


**SENATE**

'19 JUL 16 A11:35

**Senate Bill No. 528**

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY, DEFINING  
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our twenty-four senators and roughly three hundred representatives do not and could not run the legislative arm by themselves. Though our lawmakers create the nation's policies and legislative measures, it is the Congressional Secretariat that ensures that the lawmaking process proceeds with utmost speed and efficiency, by providing the necessary technical support that keeps the Congress running—from archival services, to committee support, to the scheduling of plenary affairs, to the indexing of legislative documents.

In support of these legislative officers and employees, and indeed the entire legislative arm, this bill seeks to establish the Philippine Legislative Academy. The Academy shall provide continued education to these employees and strengthen and sharpen their skills through a specialized curriculum, plus seminars, workshops, and training programs that will all enhance their understanding of and expertise in the legislative process.

Through the Academy, the Congress will have in its service a pool of professionals that will provide invaluable assistance in the lawmaking process.


In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently sought.

  
**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State  
2 to ensure an efficient and credible Career Service of the Legislature (CSL). Toward this  
3 end, it is imperative to provide members of the CSL with continuing appropriate education  
4 and training.

5           The CSL shall include the offices and employees of Congress composed of the  
6 Senate and the House of Representatives, the Commission on Appointments and the  
7 Senate and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunals. It shall also include the career  
8 officers and employees of the Philippine Legislative Academy established under this Act.

9           **SEC. 2. Objectives.** – It is the purpose of this Act to professionalize, upgrade  
10 and strengthen the work force of Congress in order:

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- 12           a) To enable its officers and employees to efficiently and effectively provide the  
13           necessary legislative and administrative support services to Congress and its  
14           Members;
- 15           b) To create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative  
16           service officers and employees; and
- 17           c) To provide a system of training and continuing education for personnel in order  
18           to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are recruited into the  
19           career legislative service.
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1           **SEC. 3. *Philippine Legislative Academy.*** – To carry out the policy and  
2 objectives enunciated in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, there is hereby established a Philippine  
3 Legislative Academy, herein referred to as the Academy. The Academy shall be a unit of  
4 both Houses of Congress and shall operate under its administration, supervision and  
5 control. It shall be located at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon  
6 City.

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8           **SEC. 4. *Functions.*** – The Academy shall serve as a training school for legislative  
9 officers and employees for positions in the CSL. For this purpose, it shall provide and  
10 implement a curriculum for legislative education as well as conduct seminars, workshops  
11 and other training programs to upgrade legislative support services, capabilities and  
12 efficiency, and shall perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying out its  
13 mandate.

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15           **SEC. 5. *Governing Board.*** – The Academy shall have, as its governing body, a  
16 Board of Trustees composed of the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, the  
17 Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, as  
18 *ex officio* members; and an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate chosen by the  
19 Senate President, and an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of  
20 Representatives chosen by the Speaker, both of whom shall have served in such positions  
21 for at least five (5) years, as designated members.

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23           The *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as such for the  
24 duration of their incumbency in their respective offices.

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26           All members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to a  
27 reasonable *honoraria*/allowance for the performance of their duties.

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29           **SEC. 6. *Executive Board.*** – The Executive Board of the Academy shall be  
30 designated by the Board of Trustees, and shall be composed of a Chancellor, two (2) Vice  
31 Chancellors and an Executive Secretary. The Executive Board shall serve for a term of  
32 three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments.

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34           In case of a vacancy in any Executive Board position, the Board of Trustees shall  
35 designate a replacement who shall serve in such position for the remainder of the  
36 unfinished term.

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The Chancellor shall have a requisite qualifications meritorious service as an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate or an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

A Vice Chancellor shall be chosen from each House. A Vice Chancellor shall have as requisite qualifications meritorious service as an incumbent Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of the Senate or the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

If no such person meets the abovementioned requirements for any position, the Board of Trustees shall designate such official with the closest qualifications.

The Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reasonable *honoraria*/allowance for the performance of their designated duties as determined by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

The members of the Executive Board shall not engage in the private practice of any profession.

**SEC. 7. Academy Staff.** – The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of professional lecturers. A lecturer shall be nominated by any of the members of the Executive Board of the Academy; and, such nomination shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Lecturers whose nominations are approved by the Board of Trustees shall be included in the list of lectures, and shall be entitled to reasonable *honoraria*/allowance as deemed fit by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

**SEC. 8. Academic Courses.** – The academic courses and the publication of a legislative service journal and such other documents shall be determined by the Executive Board and shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

**SEC. 9. Criteria for Selection and Admission to the Academy.** – The criteria for the selection and admission to the Academy shall be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

**SEC. 10. Appointment and Promotion.** – Legislative officers and employees who have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy and have satisfactorily complied with all the requirements incident thereto shall be given priority for appointment, selection or promotion to any position or vacancy in the CSL.

**SEC. 11. Consortium Agreements.** – The Academy may enter into consortium and similar or related agreements with educational and training institutions for the



1 development and implementation of programs for capacity building, career development  
2 and legislative orientation.

3 **SEC. 12. Tax Exemptions.** – The provision of any general or special law to the  
4 contrary notwithstanding:

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- 6 a) All revenues and assets of the Academy used actually, directly and exclusively  
7 for educational purposes shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
  - 8 b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to the Academy  
9 shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as  
10 allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with  
11 the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;
  - 12 c) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical,  
13 historical and cultural books, supplies, equipment, machinery and other  
14 materials, including scientific and educational computer and software  
15 equipment, shall be exempt from custom duties and taxes; and
  - 16 d) Educational services rendered by the Academy shall be exempt from value-  
17 added tax.

18 **SEC. 13. Legislative Academy Fund.** – All legacies, gifts and donations to the  
19 Academy established under this law shall constitute a special fund to be known as the  
20 Legislative Academy exclusively for the purpose of this Act.

21 **SEC. 14. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial  
22 implementation of this Act, including the operation, maintenance and improvement of the  
23 Academy shall be charged against the General Appropriations Act of 2018 and every year  
24 thereafter under the programs of the Congress of the Philippines.

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26 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision under this Act be deemed  
27 invalid, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force  
28 and effect.

29 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** – All laws and regulations inconsistent with the  
30 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

31 **SEC. 17. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
32 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
33 circulation.

34 **SEC. 18. Separability Clause.** – Should any part of this Act be declared  
35 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall  
36 continue to be in full force and effect.

1           **SEC. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in a newspaper or general circulation.

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4           *Approved,*