

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. **1299**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT MORE THAN A HUNDRED POSITIONS IN
THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARDS ARE STILL VACANT

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 3 states that: "The State shall afford full
protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment
and equality of employment opportunities for all";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* on 20 April 2015 reported that more a hundred vacancies
in the Professional Regulatory Boards (PRB) remain unfilled, and that the selection committee is
having difficulty in inviting applicants;

WHEREAS, the news quoted Rose Gascon of the Professional Regulation Commission
(PRC) selection committee secretariat as saying that a total of 113 positions in 28 PRBs remain
vacant;

WHEREAS, Gascon further claimed that the PRB screening committee has published the
vacancies three times and invited qualified applicants, but have not received a single application;

WHEREAS, Gascon admitted that due to the vacancies, a number of PRBs have been
forced to suspend the administration of licensure exams;

WHEREAS, the problem purportedly prevails despite the fact that the rules for the
selection of PRB members have been eased in 2013;

WHEREAS, under the law, only professional organizations should submit a list of
nominees for the PRBs, from which Malacañang will appoint a board member;

1 WHEREAS, amid the dwindling number of professional organizations, the PRC in 2013
2 reportedly issued a resolution that opened the vacancies to the public and created a selection
3 committee for qualified applicants;

4 WHEREAS, Gascon claimed that reasons for the apparent lack of interest for the
5 vacancies may include:

6 (1) The fact that that board members do not have fixed salaries and instead receive
7 honoraria or allowances during their three-year term; and

8 (2) The requirement of independence from educational institutions, which means that
9 applicants for PRB members would have to resign from their jobs;

10 WHEREAS, Congress must heed calls to review the law governing the Professional
11 Regulatory Boards to address the problem of longstanding vacancies, which prevents the boards
12 from dispensing with their duties;

13 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
14 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that more
15 than a hundred positions in the Professional Regulatory Boards are still vacant.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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