



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6423

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), ROMULO, BALINDONG, ESCUDERO, PAQUIZ, DEL ROSARIO (A.G.), LAGDAMEO (M.), MAGSAYSAY, PIAMONTE, UNGAB, LANETE AND VILLAR, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1001

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Continuing
2 Professional Education Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to promote and upgrade the practice of professions in the country.
5 Towards this end, the State shall institute measures that will continuously
6 improve the competence of the professionals in accordance with the
7 international standards of practice, thereby, ensuring their contribution in
8 uplifting the general welfare, economic growth and development of the nation.

1 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

2 **(a) *Accreditation*** is the formal or official approval granted to a person,
3 a program or an organization, upon meeting essential requirements of
4 achievement standards, including qualifications or unit(s) of a qualification,
5 usually for a particular period of time, as defined by an accrediting agency;

6 **(b) *ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework* or *AQRF*** refers to the
7 device that enables comparisons of qualifications across ASEAN Member
8 States;

9 **(c) *ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement* or *ASEAN MRA*** refers to
10 a regional arrangement entered into by the ASEAN Member States predicated
11 on the mutual recognition of qualifications, requirements met, licenses and
12 certificates granted, experience gained by professionals, in order to enhance
13 mobility of professional services within the region;

14 **(d) *Competence*** refers to an ability that extends beyond the possession
15 of knowledge and skills which include cognitive, functional, personal and
16 ethical competence;

17 **(e) *Continuing Professional Education* or *CPE*** refers to the
18 inculcation, assimilation and acquisition of knowledge, skills, proficiency and
19 ethical and moral values, after the initial registration of a professional, that
20 raise and enhance the professional's technical skills and competence;

21 **(f) *CPE credit unit*** refers to the value of an amount of learning that can
22 be transferred to a qualification achieved from formal, informal or nonformal
23 learning setting, wherein credits can be accumulated to predetermined levels
24 for the award of a qualification;

25 **(g) *CPE programs, activities* or *sources*** refer to the depth of CPE
26 aimed at enhancing the competence of a professional in order to keep abreast
27 with modern, scientific and technical advancements in the profession. The
28 scope shall be beyond the basic preparation for admission to the practice of the

1 regulated profession. Its content shall be related to the practice of the
2 profession;

3 (h) *CPE provider* refers to a natural or juridical person accredited by
4 the CPE Council to conduct CPE programs;

5 (i) *Formal learning* refers to educational arrangements such as
6 curricular qualifications and teaching-learning requirements that take place in
7 education and training institutions recognized by relevant national authorities
8 and which lead to diplomas and qualifications;

9 (j) *Informal learning* refers to learning that occurs in daily life
10 assessed through the recognition, validation and accreditation process and
11 which can contribute to a qualification;

12 (k) *Learning outcomes* refer to what a learner can be expected to know,
13 understand and/or demonstrate as a result of a learning experience;

14 (l) *Lifelong learning* refers to learning activities undertaken throughout
15 life for the development of competencies and qualifications of the professional;

16 (m) *Nonformal learning* refers to learning that has been acquired in
17 addition or alternatively to formal learning, which may be structured and more
18 flexible according to educational and training arrangements;

19 (n) *Online learning activities* refer to structured or unstructured
20 learning initiatives which make use of the internet and other web-based
21 information and communications technology solutions;

22 (o) *Pathways and equivalencies* refer to mechanisms that provide
23 access to qualifications and assist professionals to move easily and readily
24 among the different education and training sectors and between these sectors
25 and the labor market through the Philippine Credit Transfer System;

26 (p) *Philippine Qualifications Framework* or *PQF* refers to the quality
27 assured national system for the development, recognition and award of

1 qualifications at defined levels based on standards of knowledge, skills and
2 values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers;

3 (q) *Prior learning* refers to the person's skills, knowledge and
4 competencies that have been acquired through work experience, training,
5 independent study, volunteer activities and hobbies that may be applied for
6 academic credit as a requirement of a training program or for occupational
7 certification;

8 (r) *Professional* refers to a person who is registered and licensed to
9 practice a regulated profession in the Philippines and who holds a valid
10 Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card (PIC) from the
11 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);

12 (s) *Qualification* refers to a status gained after a person has been
13 assessed to have achieved learning outcomes or competencies in accordance
14 with the standard specified for a qualification title and is proven by a document
15 issued by a recognized agency or body;

16 (t) *Quality assurance* refers to planned and systematic processes that
17 provide confidence in the design, delivery and award of qualifications within
18 an education and training system and is a component of quality management
19 that is focused on ensuring that quality requirements will be fulfilled; and

20 (u) *Self-directed learning* refers to learning activities such as online
21 training, local/international seminars/nondegree courses, institution/company-
22 sponsored training programs, and the like which did not undergo CPE
23 accreditation but may be applied for and awarded CPE units by the respective
24 CPE Council.

25 SEC. 4. *Strengthening the CPE Program.* – There shall be formulated
26 and implemented CPE Programs in each of the regulated professions in order
27 to:

1 (a) Enhance and upgrade the competencies and qualifications of
2 professionals for the practice of their professions pursuant to the PQF, the
3 AQRF and the ASEAN MRAs;

4 (b) Ensure international alignment of competencies and qualifications
5 of professionals through career progression mechanisms leading to
6 specialization/subspecialization;

7 (c) Ensure the development of quality assured mechanisms for the
8 validation, accreditation and recognition of formal, nonformal and informal
9 learning outcomes including professional work experiences and prior learning;

10 (d) Ensure maintenance of core competencies and development of
11 advanced and new competencies in order to respond to national, regional and
12 international labor market needs; and

13 (e) Recognize and ensure the contributions of professionals in uplifting
14 the general welfare, economic growth and development of the nation.

15 SEC. 5. *Nature of CPE Programs.* – The CPE Programs consist of
16 properly planned and structured activities, the implementation of which require
17 the participation of a determined group of professionals to meet the
18 requirements of maintaining and improving the occupational, technical and
19 ethical standards of professions. These shall include the following:

20 (a) Formal learning;

21 (b) Nonformal learning;

22 (c) Informal learning;

23 (d) Self-directed learning;

24 (e) Trainings and seminars to enhance the practice of profession;

25 (f) Conduct of conventions of accredited professional organizations;

26 (g) Academic post-graduate degree program;

27 (h) Self-directed learning package such as the preparation and
28 authorship of technical papers, teaching manuals and books;

- 1 (i) Technical tours and workshops;
- 2 (j) Online learning activities; and
- 3 (k) Professional exchange program.

4 **SEC. 6. *Program Implementation.*** – The overall implementation of
5 the CPE Program shall be undertaken by the PRC and the Professional
6 Regulatory Boards (PRBs) which shall:

- 7 (a) Conduct the formulation and review of the CPE Program in each of
8 the regulated professions;
- 9 (b) Formulate, adopt and promulgate guidelines and procedures for the
10 implementation of the CPE Program;
- 11 (c) Organize CPE Councils for each of the regulated professions and
12 promulgate guidelines for their operation; and
- 13 (d) Coordinate with concerned government agencies and private
14 organizations in the implementation of the CPE Program and other measures
15 provided under this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. *Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of the PRC and the***
17 ***PRB.*** – The PRC and the PRBs shall undertake the overall implementation of
18 the CPE Programs and, for this purpose, shall:

- 19 (a) Organize a CPE Council for each of the regulated professions and
20 promulgate guidelines for their operation;
- 21 (b) Review existing and new CPE Programs for all the professions;
- 22 (c) Formulate, issue and promulgate guidelines and procedures for the
23 implementation of the CPE Programs;
- 24 (d) Coordinate with the academe, concerned government agencies, and
25 other stakeholders in the implementation of the CPE Programs and other
26 measures provided under this Act; and

1 (e) Coordinate with concerned government agencies in the
2 development of mechanisms and guidelines in the grant and transfer of credit
3 units earned from all the learning processes and activities pursuant to this Act.

4 SEC. 8. *The CPE Council.* – There is hereby created a CPE Council in
5 every regulated profession which shall be under the supervision of the
6 concerned PRB and shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members.

7 The Chairperson of the concerned PRB shall chair the CPE Council of
8 the profession.

9 The CPE Council shall determine its budget, including travel expenses,
10 allowances and *per diems* when attending official CPE Council meetings or on
11 matters assigned to it.

12 The first member shall be the president or officer of the Accredited
13 Integrated Professional Organization/Accredited Professional Organization
14 (AIPO/APO) duly authorized by its Board of Governors/Trustees. In the
15 absence of an AIPO/APO, the PRB concerned shall submit, within ten (10)
16 working days from the notification of such absence, a list of three (3)
17 recommendees from the national professional organizations. The PRC shall
18 designate the first member within thirty (30) days from receipt of the list.

19 The second member shall be the president or officer of the national
20 organization of deans or heads of departments of schools, colleges or
21 universities offering the course requiring the licensure examination. In the
22 absence of such organization, the PRB concerned shall submit, within ten (10)
23 working days from the notification of such absence, a list of three (3)
24 recommendees from the academe. The PRC shall designate the second member
25 within twenty (20) working days from receipt of the list.

26 The term of office of the Chairperson and members of the CPE Council
27 shall be coterminous with their respective terms of office in the PRB,
28 AIPO/APO and the national organization of deans and heads of departments of

1 schools, colleges or universities unless sooner replaced by the PRB concerned
2 through a resolution, subject to the approval of the PRC. The first and second
3 members shall have a term of office of two (2) years unless sooner replaced
4 through a resolution by the AIPO/APO concerned or the organization of deans
5 or heads of departments, respectively. However, members of the CPE Council
6 who are appointed by the PRC may be replaced before the end of the two (2)-
7 year period, upon the recommendation of the PRB through a resolution.

8 *SEC. 9. Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of the CPE Council.*

9 – The CPE Council for each profession shall:

10 (a) Evaluate and approve applications for accreditation of CPE
11 providers;

12 (b) Evaluate and approve application for accreditation of CPE
13 programs, activities or sources as to their relevance to the profession and
14 determine the number of CPE credit units (CUs) to be earned on the basis of
15 the contents of the program, activity or source submitted by CPE providers;

16 (c) Evaluate and approve applications from exemption from CPE
17 requirements;

18 (d) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the CPE programs,
19 activities or sources;

20 (e) Assess periodically and upgrade criteria for accreditation of CPE
21 providers and CPE programs, activities or sources;

22 (f) Perform such other functions that may be incidental to the
23 implementation of CPE programs or policies;

24 (g) Ensure the adequate and appropriate provision of CPE programs for
25 their respective profession;

26 (h) Assess and upgrade the criteria for accreditation of CPE providers
27 and their CPE programs on a regular basis;

1 (i) Develop mechanisms for the validation, accreditation and
2 recognition of self-directed learning, prior/informal learning, online learning,
3 and other learning processes through professional work experience;

4 (j) Conduct researches, studies and benchmarking for international
5 alignment of CPE programs;

6 (k) Issue operational guidelines, with the approval of the PRC and the
7 PRB concerned; and

8 (l) Perform such other functions related or incidental to the
9 implementation of the CPE.

10 SEC. 10. *Secretariat.* – A CPE Council Secretariat is hereby created at
11 the PRC Central and Regional Offices to provide technical, administrative and
12 operational support to the CPE Councils and the PRBs in the implementation
13 of the CPE Programs. The CPE Council Secretariat shall be headed by an
14 Executive Director to be appointed by the PRC.

15 SEC. 11. *CPE as Mandatory Requirement in the Renewal of*
16 *Professional License and Accreditation System for the Practice of Professions.*

17 – The CPE is hereby made a mandatory requirement in the renewal of the
18 PICs of all registered and licensed professionals regulated by the PRC. The
19 PRC and the PRBs shall formulate and promulgate guidelines to implement the
20 provisions of this Act.

21 SEC. 12. *Recognition of Credit Units.* – All duly validated and
22 recognized CPE credit units earned by a professional shall be accumulated and
23 transferred in accordance with the Pathways and Equivalencies of the PQF for
24 the promotion of positions in government agencies and private firms and the
25 teaching positions in academic institutions.

26 SEC. 13. *Career Progression and Specialization.* – The PRC and the
27 PRBs, in consultation with the AIPOs/APOs, the Civil Service Commission

1 (CSC), other concerned government agencies and industry stakeholders, shall
2 implement the CPE Program for every profession.

3 For this purpose, the CSC, the Department of Labor and Employment,
4 the PRC and the PRBs shall update the qualification standards of all positions
5 in government and private firms or establishments involving the practice of
6 profession in order to align and meet the requirements of the Professional
7 Regulatory Laws, PQF and this Act.

8 SEC. 14. *Role of the AIPO/APO.* – All AIPOs/APOs shall assist the
9 PRC and the PRB in the implementation of the CPE Program and, for this
10 purpose, organize a CPE Committee.

11 SEC. 15. *Role of Concerned Government Agencies and the Private*
12 *Sector.* – All concerned government agencies and private firms and
13 organizations employing professionals shall include the CPE as part of their
14 human resource development plan and program, and allocate the necessary
15 funding requirement for the attendance of their professionals in CPE Programs.

16 SEC. 16. *Fraud Relating to the CPE.* – Fraudulent acts relating to the
17 implementation and enforcement of this Act shall be punishable under the
18 pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code, the Civil Code and other
19 applicable laws.

20 In addition to the above penalties, a professional who is adjudged guilty
21 of any fraudulent act relating to the CPE shall also be meted with the penalty of
22 suspension or revocation of the PRC Certificate of Registration and/or
23 Certificate of Specialization.

24 The government official or employee who is a party to any fraudulent
25 act relating to the CPE shall also be subject to the administrative penalties that
26 may be imposed under the anti-graft laws, the Revised Administrative Code
27 and the Code of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees.

1 SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall
2 immediately include in their programs the implementation of this Act, the
3 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

4 SEC. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PRC and the
5 PRBs, in consultation with the AIPO/APO and other stakeholders, shall
6 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within six (6) months
7 from the effectivity of this Act. However, a PRB may prescribe its own
8 requirements or procedures relating to the CPE as may be pertinent and
9 applicable to the specific profession: *Provided,* That the same does not
10 contravene any of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and
11 regulations.

12 SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is
13 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby
14 shall remain in full force and effect.

15 SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
16 presidential decrees and other administrative issuances or parts thereof which
17 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
18 accordingly.

19 SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
20 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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