

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

6 JUL 31 1954

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2422

RECEIVED BY



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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Academic credentials are very important in obtaining employment, a promotion or higher compensation in employment, or admission to a qualified institution. It is likewise important when presented in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation. Thus, there is the temptation on the part of unscrupulous people to use or claim to have false academic credentials in the hope that will get the job, promotion, admission, loan or recognition they seek. The evil result of this deception is the possible damage to the other party and to the public because unqualified or underqualified people may get jobs, positions or responsibilities which they are ill-equipped to handle, or recognition and adulation which they do not deserve.


This bill seeks to protect the public from falling prey to other people's use or claim to having of false academic credentials. It likewise penalized those engaged in the issuance, manufacture and sale of such false academic credentials

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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6 JUL 31 1968

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2422

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AN ACT  
TO PROHIBIT THE USE, ISSUANCE, MANUFACTURE AND SALE  
OF FALSE ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Authentic Academic Credentials Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to protect the public from falling prey to other people’s use or claim to having of false academic credentials. It likewise penalized those engaged in the issuance, manufacture and sale of such false academic credentials.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (A) “Academic credential” means a degree or a diploma, transcript, educational or completion certificate, or similar document that indicates completion of a program of study or instruction or completion of one or more courses at an institution of higher education or the grant of an associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degree.
- (B) “False academic credential” means an academic credential issued or manufactured by a person that is not a qualified institution, or by a person who is not the qualified institution which purportedly issued the academic credential.
- (C) “Qualified institution” means an educational institution in any that:

- (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;
- (2) is legally authorized within such to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;
- (3) provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree;
- (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and
- (5) is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted preaccreditation status by such agency, and the Secretary of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such the agency within a reasonable time.

SECTION 4. *Prohibition against Using or Claiming to Have False Academic Credentials.* – It shall be unlawful for any individual to knowingly use a false academic credential to obtain employment; to obtain a promotion or higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation.

It shall likewise be unlawful for individual who does not have an academic credential to knowingly use or claim to have that academic credential to obtain employment or a promotion or higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation.

SECTION 5. *Prohibition against the Issuance, Manufacture or Sale of False Academic Credentials.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly issue, manufacture or sell a false academic credential to any person in order for him to obtain employment or a promotion or

higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any person found guilty of violating the preceding section shall be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor*, or a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into consideration all attending circumstances.

If the person found guilty of the violation is a corporation, trust or firm, partnership, association or any other entity, the penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor* may be imposed on the entity's responsible officers, including, but not limited to, the owner, proprietor, operator, president, vice-president, chief executive officer, general manager, managing director or officer directly responsible therefore, if any of them are found to have knowingly consented to such issuance, manufacture or sale. The court shall take into consideration all attending circumstances.

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

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/rgs