

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)

6 MAY 31 PG 4

Senate of the Philippines
SENATE BILL NO. 2256

RECEIVED BY:

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE RALPH G. RECTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 12, Article XII (Social Justice and Human Rights) of the Constitution provides as follows:

Sec.12 The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

The country currently faces a looming crisis in health services due to the unabated migration of health and medical professionals lured by higher salaries, better working conditions and more opportunities for professional growth in foreign countries. The Philippines now holds the dubious distinction of being the top exporter of nurses. Doctors are also leaving the country in droves. Of late, many doctors have even opted to go back to school to become certified nurses just to get out of the country to work elsewhere.

Reports are rife that hospitals in rural areas in Visayas and Mindanao face imminent closure because of the lack of doctors and nurses. Even prestigious medical institutions find it difficult to attract fresh graduates to fill up slots for doctors. The government has acknowledged the reality that, indeed, the country is facing an alarming shortage of medical doctors and other medical professionals.

Since medical doctors constitute the core of a country's public health service system, the shortage of doctors severely prejudices the capacity of government to deliver timely, adequate, competent and affordable medical and health care services to our people, especially the poor who direly need such services but can hardly afford them, and whose only access to such services is through the public health service system.

Thus, there is an urgent need to create a steadily expanding pool of medical doctors to strengthen and expand the core of the public health service system through institutional mechanisms and programs that will not only enable a greater number of qualified and public-service oriented young people to pursue medical education but also systematically and effectively ensure their integration into the public health service system in such manner that would harness their talents within an optimum period of time for the benefit of our country and people.

This bill seeks to address that need by creating a Philippine Medical Academy and establishing a Philippine Medical Scholarship and Service Program.

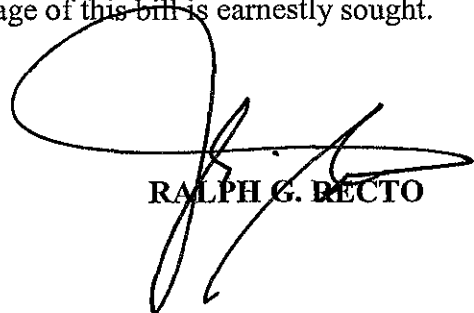
The Academy shall provide the institutional mechanism for the envisioned sustained human resource development for the Philippine public health care system and the scholarship program shall provide the financial and other educative resource support mechanisms for the pursuit of studies in the field of medicine of deserving and qualified young people. The University of the Philippines, through its College of Medicine, shall serve as the institutional core or principal medical educational institution within which grantees or scholars of the program shall pursue their medical training and studies.

The government shall provide the physical, technical and financial resources to equip, man, and develop the U.P. College of Medicine as the institutional core of the Philippine Medical Academy. It shall also provide funds to pay for all the necessary expenses such as tuition, matriculation and all other school fees, prescribed textbooks and other educational supplies and equipments, board and lodging expenses, clothing and uniform allowances, traveling expenses and other related miscellaneous living allowances of qualified entrants to the Philippine Medical Academy and recipients of the scholarship program.

It is envisioned that upon passing the medical board examination, a scholar shall spend his/her post-graduate internship in a public health institution to commence his/her integration into the public health service system and shall accordingly be given the appropriate rank and salary. Such integration into the public service system shall be mandatory for a period equivalent to at least two (2) years for each year of scholarship benefits received.

The Academy and the Scholarship program shall be administered by a Board empowered to formulate and implement policies, rules and regulations, and all such other activities for the effective Management and Development of the Academy and the Scholarship program.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




RALPH G. RECTO

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)

6 MAY 31 1964

SENATE

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S. BILL NO. 2256

Introduced by SENATOR RALPH G. RECTO

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ACADEMY AND ESTABLISHING
THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
2 Medical Academy and Scholarship Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.***- It is the policy of the State to undertake health
4 manpower development responsive to the country’s health service needs. Towards this
5 end, the State shall establish mechanisms inclusive of creating educative institutions and
6 scholarship programs to enable deserving and qualified individuals to pursue education
7 and training in the field of medicine, and shall formulate and implement such policies and
8 programs to systematically integrate these individuals, upon qualifying as doctors of
9 medicine, into the public health care system.

10 **SEC. 3. *The Philippine Medical Academy.*** – There shall be created a Philippine
11 Medical Academy (PMA) which shall be the primary educational institutional
12 mechanism for the sustained human resource development for the Philippine Public
13 Health Care System. The government, on its own and, when feasible, in partnership with
14 other lawful entities in the public and private sectors, shall provide and undertake
15 measures to generate the necessary financial, technical, physical and other resources
16 needed to efficiently and effectively man, equip, manage and develop the U.P. College of
17 Medicine as the institutional core of the Philippine Medical Academy. Upon fulfillment
18 of prescribed conditions as may be required by the Philippine Medical Academy and
19 Scholarship Board (PMASB), other colleges of medicine may be accredited and

1 integrated into the Philippine Medical Academy as adjunct educative institutions that will
2 provide training and education in the field of medicine to qualified entrants to the
3 Philippine Medical Academy.

4 ***SEC. 4. Medical Scholarship.*** - There shall be an annual selection, through
5 appropriate examinations and screening processes, from among qualified graduating
6 students of appropriate courses in colleges and universities nationwide, those who shall
7 be admitted to the Philippine Medical Academy to be known as Medical Academy
8 Scholars and who shall be granted scholarship in medicine that shall cover expenses for,
9 among others, tuition, matriculation and other school fees; prescribed textbooks, supplies
10 and equipment; board and lodging expenses; clothing and uniform allowances; traveling
11 expenses and other related miscellaneous living allowances, Provided, that at least five
12 (5) candidates per region, or when practicable, one (1) candidate from every province and
13 city shall be chosen to participate in the annual selection and Provided further, that at
14 least fifty (50) candidates shall be selected as “medical academy scholars” annually.

15 ***Sec.5. Qualifications of Candidates.*** - Candidates for admission into the
16 Philippine Medical Academy and for medical scholarship grants shall possess the
17 following minimum qualifications:

- 18 a. Must belong to the top thirty per centum (30%) of their respective
19 graduating classes and must be completing undergraduate courses
20 identified by the PMASB as a prerequisite course to the pursuit of
21 studies in the field of medicine;
- 22 b. Family and or personal incomes are not sufficient to finance their
23 education in the field of medicine;
- 24 c. Must be in good health and of good moral character; and
- 25 d. Must be not more than twenty-five (25) years of age and a natural born
26 citizen of the Philippines.

27 ***Sec. 6. General Conditions for Admission to the Philippine Medical Academy***
28 ***and for the Scholarship Grant.*** – A medical Academy scholar shall receive and continue
29 to enjoy the benefits of the scholarship until he/she completes his/her course, subject to
30 the following conditions:

- 1 a. He /she shall pass the entrance/ admission examinations and related
2 requirements of the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines;
- 3 b. He/she shall enroll in the University of the Philippines College of Medicine
4 and carry the full load of subjects prescribed per semester by the said medical
5 school, and shall, under no circumstance, drop a course which will result in
6 under-loading; and
- 7 c. He/she shall be allowed, for valid reasons preventing his/her enrolment, to
8 defer availing of the scholarship and/or to file a leave of absence for a period
9 equivalent to and/ or not exceeding one school year.
- 10 d. He/she shall sign an agreement stating the terms and conditions of the
11 scholarship on a form prescribed by the Philippine Medical Academy
12 Scholarship Board;
- 13 e. He/she shall repay the full amount of scholarship funds and benefits received
14 and spent for his/her benefit and the scholarship shall be terminated in the
15 event the grantee accepts another scholarship from other government or
16 private agencies or entities; and
- 17 f. He/she shall also repay the full amount of scholarship funds and benefits
18 received and spent for his/her benefit in case of failure to complete the
19 medical course without valid cause, Provided that, if such failure is due to
20 academic failings, physical and mental disabilities and incapacities, and such
21 other reasonable causes, and he/she pursues and completes another course to
22 qualify him/her as a medical service practitioner, he/she may choose, instead
23 of repayment of scholarship benefits, to render services and be integrated into
24 the public health service system for a period equivalent to two (2) years of
25 service for every year of scholarship availed.

26 **Sec.7. – Medical Service Program.** – The scholar shall, pursuant to the agreement
27 provided in Section 6 hereof, render services and be integrated into the public health
28 service system as medical doctor, with the appropriate rank and salary upon his/her
29 passing of the medical board examination; Provided, that such service and integration in
30 the public health service system shall be mandatory for a period equivalent to at least two

1 (2) years per year of scholarship availed and within which period, the scholar is granted
2 periodic promotion and advancement in rank and salary grade at least one rank higher at
3 least every three years in the service; and Provided, further that he/she shall undertake
4 post graduate internship in a public health or medical institution and such internship shall
5 be part of the mandatory service and integration into the public health service system.

6 **Sec. 8. Philippine Medical Academy Scholarship Board (PMASB).** – There is
7 hereby created a Philippine Medical Academy and Scholarship Board (PMASB) which
8 shall administer the Philippine Medical Academy and the Scholarship and Service
9 Program and shall be empowered to formulate, consolidate, integrate, systematize and
10 implement all policies, rules and regulations and programs related thereto and intended to
11 enhance the effectiveness thereof.

12 The PMASB shall be composed of the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher
13 Education, The Secretary of Education, The Secretary of Health, The Secretary of Budget
14 and Management, The President of the University Of the Philippine System, The Dean of
15 the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines and the Chairpersons of the
16 Committees on Health and Higher Education of the House of Representatives and the
17 Senate. The members of the PMASB shall be entitled to reasonable amounts of per
18 diems, representation, travel and transportation allowances.

19 The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education shall be the Chairman of
20 the Board.

21 **Sec. 9. Functions of the Board.**– The PMASB shall have the following functions:

- 22 a. Determine, formulate and promulgate the appropriate policies, measures, rules
23 and regulations necessary to operate, manage, maintain, and enhance the
24 effectiveness of the PMA and the scholarship and services programs integral
25 to its operations;
- 26 b. Establish cooperative and coordinative linkages with other educational and
27 related institutions in the public and private sectors to ensure the effective
28 operation, management and development of the PMA and the scholarship and
29 services programs;

- 1 c. Prescribe such tests, standards and/or criteria for the selection of medical
2 scholars; and the relevant and appropriate terms and conditions governing
3 the availing of scholarship grants and the integration of qualified medical
4 scholars into the public health service system;
- 5 d. Determine the various expenses to be covered by the scholarship, and approve
6 the timely payment thereof to medical scholars from such sums appropriated
7 by law and such other funds available for the purpose;
- 8 e. Approve the staffing pattern and salary and/or compensation of officers and
9 personnel of the Secretariat;
- 10 f. Conduct regular meetings at least twice a month, or upon the call of the
11 Chairman of the Board; and
- 12 g. Perform such other duties and functions as hereinafter be assigned to it by the
13 President of the Philippines.

14 **Sec. 10. Secretariat.** – There shall be a Secretariat to provide administrative and
15 technical assistance to the PMASB. It shall be headed by an Executive Director, and its
16 staff shall be recruited preferably from qualified professionals from the academe and
17 medical profession.

18 **Sec. 11. Appropriation.** – The sum of One Hundred Million (P100,000,000.00)
19 pesos is hereby authorized to be appropriated to constitute the initial PMSSP Fund.
20 Thereafter, such additional sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual
21 General Appropriations Act.

22 **Sec. 12. Donations, Grants, etc.** – the Board may accept donations, legacies,
23 grants, and other contributions to form part of the Medical Scholarship Fund: Provided,
24 that such donations, legacies, grants, and other contributions shall be exempt from
25 taxation and shall be allowable deductions for income tax purposes. Proceeds from at
26 least two (2) draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes per year shall also be allocated
27 to finance the PMA, and the Scholarship and Services Programs.

28 **Sec.13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Chairman of the
29 Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the Secretary of Education, The
30 President of the University of the Philippine System and the Chairpersons of the

1 Committees on Health and Education of the House of Representatives and the Senate
2 shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective
3 implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from the Effectivity thereof.

4 *SEC. 14. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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7 Approved