

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



15 SEP -3 P2:57

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: J.

S. B. NO. 2931

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF PROFESSIONS BY CREATING AN ACCREDITED INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (AIPOs) FOR EVERY PROFESSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While the duty to regulate the practice of each profession is vested by law in the various Professional Regulatory Boards (Boards) created to govern the different professions, the complementary role of the professional organizations in this respect cannot be overemphasized. Hence, our regulatory laws for the various professions define not only the mandate and functions of the Boards but also those of the professional organizations to be accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) upon the recommendation by the Boards.

Included among these functions is their duty to submit nominations to vacancies in the Boards pursuant to pertinent laws and regulations. Likewise, national policies directly affecting the practice of professions, including the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for the Profession are developed and promulgated in close consultation and coordination with the accredited professional organizations (APOs).

The Boards also conduct inspection and monitoring of firms, establishments and higher educational institutions with the assistance of the APOs. The latter also take part in the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs for each profession as members of the CPD Councils. Even in technical discussions and in consultations on bills relating to the practice of profession, the APOs are normally invited to send representatives as resource persons.

The PRC began to accredit professional organizations in the different professions in 1975. One of the first professional regulatory laws which mandate the integration of the profession was Republic Act No. 7836, also known as the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994, as amended. There are at present seventeen (17) professions whose laws provide for the integration of the profession.

This measure will institutionalize and streamline the concept of integration across all professions with the creation of an Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) for each of the regulated professions that will be national in scope. Membership in the AIPO for each profession shall be also compulsory.

The proposed set-up will also provide a stable platform for the expeditious discussion and resolution of all issues and concerns relating to the practice of each profession, as well as allow easier collaboration and cooperation between the Commission, the Board and the professionals they are supposed to regulate.

For the foregoing reasons, the expeditious approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (AIPOs) FOR EVERY PROFESSION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Integration of the
Professions Act of 2015*".

Section 2. Statement of Policy. - The State, thru the Professional Regulation
Commission (Commission) and the Professional Regulatory Boards (Boards) for each
profession, recognizes the vital role of professionals in nation-building by promoting the
sustained development of a reservoir of quality and competent professionals through the
administration of the licensure examinations and the provision of the highest standards of
professional practice.

In pursuance thereof, the different professional organizations shall be tapped to provide
assistance and support to the Commission and the Boards; and to further strengthen and
empower these professional organizations, their integration into a single, accredited
national organization for each profession shall be considered a priority thrust of the
government.

Section 3. Objectives. - This Act provides for the:

- (a) Institutionalization of the concept of integration of professionals in each professions
into an Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) for said profession
across all professions;
- (b) Mandate and functions of the AIPO;
- (c) Criteria and procedure in the creation of the Accredited Integrated Professional
Organization (AIPO) in each profession; and
- (d) Regulation and supervision of the operations of the AIPOs.

1 **Section 4. Definition of Terms.** - The following terms, as used in this Act, shall
2 mean:

- 3
- 4 (a) *Accreditation* refers to the power of the Commission to certify or recognize an entity
 - 5 as the AIPO for a certain profession;
 - 6 (b) *Integration* refers to the process of unification of all registered and licensed
 - 7 professionals into a single national professional organization through their
 - 8 automatic and mandatory membership thereto;
 - 9 (c) *Boards* refer to the Professional Regulatory Boards;
 - 10 (d) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;
 - 11 (e) *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to the single national
 - 12 organization representing a particular profession and to which membership by all
 - 13 registered and licensed professionals is automatic and mandatory by express
 - 14 provision of law; and
 - 15 (f) *Professional Regulatory Laws (PRLs)* refer to the legal charter creating and governing
 - 16 the various Boards, defining their functions and providing for the rules and policies
 - 17 that govern the practice of a specific profession.
- 18
19

20 **Section 5. Functions of the AIPO.** - The AIPO shall have the following powers,
21 functions and responsibilities:

- 22
- 23 (a) To submit nominations to vacant positions in the Boards in accordance with the
 - 24 provisions of Executive Order No. 496 and other relevant laws as well as rules and
 - 25 regulations;
 - 26 (b) To engage in consultations with the Board and the Commission on any and all
 - 27 matters affecting the practice of professions;
 - 28 (c) To assist the Boards in the conduct of inspection and monitoring of firms,
 - 29 establishments and corporations organized for the practice of professions, as well as
 - 30 higher educational institutions offering academic courses for the licensure
 - 31 examinations;
 - 32 (d) To participate in the preparation of the Tables of Specification (TOS) of the licensure
 - 33 examination subjects, Codes of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards of
 - 34 Professional Practice, among others;
 - 35 (e) To encourage and oversee its members in pursuing and participating in Continuing
 - 36 Professional Development programs and other activities aimed to uplift and
 - 37 advance the standards of the profession;
 - 38 (f) To maintain an updated registry of its members;
 - 39 (g) To provide its members with all the benefits and privileges appurtenant to their
 - 40 AIPO membership pursuant to its constitution and by-laws;
 - 41 (h) To issue Certificates of Good Standing to its members upon payment of the
 - 42 prescribed fees and dues;
 - 43 (i) To exercise supervisory powers over the other professional organizations under it;
 - 44 (j) To represent the interests of its members on all issues and concerns pertaining to or
 - 45 affecting the profession; and
 - 46 (k) To assist the Board and the Commission, as may be required under the
 - 47 circumstances.
- 48
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50 **Section 6. Mechanics for Integration.** - The following are the criteria and
51 procedure to be observed in the integration of the various professions:

52

53 6.1 *Creation of an Umbrella Organization.* All existing professional organizations
54 shall unify and integrate into a single national organization under the supervision of
55 the Commission, thru the concerned Board. Stakeholder consultations shall be
56 undertaken for this purpose.

1 6.2 *Composition of the Board of Trustees.* This new organization shall be
2 incorporated or registered as a non-stock and non-profit organization to be
3 governed by a Board of Trustees. The initial Board of Trustees shall be composed of
4 representatives from the existing professional organizations on the basis of the
5 number of their total membership.
6

7 There shall be a minimum of five (5) to a maximum of fifteen (15) members of the
8 Board of Trustees that will be chosen depending on the number of professional
9 organizations existing at the time of integration.
10

11 The members of the subsequent Board of Trustees shall be elected annually or as
12 often as provided by the constitution and by-laws in the manner provided therein.
13

14 6.3 *Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.* The Commission shall come up with a
15 standard Articles of Incorporation and By-laws that will govern the operations of all
16 AIPOs. The Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, as adopted by each profession,
17 shall, upon approval by the Commission, be submitted to the Securities and
18 Exchange Commission (SEC) for registration.
19

20 The Articles of Incorporation and By-laws referred to above shall be adopted by all
21 the other AIPOs that will be subsequently created after the approval of this Act.
22

23 6.4 *Accreditation by the Commission.* The umbrella organization shall apply for
24 accreditation with the Commission. Should the applicant meet the conditions to be
25 certified and recognized as the AIPO for a given profession, the corresponding
26 Certificate of Accreditation shall then be issued by the Commission.
27

28 The accreditation to be granted by the Commission shall be permanent in nature.
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31 **Section 7. Supervisory Powers of the Commission over the AIPOs.** – The
32 Commission shall exercise supervisory powers over the operation of the AIPOs and, thus,
33 may call upon its Board of Trustees and/or other officers who, under this Act, shall be
34 accountable for all the activities and programs undertaken by the AIPO.
35
36

37 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from
38 the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Boards for the different
39 professions and all relevant professional organizations, shall issue the rules and
40 regulations to implement the provisions thereof.
41
42

43 **Section 9. Appropriations.** – The funding necessary to enforce the provisions of
44 this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Commission pursuant to the General
45 Appropriations Act.
46
47

48 **Section 10. Separability Clause.** – If any section or provision of this Act or any part
49 hereof be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the remaining
50 sections and/or provisions otherwise considered as valid and legal.
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53 **Section 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
54 resolutions, and other administrative issuances or part/s thereof which are inconsistent or
55 in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed, amended and/or modified accordingly.

1 **Section 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation
3 in the Philippines.

Approved,