financial Assistance to the needs of the  
34 different Harbor Pilotage Organizations in the several Harbor Pilotage  
35 Districts for the acquisition of capital equipment necessary to render pilotage  
36 services in their respective Harbor Pilotage Districts;
  - 37
  - 38 c) Such other projects for the promotion and development of maritime safety  
39 involving pilotage services as well as for the protection of marine  
40 environment;
  - 41
  - 42 d) Per Diems and administrative expenses of the Pilotage Commission.

43  
44 The Trust Fund shall be deposited at all times in only one authorized government  
45 depository bank as determined by the Pilotage Commission. Any and all interests that  
46 shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same fund.

47

1 The Pilotage Commission shall render a quarterly report to the Secretary of  
2 Transportation and Communications of the status of the Trust Fund, including  
3 detailed disbursements therefrom.

4  
5 There shall be no disbursement from the Trust Fund unless they are made pursuant to  
6 the program of expenditures duly approved by the Pilotage Commission.

7  
8 No other charges or imposition by way of government share shall be levied on the  
9 gross income of Harbor Pilots derived from rendering pilotage services and in the  
10 exercise of their profession as Harbor Pilots.

11  
12 **SECTION 20. *Operations and Funding.*** – To carry out the provisions of this Act, the  
13 United Harbor Pilots Association of the Philippines, Inc. shall initially shoulder the  
14 amount of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00). Thereafter, the Pilotage Safety  
15 Development Trust Fund shall finance the cost of the administrative operations of the  
16 Pilotage Commission as well as defray such projects that the Pilotage Commission  
17 shall undertake pursuant to this Act.

18  
19 **SECTION 21. *Penal Provision.*** A fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos  
20 (P20,000.00) nor more than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) or  
21 imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years or  
22 both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed  
23 upon:

- 24  
25 a) Any person who shall render pilotage services without license and  
26 appointment by the Pilotage Commission;  
27  
28 b) Any person who represents himself as a Harbor Pilot for a particular Pilotage  
29 District without being a member of the Pilotage Organization for the said  
30 particular Harbor Pilotage District;  
31  
32 c) Any person who shall give any false or forged documents for the purpose of  
33 obtaining the Harbor Pilot License and/or Appointment;  
34  
35 d) Any person who shall use an expired, revoked and/or suspended Harbor Pilot  
36 License or Appointment to perform pilotage services;  
37  
38 e) Any person who shall assume, use or advertise the title of a Harbor Pilot under  
39 his name, or any description to convey the impression that he is an active and  
40 duly Licensed Harbor Pilot without holding a valid Harbor Pilot License and  
41 Appointment issued by the Pilotage Commission.

42 **SECTION 22. *Implementing Rules and regulations-*** The Pilotage Commission is  
43 hereby authorized to promulgate the appropriate rules and regulation based on  
44 admiralty laws and practices for the proper implementation of this Act, in consultation  
45 with the United Harbor Pilots' Association of the Philippines, and with the  
46 representatives of the Philippine Registered shipping companies.

47  
48 **SECTION 23. *Transitory Provision.*** – The existing Port Authority granted by law to  
49 exercise supervision and regulation of Pilotage and the conduct of Harbor Pilots shall

1 continue to function in the interim until such time that the Pilotage Commission shall  
2 be constituted pursuant to this Act. The Pilotage Commission shall be deemed  
3 constituted upon the appointment and/or confirmation of appointment of at least the  
4 majority of the members of the Pilotage Commission by the President, which shall not  
5 be later than six (6) months from the passage of this Act.

6  
7 **SECTION 24. *Repealing Clause***- All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
8 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act  
9 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10  
11 **SECTION 25. *Separability Clause***. - If any part or provision of this Act is declared as  
12 unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the other parts or  
13 provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

14  
15 **SECTION 26. *Effectivity Clause***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
16 publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,