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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 582

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT

**STRENGTHENING AND RATIONALIZING THE CAREER SERVICE OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE CAREER SERVICE AND A LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Through the years, the function of Congress has evolved from just plenary work alone, to include the conduct of committee hearings and legislative inquiries on various socio-economic and political issues. Legislative research, bill drafting and administrative management are also additional roles that must be performed efficiently in order to complement the lawmaking functions of our legislators.

In this manner, there is a need to ensure that the people employed in Congress are able to provide administrative and technical support to our legislators. There now arises a need to set qualification standards for legislative personnel that must conform not only to Civil Service rules but to parliamentary rules, precedents, practices, and traditions, as well.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a Legislative Career Service that would allow the admission and training of competent and qualified civil servants in Congress. It also seeks to create a Legislative Career Service Board and a Legislative Academy that would ensure the recruitment and training of a pool of properly selected and development-oriented legislative personnel.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
*Senator*



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PURPOSES

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

1           **SEC. 1. Legislative Career Service.** - There shall be established a Legislative Career  
2 Service (LCS) for the Congress of the Philippines composed of:

3  
4           a) The Legislative Career Service Officers (LCSO) - to include the positions of  
5 Deputy Secretary of the Senate, Deputy Secretary General of the House of  
6 Representatives, Deputy Secretary of the Commission on Appointments, and  
7 their equivalents, Executive Director, Bureau Director, Assistant Bureau  
8 Director, Service Chief, down to Director I Level, equivalent levels which  
9 involve professional and technical work in a supervisory capacity;

10  
11           b) The Legislative Career Service Employees (LCSE) - to include Legislative Staff  
12 Officer positions which involve professional and technical work in non-  
13 supervisory capacity; and

14  
15           c) The Legislative Sub-career Service (LSCS) - to include the Legislative Staff  
16 Assistant employee positions which involve clerical, trades, crafts and custodial  
17 services in anon- supervisory capacity.

18  
19           **SEC. 2. Coverage.** - The Legislative Career Service (LCS) shall include the career  
20 officers and employees of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Commission on  
21 Appointments.

22  
23           **SEC. 3. Objective.** - This Act aims to professionalize, upgrade and strengthen the  
24 work force of the Legislative Branch to ensure that Congress and its members shall be  
25 provided with qualified, efficient and effective legislative, administrative and security support  
26 services.

27  
28           Towards this end, a continuing pool of competent and development-oriented  
29 legislative career service officers and employees shall be maintained.

30

1           **SEC. 4. *Legislative Career Service Board.*** - There shall be a Legislative Career  
2 Service Board hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of the Secretary of the  
3 Senate and the Secretary General of the House, as Co-Chairpersons; one (1) Career Official  
4 to be designated by the President of the Senate, one (1) Career Official to be designated by  
5 the Speaker of the House, and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission. The two (2)  
6 Career Officials for both Houses shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

7  
8           **SEC. 5. *Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall:

- 9  
10           a) Determine and evaluate the qualification of the applicants for LCSO positions;  
11  
12           b) Prepare the examination questions for LCSO positions and conduct the  
13 examination, correct and rate examinations papers in coordination with the Civil  
14 Service Commission and submit the results to the President of the Senate and  
15 Speaker of the House;  
16  
17           c) Conduct an annual review of the qualifications of LCSO and recommend  
18 deserving officers for appointment to the rank of LCSO;  
19  
20           d) Establish and conduct a performance evaluation system for LCSOs;  
21  
22           e) Keep a roster of those who have passed the LCSO examinations; and  
23  
24           f) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the President of the Senate  
25 of the Speaker of the House pursuant to its mandate.  
26

27           **SEC. 6. *Legislative Career Service Officers' (LCSO) Eligibility.*** - LCSO eligibility  
28 shall be conferred by the Board to any person who meets such managerial and legislative  
29 experience and competence, leadership qualities and other relevant qualifications, and who  
30 passes the examination prescribed by the Board. The examination shall consist of two stages:  
31 (a) Legislative Management Aptitude Test; and (b) Assessment of managerial capability and  
32 competence.  
33

34           Those who pass the managerial assessment will be subject to a validation process  
35 involving their superiors in order to ascertain their on-the-job performance. Successful  
36 completion of the managerial assessment and favorable results of the validation process and a  
37 final interview by the Board shall qualify the candidate for the grant of LCSO eligibility. An  
38 incumbent officer or employee who is a holder of a Career Executive Service (CES)  
39 eligibility prior to the effectivity of this Act shall automatically be conferred LCSO  
40 eligibility.  
41

42           **SEC. 7. *Qualification Requirements.*** - An applicant for LCSO examination must  
43 possess the following minimum qualifications:  
44

- 45           a) Holder of at least a Bachelor's degree;  
46  
47           b) Must have had at least three (3) years of supervisory work experience;  
48  
49           c) Must be a citizen of the Philippines; and  
50

1 d) Must not have been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of a crime  
2 involving moral aptitude.  
3

4 **SEC. 8. *Appointments.*** - Appointments to appropriate positions in the Legislative  
5 Career Service shall be made by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives, the Chairman of the Commission on Appointments, as the case may be. No  
7 person shall be eligible for appointment to any position in the Legislative Career Service  
8 unless he/she meets the qualification standards approved by the Legislative Career Service  
9 Board (LCSB) which shall at least be at par with the standards set by the Civil Service  
10 Commission.  
11

12 **SEC. 9. *Incumbents.*** - Upon approval of this Act, all incumbent officers and  
13 employees who hold permanent regular positions shall continue to hold such positions in a  
14 permanent capacity and receive the corresponding salary grade of the positions including  
15 their salary step level.  
16

17 **SEC. 10. *Legislative Academy.*** - There shall be established a Legislative Academy,  
18 hereinafter referred to as the Academy, which shall be a separate component unit of the  
19 Congress of the Philippines and shall operate under the administrative control and  
20 supervision of both the Senate, House of Representatives and the Commission on  
21 Appointments.  
22

23 **SEC. 11. *Functions of the Academy.*** -The Academy shall serve training school for  
24 legislators, legislative staff officers and employees and aspirants for legislative positions. For  
25 this purpose, it shall provide and implement a curriculum for legislative education and shall  
26 conduct seminars, workshop, other training programs designed to upgrade legislative  
27 knowledge, moral efficiency and capability. It shall perform such other functions and duties  
28 as maybe necessary in carrying out its mandate.  
29

30 **SEC. 12. *Board of Trustees.*** - The Academy shall have a Board of Trustees to be  
31 composed of the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission as Chairman, the Secretary of  
32 the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the  
33 Commission on Appointments, one Deputy Secretary of the Senate to be designated by the  
34 Senate President, one Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives to be  
35 designated by the Speaker of the House, and the Chancellor of the Academy as members.  
36

37 **SEC. 13. *Special Fund.*** - All legacies, gifts, and donations to the Academy shall  
38 constitute a special fund to be known as the Legislative Academy Fund which shall be  
39 administered by the Board of Trustees exclusively for the use of Academy. All legacies, gifts,  
40 donations for the benefit of the Academy, shall be exempt from donor's tax as provided for  
41 under the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.  
42

43 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act  
44 shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Congress. The President of the  
45 Senate, with respect to the Senate and the Commission on Appointments, and the Speaker,  
46 with respect to the House of Representatives, are hereby authorized to realign any portion of  
47 their respective appropriations to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
48

1           **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The President of the Senate and the  
2 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly promulgate such rules and regulations  
3 for the proper implementation of this Act.

4  
5           **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** - Any portion or provision of this Act that may be  
6 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions  
7 thereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their  
8 entirety.

9  
10           **SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and  
11 other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or modified  
12 accordingly.

13  
14           **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*