

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 1997

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Forensic science is the application of the methods of the natural and physical sciences to matters of criminal and civil law¹. The employment of scientific knowledge and techniques could uncover many facts and information behind the circumstances of a crime and untoward incidents such as death from disasters and accidents.

This proposed measure seeks to establish an independent and first-rate Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines, composed of highly qualified and trained experts from various disciplines, and operating separately from the law enforcement units. Such setup aims to ensure that its findings and approach to investigations will be impartial, science-based, and multidisciplinary.

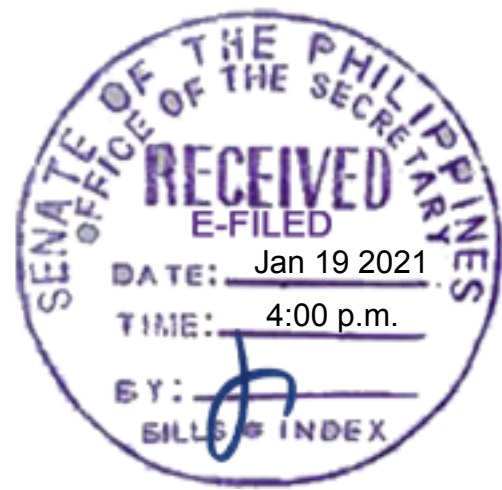
Moreover, it is hoped that with the creation of this institute, we can upgrade the forensic science capabilities of the country, develop and encourage more professionals and scientists to pursue a career in forensic science, and improve the administration of justice through enhanced evidence collection, examination and analysis and presentation of solid cases.

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/science/forensic-science>

Passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Forensic Science
2 Institute Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Creation and objective of the Institute.* – There is hereby created a
4 Forensic Science Institute in the University of the Philippines System with the following
5 objectives:

6 a) To promote research and development in the various fields of forensic
7 science and advance the search for truth through application of techniques
8 and methods of natural and physical sciences;

9 b) To enhance the competence and capabilities of existing laboratories and
10 forensic science facilities in the country and prepare them for accreditation;

11 c) To educate and develop a corps of professionals and scientists and prepare
12 them for a career in forensic science; and

13 d) To train and upgrade the technical, scientific and management skills of
14 personnel presently involved in forensic science, criminal investigation and
15 law enforcement so as to improve the administration of justice.

1 *Sec. 3. Delegation of Authority to the Board of Regents.* – The Board of Regents
2 of the University of the Philippines System is hereby authorized to establish the
3 Forensic Science Institute under the direct supervision of the Office of the President
4 of the University, which shall have a faculty and staff with expertise in the disciplines
5 of biology, chemistry, law, molecular biology, social sciences, statistics, medicine,
6 computer science, engineering, and other pertinent disciplines, who may be drawn
7 within the system or outside.

8 *Sec. 4. Functions of the Institute.* – The Forensic Science Institute will have the
9 following functions:

- 10 a) To provide competent, scientific and advanced medical and technical service
11 for the detection and investigation of crimes;
- 12 b) To maintain a network of modern laboratories and facilities for the
13 development and adoption of analytical methods and procedures related to
14 forensic evidence;
- 15 c) To offer degree and non-degree programs to students inclined towards the
16 various areas of forensic science;
- 17 d) To undertake research in all fields of forensic science; and
- 18 e) To provide continuing education on modern scientific methods and
19 instrumentation and on validation of forensic evidence to technicians and
20 personnel laboratories, medical centers and educational institutions.

21 *Sec. 5. Implementing Authority.* – The Board of Regents of the University of
22 the Philippines System is hereby mandated to formulate implementing guidelines to
23 carry out the provisions of this Act and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the
24 establishment of the Forensic Science Institute shall aim at the speedy realization of
25 the objectives and at the execution of the powers and functions stated above. Towards
26 this end, the Board shall determine the structure, composition, size of the Institute’s
27 faculty and staff.

28 *Sec. 6. Appropriations.* – The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos
29 (P300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury
30 not otherwise appropriated to carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act from
31 its effectivity until the next fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to

1 carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the subsequent annual General
2 Appropriations Act under the University of the Philippines System.

3 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
5 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

6 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
7 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
9 accordingly.

10 *Sec. 9. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

