

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



15 SEP -7 P2:44

SENATE

S. No. 2937

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
IMPOSING RECIPROCITY AS A REQUIREMENT BEFORE ALLOWING
FOREIGN NATIONALS TO PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSIONS IN THE
PHILIPPINES TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF FILIPINO
PROFESSIONALS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a member in good standing of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) and the family of nations, we should be ready to comply with our multi-lateral obligation to allow the exchange and practice of professionals from ASEAN countries in our country, in preparation for the full integration of the ASEAN economies.


Moreover, in order to broaden career opportunities for Filipino professionals, we must be ready to reciprocate the initiative of other countries to allow our nationals to practice their professions in other states, countries and/or territories.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the policy of allowing foreign professionals to practice in the Philippines but subject to the requirement of reciprocity, as a measure to protect the interest of Filipino professionals. Under the provisions of this Act, professionals from other states, countries or territories shall be allowed to practice in the Philippines only if the country, state or territory where they are registered as such also allow Filipino professionals in the same field to practice their profession within their territorial jurisdiction on the same as the citizens/subjects of such foreign country, state or territory.

In the long run, it is earnestly believed that this policy will prepare our home grown professionals to be at par with their international counterparts and help them become

globally competitive. This representation believes that we are not only widening the opportunities of Filipino professionals who will benefit from this proposal but we are putting them in a place where they can learn more from their peers and counterparts from other countries, be it inside or outside of our country.


Hence, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of
2 the State to protect and promote the interest and well-being of every Filipino licensed
3 professional in the country by way of placing them in a level playing field with their
4 foreign counterparts and at the same time providing a policy that will foster and provide
5 our own professionals the chance to expand their career opporunities both in and out of
6 the country.

7
8 **Sec. 2. Practice of profession by Foreign citizens or nationals; Requirement**
9 **of reciprocity.** – A foreign subject, citizen or national may be allowed to take the
10 licensure examination or may be granted a certificate of registration/professional license
11 and professional identification card to practice any profession regulated by the Philippine
12 Regulations Commission (PRC) if the state, country or territory of which he/she is a
13 subject, citizen or national specifically permits Filipino professionals who are registered
14 and licensed to practice in the same regulated profession in the Philippines and who holds
15 a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card from the PRC, to

1 practice their profession within its territorial jurisdiction on the same basis as the
2 subjects, nationals or citizens of such foreign country.

3
4 **Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – For this purpose, the PRC, in
5 consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor
6 and Employment (DOLE) and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the
7 necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days upon the enactment
8 and effectivity of this Act and shall set the guidelines for the monitoring of the proper
9 implementation thereof.

10
11 **Sec. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
12 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
13 force and effect.

14
15 **Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and other
16 administrative issuances and parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of
17 this Act, are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

18
19 **Sec. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* and at least two (2) national newspapers of general
21 circulation.

Approved,