

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



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SENATE
S. No. **1915**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XII, Section 14, provides:

The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower, and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State.

P.D. No. 223 created the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), which is tasked to administer, implement, and enforce regulatory policies of the national government with respect to the regulation and licensing of the various professions and occupations under its jurisdiction, including the maintenance of professional and occupational standards and ethics and the enforcement of the rules and regulations relative thereto.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), there are more than forty (40) recognized professions in the country. Each of these professions has their own organizations or associations. Unfortunately, many professionals, for some reason or another, fail to become members of such organizations or associations. Thus, these professionals are unable to avail of benefits given to members.

This bill seeks to address this problem by mandating that all examinees who pass the PRC licensure examination shall automatically become members of their respective accredited professional organization upon compliance with the membership requirements.*

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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SENATE
S. No. 1915

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1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONALS IN THEIR
3 RESPECTIVE ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be cited as the “Automatic Professional
5 Membership Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall enhance, promote, and protect
7 various professional disciplines and towards this end, shall unify and strengthen the bond
8 amongst all professionals and shall encourage their active involvement and participation in
9 organizations or societies which will serve as vehicles for nurturing and enhancing the standard
10 of practice of their profession, thereby ensuring the contribution of professionals to the
11 upliftment of the general welfare, economic growth, and development of the nation. In pursuit of
12 these objectives, automatic membership of professionals in their respective accredited
13 professional organizations shall be required.

14 SECTION 3. *Accredited Professional Organization.* – There shall be one professional
15 organization for each profession which shall be accredited by the Professional Regulation
16 Commission (PRC), herein referred to as the Commission, which shall serve as the umbrella
17 organization for all professionals in their respective professions. The establishment of this
18 accredited professional organization shall not be a bar to the formation and continued existence
19 of other voluntary organizations which may co-exist with the accredited professional

1 organization. Duly accredited professional organizations now existing shall continue to be
2 recognized as such by the Commission.

3 Each Accredited Professional Organization (APO) shall coordinate and work together
4 with their respective Professional Regulatory Board (PRB), here referred to as the Board, in the
5 exercise of its function for the effective enhancement of their profession particularly in the
6 promotion of programs and activities which will advance and foster excellent and globally
7 competitive professionals in their respective fields of expertise.

8 The functions and responsibilities of the APO are as follows:

- 9 (A) Maintain an updated roster of membership in the organization;
- 10 (B) Enforce rules and regulations for membership in good standing;
- 11 (C) Organize, conduct, and accredit continuing professional education and training
12 programs for its members;
- 13 (D) Monitor and supervise the activities and operations of organizations belonging
14 under APO;
- 15 (E) Assist the Board in monitoring and ensuring that members maintain the highest
16 professional competence and comply at all times with their professions' Code of Ethics;
- 17 (F) Report and recommend sanctions to the Board on illegal and malpractice cases of
18 the profession;
- 19 (G) Assist the Board in enforcing compliance with member registration and renewal
20 of licenses;
- 21 (H) Select, evaluate, and submit to the Commission nominees to fill up any vacancies
22 in the Board;
- 23 (I) Assist the Board in the preparation, adoption, and issuance of syllabi or tables of
24 specifications of the subjects for licensure examinations;
- 25 (J) Assist government agencies in activities related to the delivery of services and
26 improvement of the professionals and the profession; and
- 27 (K) Perform such other functions and responsibilities normally performed by
28 accredited professional organizations.

1 SECTION 4. *Automatic Membership.* – All examinees who pass the PRC licensure
2 examinations and who have been issued a Certificate of Registration and a Professional License
3 or Certificate of Competency, as the case may be, shall automatically become members of their
4 respective accredited professional organizations upon compliance with the membership
5 requirements. All professionals, whose names now appear in the roster of professionals or who
6 may hereafter be included, upon registration and payment of required fees, shall automatically
7 become members of their respective accredited professional organization and shall be issued a
8 certificate of membership. Professionals with more than one profession shall automatically be
9 considered as members of all the appropriate APOs under the same terms and conditions
10 provided herein.

11 A Certificate of Membership in Good Standing from each respective APO shall be
12 presented by the professional to the Commission before the latter may renew his license to
13 practice his profession.

14 SECTION 5. *Inactivation of Membership.* – The Accredited Professional Organization
15 shall consider a member under inactive status in the event that the member decides to
16 discontinue the practice of the profession, in which case, his name shall not be dropped from the
17 roster of membership, provided, however, that if he wants to resume the practice of the
18 profession, he shall follow the procedure and requirements for registration for new members of
19 the organization.

20 SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Professional Regulation
21 Commission, in consultation with the representatives of existing accredited professional
22 organizations and professional regulatory boards, shall formulate the necessary implementing
23 rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

24 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
25 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
26 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,