

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL -2 A11 :44

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. NO. 154

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ENHANCING THE SKILLS
CERTIFICATE EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (SCEP) OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) AND THE TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(TESDA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 1080 automatically grants civil service eligibility to passers of bar examinations and other licensure examinations administered by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Several laws also grant appropriate civil service eligibility to qualified individuals.

This bill seeks to grant the same privilege to certified tech-voc graduates who are holders of National Certificates (NC) issued by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) by institutionalizing and enhancing the Skills Certificate Equivalency Program (SCEP). Currently, the SCEP is a partnership between the TESDA and the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The SCEP involves the assessment and certification of the competencies of workers through the Philippine TVET competency assessment and certification system. The assessment process, composed of a demonstration, questioning and a written test, seeks to determine whether a tech-voc graduate or worker can perform to the standards expected in the workplace. A national certificate is awarded to those who meet the competency standards. The entire process is only carried out in accredited TESDA centers with the presence of the agency's accredited assessors.

Under the SCEP, the CSC grants the appropriate civil service eligibility to an NC holder who may be a government skilled worker or any individual seeking entrance into the civil service. An individual who possesses a valid NC may file an application for the conversion of his or her NC to a civil service eligibility at any office of the CSC nationwide.

An NC issued by TESDA is a proof of one's expertise on a certain skill or set of skills. It is an assurance of the competencies of a skilled worker. Thus, this bill is consistent with the Constitutional policy that appointments in the civil service are made only according to merit and fitness.

In fact, the formulation of qualification standards follows a stringent process that starts from endorsement of qualifications by the industry stakeholders to the TESDA Board to the approval of these qualifications for the development of training regulations. To ensure the appropriateness and relevance of these training regulations, and their accompanying competency-assessment tools, TESDA conducts a periodic review of these training regulations.

Furthermore, TESDA's nationwide ISO 9001:2008 Certification is an irreversible reform that can guarantee the quality of TESDA's services. The agency was also awarded with the Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management of the Philippine Quality Awards (PQA) and now belongs to the roster of government offices and private organizations in the Philippines recognized for their performance excellence.

Hence, with a quality-assured and globally recognized tech-voc training, assessment and certification systems in the Philippines, there is no doubt that the institutionalization and enhancement of SCEP will further strengthen the principle of meritocracy in the government. Like a professional license issued by the PRC, an NC issued by TESDA forms part of the requirements being sought by recruitment agencies and private companies for Filipinos seeking employment in the country and abroad.

The passage of this bill will ensure the security of tenure of qualified skilled workers in the government, provide equal opportunities to middle skill workers to enter the civil service and, certainly, improve the image of tech-voc in the country.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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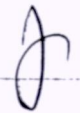
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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ENHANCING THE SKILLS CERTIFICATE
EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (SCEP) OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION (CSC) AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Skills Certificate
2 Equivalency Program Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The Constitution provides that
5 appointments in the civil service shall be made only according to merit and
6 fitness. Towards this end, it is hereby declared the policy of the state to
7 institutionalize and enhance the Skills Certificate Equivalency Program
8 (SCEP), and to give equal opportunity to certified technical-vocational
9 education and training (TVET) graduates to enter the civil service, uplift the
10 dignity of middle skill workers, and improve the image of technical and
11 vocational education in the country.
12

13 **SEC. 3. Skills Certificate Equivalency Program.** – There shall be establish
14 a Skills Certificate Equivalency Program (hereinafter, the Program), which
15 shall grant civil service eligibility to holders of Technical Education and Skills
16 Development Authority (TESDA) National Certificates (NCs).
17

18 The Program shall involve the issuance of NCs to individuals who shall
19 successfully demonstrate the required competence in specific qualifications.
20 For this purpose, an NC shall be provided equivalent civil service eligibility by
21 the Civil Service Commission (CSC).
22

1 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – The benefit under this Act shall apply to those currently
2 working in the government or seeking entrance into the civil service for
3 positions requiring eligibility thru an appropriate TESDA-issued NC.
4

5 **SEC. 5. Identification of Positions with Qualification Standards**
6 **Requiring Eligibility Through TESDA-Issued National Certificates.** – The
7 CSC and TESDA, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall identify and
8 regularly update the qualification standards requiring eligibility through an
9 appropriate TESDA-issued NC, taking into account the changing
10 requirements of the workplace and the needs of the government in ensuring
11 the delivery of efficient and effective service to the public; *Provided*, That the
12 NC remains in the roster of promulgated national qualifications of TESDA:
13 *Provided, further*, That the grant of civil service eligibility shall be based on an
14 unexpired NC.
15

16 **SEC. 6. Application for and Award of Eligibility.** – Any holder of TESDA-
17 issued NC shall file the application for civil service eligibility at any office of the
18 CSC. For this purpose, the CSC shall ensure that there are designated
19 personnel at its field offices nationwide who shall be responsible for the
20 conversion of TESDA-issued NCs to appropriate civil service eligibilities.
21

22 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The CSC and the TESDA
23 shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective
24 implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.
25

26 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
27 orders, memoranda, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the
28 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
29

30 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared
31 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
32 remain in full force and effect.

33 **SEC. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
34 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
35 circulation.

36 **Approved,**

37