

SENATE

'18 JUN 20 P 1 :22

S. NO. 1853

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT**  
**OF 2016"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

1 The Constitution, Article XII, Section 14, provides:

2 **Section 14.** The sustained development of a reservoir of national  
3 talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals,  
4 managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and  
5 craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State. The State shall  
6 encourage appropriate technology and regulate its transfer for the  
7 national benefit. The practice of all professions in the Philippines shall  
8 be limited to Filipino citizens, save in cases prescribed by law.

9 When Republic Act No. 10912, otherwise known as the Continuing Professional  
10 Development Act of 2016 (R.A. No. 10912), was enacted, the intent was to make our  
11 professionals more competitive. However, what was originally a well-meaning  
12 legislation has turned out to be a costly bureaucratic nightmare for both the  
13 Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) and the licensed professionals.

14 The implementing rules of R.A. No. 10912 required the following credit units  
15 for the following professionals for every three (3) years of compliance period:

- 16 1. Accountancy – 120 credit units
- 17 2. Aeronautical Engineering – 45 credit units
- 18 3. Agricultural Engineering – 45 credit units

- 1 4. Agriculture – 45 credit units
- 2 5. Architecture – 45 credit units
- 3 6. Chemical Engineering – 45 credit units
- 4 7. Chemistry – 45 credit units
- 5 8. Civil Engineering – 45 credit units
- 6 9. Criminology – 45 credit units
- 7 10. Customs Brokers – 45 credit units
- 8 11. Dentistry – 60 credit units
- 9 12. Electrical Engineering – 45 credit units
- 10 13. Electronics Engineering – 45 credit units
- 11 14. Environmental Planning – 45 credit units
- 12 15. Fisheries – 45 credit units
- 13 16. Forestry – 45 credit units
- 14 17. Geodetic Engineering – 45 credit units
- 15 18. Geology – 45 credit units
- 16 19. Guidance and Counseling – 45 credit units
- 17 20. Interior Design – 45 credit units
- 18 21. Landscape Architecture – 45 credit units
- 19 22. Librarian – 45 credit units
- 20 23. Master Plumber – 30 credit units
- 21 24. Mechanical Engineering – 45 credit units
- 22 25. Midwifery – 45 credit units
- 23 26. Mining Engineering – 45 credit units
- 24 27. Naval Architecture – 45 credit units
- 25 28. Nursing – 45 credit units
- 26 29. Nutrition and Dietetics – 45 credit units
- 27 30. Occupational Therapy – 45 credit units
- 28 31. Optometry – 45 credit units
- 29 32. Pharmacy – 45 credit units
- 30 33. Physical Therapy – 45 credit units
- 31 34. Professional Teachers – 45 credit units
- 32 35. Psychology – 45 credit units
- 33 36. Radiologic Technology – 45 credit units
- 34 37. Real Estate Service – 45 credit units

- 1           38. Respiratory Therapy – 45 credit units
- 2           39. Sanitary Engineering – 45 credit units
- 3           40. Social Work – 45 credit units
- 4           41. Veterinary Medicine – 45 credit units

5

6           The cost of some Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs can be  
7 as low as PHP 2,500 for a 15-unit module for Real Estate Brokers to as high as PHP  
8 20,384 for a 100-unit program for Certified Public Accountants. The costs can be even  
9 higher for highly specialized professions with few training providers.

10           To ease the costs, the PRC has provided alternative modes of getting the credit  
11 units such as accrediting in-company training for professional companies, granting  
12 credit units for self-directed trainings, higher education, and participation in  
13 accredited professional activities.

14           However, even granting that the cost of training is free, the professionals still  
15 need to devote time, away from work, to attend trainings, gather the proper  
16 documentation, and apply with the PRC to have the units credited. That translates to  
17 added costs for professionals who will lose income opportunities just to navigate  
18 through the bureaucratic processes required by the present law.

19           This can be even more problematic for professionals who practice away from  
20 the cities or abroad as the cost of compliance is even higher and more prohibitive.

21           It should be noted that a significant number of these professionals earn only  
22 just above the minimum salary. To impose too heavy a burden on CPD credit units  
23 upon them is tantamount to a significant deprivation of their income.

24           On the part of the government, implementing this program represent a high  
25 cost in terms of providing the personnel who will process the accreditation and  
26 verification of required documentation. By simplifying the process we can minimize  
27 the cost for our taxpayers.

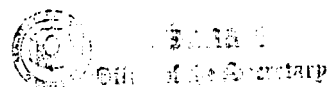
28           The PRC should take into consideration these costs when determining the  
29 required units and balance the same to the public interest in maintaining the  
30 standards for our professionals.

1           The lawyers are required 36 units of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education  
2 (MCLE) for every three-year compliance period. The MCLE is a simplified process  
3 where lawyers can attend a four-day training program once every three years where  
4 the provider handles the bureaucratic requirements. The PRC can use this as a  
5 guidance to ease the burden among our professionals.

6           Beyond requiring certified training by legislation, we can look into collaborating  
7 with private professional organizations to augment the state-required trainings to  
8 ensure that all necessary knowledge are disseminated among their members. By doing  
9 so, we can significantly reduce the bureaucratic costs of complying with the CPD law.

10           This bill provides a cap for the CPD credit units which may be required by the  
11 PRC in order to moderate the burden upon the professionals who are already serving  
12 our country by practicing their professions for the benefit of our countrymen.

  
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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10912, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE “CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT**  
**OF 2016”**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10912, otherwise known as the  
2 “Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016” (R.A. 10912) is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Section 10. *CPD as Mandatory Requirement in the Renewal of*  
5 *Professional License and Accreditation System for the Practice of*  
6 *Professions.* – The CPD is hereby made as a mandatory requirement in  
7 the renewal of the PICs of all registered and licensed professionals under  
8 the regulation of the PRC.

9 **HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN THIRTY SIX (36) CREDIT UNITS PER**  
10 **PROFESSION MAY BE REQUIRED FOR EVERY THREE YEAR**  
11 **COMPLIANCE PERIOD.**

12 **Sec. 2. *Implementing rules.*** – Within one hundred and eight days (180) days  
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC),  
14 in consultation with all Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Councils,  
15 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

16 **Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
17 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts

1       thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed  
2       or modified accordingly.

3           Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared  
4       unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby  
5       shall continue to be in full force and effect.

6           Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
7       publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation  
8       in the Philippines.

*Approved,*