

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -2 11:00

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 355

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Prisoners and convicts are perhaps the most neglected sector of the population and their welfare is possibly among the lowest in the priorities of our country, particularly in view of our very limited resources.

However, all persons have human rights. Even those who are in greater need of help and assistance, our prisoners and convicts. Their places of detention and imprisonment have possibly been improved, but there are still places of severe congestion, filth, very unsatisfactory amenities and the center of violence, which can break out anytime.

One of the positive ways we can improve prison management is to professionalize jail management and corrections administration. First, by requiring professionals trained in corrections and behavioral sciences to manage our jails and provide resources for the jail facilities and the prisoners. Secondly, by giving them the appropriate recognition they deserve with the equivalence in position, rank, salary and privileges.

What we need is enlightened jail management and professional approaches to the proper administration of our facilities for justice, jails and prisons.

This measure is long overdue. There is no place enlightened corrections and rehabilitation of our convicted prisoners for untrained and uncaring jailers. No civilized country should treat prisoners to an environment of stench, filth, brutality and indifferent "management" of our prison system. As long as our prisons are what they are, there will be jailbreaks, and riots, and our jails will be breeding places for hardened criminals.

Let us professionalize our jail management. Let us approve this bill.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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7 JUL -2 AM 1:00

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AN ACT
TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE PRACTICE OF PRISON MANAGEMENT AND
SET FOR THAT PURPOSE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR
SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE NATIONAL PRISON SYSTEM AND WARDENS
OF PROVINCIAL, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL JAILS

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**Professionalization of Prison Management Act of 2006**”.

SEC 2. *Qualifications of Superintendents of Prisons in the National Prison System.* – All Superintendents of Prisons or Colonies or Prison Farms of the National Prison System shall have the following qualifications at the time of their appointment:

- (a) Holder of a Bachelor’s Degree in Law, preferably a member of the Philippine Bar; or a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration, or its equivalent with at least twelve (12) units in Psychology or Sociology;
- (b) Training and experience of at least five (5) years in corrections and prison management; and
- (c) Of good moral character with reputation in the community for probity and fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a criminal offense nor charged administratively for an act involving moral turpitude.

SEC 3. *Qualifications of Wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails.* – All wardens of Provincial, City or Municipal Jails shall have the following qualifications:

- (a) Holder of a Bachelor’s Degree in Law, Public Administration, Psychology or its equivalent, with at least twelve (12) units in Behavioral Sciences, Sociology, or Psychology;

- (b) Training and experience of at least three (3) years in corrections and prison management; and
- (c) Of good moral character with a reputation in the community for probity and fair-mindedness and who has never been convicted of a criminal offense nor charged administratively.

SEC 4. *Jail Management and Correction Administration Training.* – The Philippine National Police and/or the National Police Academy shall conduct courses and seminars on jail management and corrections administration for nominees and incumbents of Prison Superintendent or Jail Warden positions. Incumbent superintendents and wardens shall be required to pass courses for jail management and corrections administration in order to retain their positions.

When feasible, Superintendents and Wardens shall be sent for training abroad in jail management and corrections administration.

SEC 5. *Equivalence of Position, Rank, Salary and Privileges.* – Superintendents of the National Prison System shall enjoy in position, rank, salary and privileges of an Assistant Bureau Director, provincial, city and municipal jail wardens shall enjoy the position, rank, salary and privileges of a Division Head of a Bureau; *Provided*, That said Superintendents or Wardens shall have the qualifications herein set forth; *Provided further*, That incumbents shall have to first qualify for the requirements of the position herein set forth before they can enjoy the position, rank, salary and privileges herein set forth; *Provided finally*, That said incumbents shall continue to discharge the duties of Superintendent or Warden until reassigned, retired or separated from office, or otherwise replaced by the appointing authority by a qualified official.

SEC 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon approval and completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,