

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

7 AUG -1 2015

RECEIVED BY:         

**SENATE**  
**S. BILL NO. 1419**

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**Introduced by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines as an archipelago, holds the distinction of one of the countries having the longest coastline in the world. Hence, the responsibility of safeguarding and protecting our seas and marine resources is a critical task, which the Philippine Coast Guard, in its present set up and character, and given the resources under its command, finds it difficult and pitiably impossible, to bear.

The mandate of the Philippine Coast Guard is clear as its task is daunting. To it belongs a Herculean task of promoting safety of life and property at sea, protecting the marine environment, promoting maritime security, and enforcing all applicable laws within the high seas and waters under the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

For the Philippine Coast Guard to effectively fulfill its duty and pursue its mission, it must transform itself into a lean and mean organization whose officers and members possess professional integrity and the expertise and skills necessary in the performance of their functions.

The capability of the PCG to respond to the challenges of the future and to adopt itself to rapidly changing development and innovations in the maritime environment is the main objective of the PCG's transformation, and indeed, the ultimate goal of this bill.


It seeks to amend the old and now obsolete legal basis of PCG's existence and to transform the PCG into a new and distinct branch of service: ready, willing and able to respond to the call of the hour – that of ensuring safety of life and property at sea and securing for the prosperity the marine resources of our country.

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

  
**ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV**

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

7 AUG -1 P1:51

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AN ACT

TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AS A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT  
ARMED UNIFORMED COMMISSIONED SERVICE, FURTHER AMENDING  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7153, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**SECTION 1.** *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Coast Guard Law  
of 2007".

**SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policies.* The State recognizes its obligation to  
protect the marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial seas, and exclusive  
economic zone, and therefore reserves the use and employment of the same to Filipino  
citizens.

The Philippines needs a balanced and healthful marine ecology, which shall (a)  
assure a sustainable growth and development of its bountiful marine wealth and other  
resources; (b) encourage the growth and development of sea transportation as a  
primary and vital link of the various islands of the archipelago; and (c) promote

1 ecotourism by projecting internationally the pristine beauty of its natural sceneries such  
2 as white beaches, and other tourist spots.

3 To attain these objectives, the State reaffirms its obligation to protect the  
4 maritime environment and commits itself to the following: (a) promoting maritime safety  
5 in order to prevent, minimize or effectively respond to marine accidents; (b) enhancing  
6 maritime security; (c) safeguarding the marine environment; and (d) maintaining and  
7 ensuring peace and order in the archipelagic waters, coastal areas, territorial seas and  
8 exclusive economic zone.

9  
10 **CHAPTER II**  
11 **PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AS ATTACHED AGENCY**

12  
13 **SECTION 3. *Establishment.*** The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is hereby  
14 established as a distinct, sea-going, armed, uniformed commissioned service attached  
15 to the Department of Transportation and Communications.

16  
17 The President of the Republic of the Philippines may in times of war or national  
18 emergency declared by the Congress, however, attach the PCG under the Department  
19 of National Defense as a support service command.

20  
21 **SECTION 4. *Powers and Functions.*** The PCG shall have the following  
22 functions:

- 23  
24 a) To enforce laws, promulgate and administer regulations for the promotion of  
25 safety of life and property at sea and protection of all users of the sea within  
26 the marine jurisdiction of the Philippines.
- 27  
28 b) To enforce laws, promulgate and administer rules and regulations for the  
29 promotion and protection of the marine environment and its resources within  
30 the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines.
- 31  
32 c) To render aid to persons and vessels in distress and conduct search and  
33 rescue in case of marine accidents or casualties within the maritime  
34 jurisdiction of the Philippines, including the high seas, in compliance with

1 international maritime conventions; to this effect, the PCG shall be the lead  
2 coordinator during the conduct of the aforementioned operations.

3  
4 d) To enforce laws, promulgate and administer rules and regulations for the  
5 implementation of applicable laws on maritime communications; to this effect,  
6 the PCG shall likewise be the center of maritime communications.

7  
8 e) To enforce and assist in the enforcement of fishery laws, immigration laws,  
9 tariff and custom laws, forestry laws, firearms and explosive laws, anti-  
10 dangerous drugs law, law on trafficking of women and children and all other  
11 applicable laws within the territorial waters of the Philippines.

12  
13 f) To enforce and assist in the maintenance of maritime law enforcement and  
14 security based and applicable laws, prevent or suppress terrorism at sea  
15 based on the Human Security Act of 2007, and perform other police functions  
16 within the maritime and coastal jurisdiction of the Philippines.

17  
18 g) To investigate and inquire into the causes of marine accidents and casualties  
19 and marine pollution incidents and determine appropriate administrative  
20 liabilities, fines, and penalties of responsible parties. Provided: That the PCG  
21 may promulgate policies, rules and regulations necessary for the conduct of  
22 the same.

23  
24 **SECTION 5. Organization.**

25  
26 a) The PCG as a distinct sea-going, armed and uniformed commissioned  
27 service shall be primarily responsible in enforcing this Act. Provided: That the  
28 PCG shall have the authority, whenever appropriate, to utilize the personnel,  
29 services and policies of other departments, agencies and instrumentalities  
30 upon coordination with the aforementioned. The PCG shall maintain  
31 personnel strength of not less than the total number of coastal barangays in  
32 the country and sufficient to meet the requirements of the service. To  
33 effectively implement this Act, the Philippine Ports Authority and such other  
34 government agencies with jurisdiction over ports within the Philippines, shall  
35 accommodate PCG offices in all ports nationwide.

1 b) ***PCG Reserve Force*** is hereby created in support of active component of  
2 the PCG to augment the same upon mobilization in times of war and national  
3 emergencies arising from calamities, disasters and threats to peace, order  
4 and security and stability in any locality, including relief and rescue operations  
5 and other activities requiring civil assistance. Recall authority is vested to the  
6 Secretary, DOTC and to the President of the Philippines. Maritime schools  
7 and colleges may choose PCG as their partner in National Service Training  
8 Program (NSTP) in support of the Commission on Higher Education's  
9 national objective.

10  
11 c) The PCG may organize and train a civilian volunteer organization known as  
12 the PCG Auxiliary, under the direct control and supervision of the  
13 Commandant or any other officer designated by him for the purpose of  
14 assisting in the promotion of safety life at sea, the preservation of the marine  
15 environment and its resources, the conduct of maritime search and rescue,  
16 and the maintenance of aids to navigation and such other activities that  
17 enhance maritime community relations which include civic action, youth  
18 development and related activities.

19  
20 **SECTION 6. Composition.** The PCG shall consist of the following  
21 categories of officers and employees:

- 22  
23 (1) PCG Officers  
24 (2) PCG Enlisted Personnel  
25 (3) PCG Non-uniformed Personnel  
26 (4) Probationary Ensign; and  
27 (5) Midshipmen/Women  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35



1 4) Enter into contracts for the acquisition of floating air and sub-surface  
2 assets, real estate, communications equipment and other necessities  
3 relative to the performance of its powers and functions subject to the  
4 limitations of existing laws, rules and regulations;

5  
6 5) Receive grants and other forms of assistance from other countries in  
7 support of PCG continued development and modernization projects  
8 subject to existing laws; and

9  
10 6) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or appropriately  
11 assigned by the President or the Secretary of the DOTC.

12  
13 d) There shall be the PCG Technical Services in the field of, among others,  
14 medical, dental, legal and ecumenical, to be composed of medical doctors,  
15 nurses, psychologists, veterinarians, dentists, lawyers, chaplains, imams,  
16 including personnel whose pre-entry required course are closely related/allied  
17 to the aforementioned professional groups. Appointment of all PCG Technical  
18 Officers shall be in the initial rank of COAST GUARD ENSIGN except for the  
19 following field of occupational specialties: dentists and veterinarians whose  
20 initial appointment rank shall be COAST GUARD LIEUTENANTJUNIOR  
21 GRADE; and lawyers, medical doctors, chaplains and imams, whose initial  
22 rank shall be COAST GUARD LIEUTENANT SENIOR GRADE.

23  
24 **B. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, PROFESSIONALISM, WELFARE**  
25 **AND BENEFITS**

26  
27 **SECTION 8. *Appointment.***

28  
29 a. Appointment of all PCG officers shall be approved by the President of the  
30 Republic of the Philippines through the Secretary of the DOTC. No person  
31 shall be appointed as a PCG officer unless s/he is a holder of a baccalaureate  
32 degree in related fields of Coast Guard functions, preferably a licensed  
33 professional. The PCG may continue to source its officers from leading  
34 universities, maritime institutions and service academies until such time a  
35 Philippine Coast Guard Academy is established.



1 b. Appointments and Promotions of all PCG enlisted personnel shall be  
2 made by the Commandant of PCG, which will be in accordance with the  
3 Implementing Rules and Regulations.

4  
5 c. Appointments and Promotions of all non-uniformed personnel shall be in  
6 accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations.

7  
8 **SECTION 9. Promotion.** The following promotion system shall govern the PCG  
9 uniformed personnel:

10  
11 a) The Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shall recommend to the  
12 President, through the DOTC Secretary, the promotion of PCG Officers who  
13 are best qualified for appointment to be submitted by the PCG Officer  
14 Selection and Promotion Board. *Provided, that* he must have completed the  
15 required education and training relevant to said grades/rank "in position", and  
16 must have complied with the prescribed minimum time in grade based on  
17 approved PCG rules and regulations and other relevant law. *Provided further,*  
18 that special or meritorious promotion shall be extended to any PCG Officer for  
19 acts of inconspicuous courage and gallantry involving risk of his life above  
20 and beyond the call of duty. *Provided lastly,* that no officer shall be promoted  
21 to the next higher rank when he has less than one (1) year remaining in the  
22 PCG service.

23  
24 b) There shall be a Board for Flag Officers outside the PCG who shall deliberate  
25 on the promotion of candidates for Flag ranks in the PCG. The Secretary of  
26 the DOTC shall act as Chairman of the Board with members composed of  
27 three (3) Undersecretaries of the DOTC as designated by the Chairman of the  
28 Board, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, with the Chief of PCG  
29 personnel as secretariat/non-voting member.

30  
31 c) Promotion of PCG Enlisted Personnel and Non-uniformed Employees. The  
32 Commandant shall promote PCG enlisted personnel to the next higher grade  
33 rank based on the recommendation of the PCG Selection and Promotion  
34 Board for Enlisted Personnel. The promotion of non-uniformed employees  
35 shall be governed by the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations.

1 **SECTION 10.        *Retirement and Health Care System.***  
2

3       a)       Officers and enlisted personnel who have attained the age of fifty-six (56) or  
4       have thirty (30) years of active accumulated government service as  
5       commissioned officer/enlisted personnel in the PCG, including the services  
6       rendered as commissioned officer/enlisted personnel in other uniformed  
7       service, whichever comes first, shall be retired compulsorily from the service.  
8       *Provided,* that officers and enlisted personnel who have served at least  
9       twenty (20) years of satisfactory active service, shall be allowed to retire  
10       optionally, at their own request and with the approval of the Secretary of the  
11       DOTC, and the Commandant of the PCG, respectively, and shall be entitled  
12       to receive benefits provided by law.

13  
14       b)       For purposes of this Act, and for the purpose of determining the compulsory  
15       retirement of PCG uniformed personnel, thirty (30) years of active Coast  
16       Guard service shall be reckoned from the date of oath of office as regular  
17       second lieutenant/ensign or apprentice seaman/seawoman, respectively, in  
18       the PCG inclusive of the services rendered in other uniformed service and  
19       those other services rendered in the government service shall be accredited  
20       for purposes of longevity pay.

21       c)       The retirement of all non-uniformed personnel shall be in accordance with the  
22       Civil Service Law, rules and regulations.  
23

24 **SECTION 11.        *Separation.*** Officers and Enlisted Personnel, who voluntarily  
25       resign or otherwise fail to comply with the standards of competence and proficiency,  
26       shall be separated from the service under existing laws, rules and regulations. *Provided,*  
27       that PCG personnel who has served continuously for at least (5) years and who is  
28       separated though no fault of his own or voluntarily resigned shall be entitled to a  
29       separation pay equivalent to one (1) monthly salary for every year of service in addition  
30       to the commutation of all the accumulated leaves to this credit.  
31

32 **SECTION 12.        *Retirement Benefits.***  
33

34       a)       **Uniformed Personnel.** Monthly retirement pay shall be seventy percent  
35       (70%) of the base pay and longevity in case the retiree has rendered at least

1 twenty (20) years of uniformed service increasing by two and one-half percent  
2 (2 ½%) for every year of actual uniformed service rendered beyond twenty  
3 (20) years of service but not more than ninety-five percent (95%). *Provided,*  
4 *that the retiree shall have the option to receive in advance the retirement*  
5 *lump sum equivalent to the first five (5) years of his/her retirement pay as it*  
6 *accrues. Provided further,* that the payment of the lump sum shall be made  
7 within six months from the effectivity date of his retirement. *Provided finally,*  
8 *that the retirement pay of all uniformed personnel shall conform to the*  
9 *prevailing pay scale of members in the active service.*

- 10  
11 b) **Non-uniformed Personnel.** Retirement benefits of all non-uniformed  
12 personnel shall be in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules and  
13 regulations.

14  
15 **C. DISCIPLINE AND ORDER.**

16  
17 **SECTION 13. *Disciplinary Actions.*** In dispensing discipline and order  
18 among PCG officers and enlisted personnel, the PCG shall continue to adopt the  
19 provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 408, as amended, with the Commandant of the  
20 PCG as the convening authority, until such time that the PCG has established its own  
21 Code of Conduct and Discipline.

22  
23 **CHAPTER IV**

24 **PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL**

25  
26 **SECTION 14. *Duty Hours.*** PCG personnel shall be on call 24-hours a day but  
27 are required to render minimum service of 8-hours a day except on scheduled duty or  
28 during red alert or national emergencies.

29  
30 **SECTION 15. *Salary Scale.*** The PCG shall have a salary scale separate  
31 and distinct from other agencies of the government to attract the best and competent in  
32 the Coast Guard Service. The salary scale shall be reviewed every three (3) years or  
33 depending on economic fluctuations necessitating progressive adjustments thereof.  
34 *Provided,* that all PCG Uniformed Personnel shall receive the same base pay, and other  
35 benefits as are now, or hereafter may be authorized corresponding to the salary scale of

1 the personnel of the Department of Education or at par with other government agencies  
2 performing law enforcement functions, whichever is higher.

3  
4 **SECTION 16. Criteria for Salaries.** PCG personnel's salaries shall  
5 correspond to the following criteria:

6  
7 a) Salary shall ensure that the lowest in rank and position receives an amount  
8 which will enable him and his family to afford a reasonable and decent  
9 standard of living; and

10  
11 b) Basic monthly salary shall exclude the subsistence allowance, cost of living  
12 allowance, quarters allowance, clothing allowance, hazard pay, amelioration  
13 pay, health care pay and all other allowances as may be provided for by  
14 existing laws.

15  
16 **SECTION 17. Cost of Living Allowances.** PCG Personnel salaries shall  
17 keep pace with the rise in the cost of living which shall automatically follow changes in  
18 cost-of-living index as determined by appropriate government agencies.

19  
20 **SECTION 18. Special Allowances.** In areas wherein PCG personnel are  
21 exposed to hardship or other hazards usual to the performance of its mandated  
22 functions and established to be peculiar to any given area or place of assignment, as  
23 determined by the PCG, they shall be compensated with any of the following special  
24 allowances based on their current basic monthly pay, to wit:

25  
26 a) **Sea Duty Pay.** PCG personnel performing sea duties shall be entitled to a  
27 sea duty pay of twenty-five percent (25%) of their basic monthly pay;

28  
29 b) **Instructor Duty Pay.** PCG personnel performing actual duties as an  
30 instructor shall be entitled to instructor duty pay of twenty-five percent (25%)  
31 of their basic monthly pay.

32  
33 c) **Aviation Duty Pay.** PCG personnel performing aviation duties shall be  
34 entitled to Aviation Duty Pay of fifty percent (50%) of their basic monthly pay;

35

1 d) High Risk Duty Pay. PCG personnel performing duties which may be  
2 classified as hazardous as determined by the Commandant shall be entitled  
3 to a High Risk Duty Pay of fifty percent (50%) of their basic monthly pay.  
4

5 e) Hazardous Duty Pay. PCG personnel duties which may be classified as  
6 hazardous as determined by the Commandant shall be entitled to a  
7 Hazardous Duty Pay of fifty percent (50%) of their basic monthly pay.  
8

9 f) Incentive Pay. PCG technical personnel performing duties in legal, medical,  
10 dental, and ecumenical services shall be entitled to Incentive Pay equivalent  
11 to fifty percent (50%) of their basic monthly pay.  
12

13 **SECTION 19. Variable Pay and Allowances.** In addition to the basic  
14 monthly salary, PCG uniformed personnel shall be entitled to Subsistence Allowance,  
15 Quarters Allowance, Clothing Allowance, Additional Compensation Allowance,  
16 Personnel Emergency Relief Allowances, Health Care Allowance, Laundry Allowance,  
17 Specialist Duty Pay, Productivity Incentive Pay, Magna Carta Pay (public health  
18 worker), Special Clothing Allowance, Burial Pay, Overseas Pay, Winter Clothing  
19 Allowance, Radiation Pay, Special Counsel Allowance, Additional Subsistence  
20 Allowance, and other allowances as may be provided by law.  
21

22 **SECTION 20. Longevity Pay.** PCG personnel shall be entitled to a longevity  
23 pay of fifteen percent (15%) of their basic monthly pay for every five (5) years of service  
24 in the government, which shall be computed from the date of member's first  
25 appointment in the government service. *Provided*, that the longevity pay shall not  
26 exceed sixty percent (60%) of the basic monthly pay.  
27

28 **SECTION 21. Compensation for Physical and Mental Disability Sustained in**  
29 **Line of Duty.** PCG personnel shall be protected against the consequences of  
30 employment injuries. *Physical and psychological stresses on the member's health are*  
31 *recognized as compensable occupational diseases, in accordance with existing laws.*  
32

33 **SECTION 22. Permanent Physical Disability.** A uniformed member who incurs  
34 a total permanent disability in the line of duty and has rendered a total of twenty (20)  
35 years of continuous active duty in the uniformed service shall be compulsorily retired.

1 *Provided*, that upon his compulsory retirement, he shall be entitled to a retirement pay  
2 pursuant to the pertinent provisions of this Act.

3  
4 **SECTION 23. *Disability Benefits.*** Any member and his dependents shall  
5 be entitled to all benefits relative to the member's permanent incapacity, as may be  
6 provided for under this Act or existing laws.

7  
8 **SECTION 24. *Leave of Absence.*** In addition to other privileges enjoyed  
9 under existing laws, PCG shall also be entitled to the following:

10  
11 a) Study leave, with pay not exceeding two (2) years, *provided*, that no grantee  
12 shall be allowed to accumulate more than two (2) years of study leave except  
13 when an extra semester is needed to complete and defend his thesis for a  
14 graduate study or degree that is relevant to the Coast Guard service.

15  
16 b) An indefinite leave of absence due to sickness which shall be granted to an  
17 ailing member whose medical treatment requires more than one (1) year of  
18 continued treatment.

19  
20 c) Leave with pay shall be chargeable against his leave credits. Leave without  
21 pay shall not be granted whenever the personnel has leave with pay to his  
22 credit.

23  
24 d) Leave shall accumulate and any part thereof which may not be taken within  
25 the calendar year earned may be carried over the succeeding years.  
26 Whenever uniformed personnel retires, voluntarily resigns or is allowed to  
27 resign or is separated from the service though no fault of his own, he shall be  
28 entitled to the commutation of all the accumulated leaves to his credit.

29  
30 e) Social Technology Transfer shall be encouraged by the PCG; to this effect,  
31 PCG Personnel shall be allowed not more than one (1) year leave without pay  
32 to practice their profession or expertise outside of the PCG Organization,  
33 whether in the Philippines or outside thereof. *Provided*, that there shall be no  
34 diminution in the pay, allowances, privileges, rank, and seniority of the said  
35 PCG Personnel. *Provided however*, that upon failure of the said PCG

1 Personnel to formally resume his services with the PCG at the expiration of  
2 the said one (1) year period, said PCG Personnel shall be considered  
3 resigned from the PCG without prejudice to his enjoyment of accrued  
4 privileges and benefits based on applicable laws.

5  
6 **SECTION 25. *Housing and Settlement Benefits.*** All real estate under the  
7 possession, supervision, control, and/or titled under the PCG including those transferred  
8 to it and those it may legally claim by virtue of Executive Order No. 475 and Executive  
9 Order No. 477 which may be determined by the Commandant, PCG to be appropriate  
10 and best suited for housing and settlement purposes of PCG Personnel in the active  
11 service shall be appropriated for the said purpose. *Provided*, that the PCG Personnel  
12 shall also enjoy equal opportunity to such other housing projects that the government  
13 may provide for government employees. *Provided further,* that appropriations shall be  
14 provided for herein purpose accordingly.

15  
16 **SECTION 26. *Exemption from Attachment and Taxes.*** All benefits granted by  
17 this Act, including benefits received from any government insurance  
18 agencies/corporations, shall be exempted from attachment, levy, execution or any tax of  
19 whatever nature.

## 20 21 CHAPTER V

### 22 PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR NON-UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

23  
24 **SECTION 27. *Pay and Allowances of Non-uniformed PCG Personnel.*** The  
25 salaries and allowances of the non-uniformed employees of the PCG shall be in  
26 accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification Law and other  
27 pertinent laws with respect to such received compensation under the Civil Service Law.

## 28 29 CHAPTER VI

### 30 FINAL PROVISIONS

31  
32 **SECTION 28. *Appropriations.*** The budget of the PCG shall be provided for in  
33 the Annual General Appropriations Act. *Provided*, that the Philippine Coast Guard shall  
34 prepare its own budget as Key Budgetary Unit (KBU) being an attached agency of the  
35 Department of Transportation and Communications.

1 **SECTION 29. *PCG Trust Receipts.*** The PCG shall continue to collect fees,  
2 charges and fines, to include lighthouse dues relevant to the exercise of its various  
3 regulatory functions. All income derived from the collection of fees and charges and  
4 such other sources shall be retained and constituted as a Trust Receipt which shall be  
5 deposited in any authorized government depository bank, for the use of the PCG in the  
6 maintenance and repair of its assets, such as but not limited to vessels, aircrafts,  
7 navigational aids and lighthouses; *Provided*, that at least thirty percent (30%) will be  
8 used in the procurement and acquisition of communications and rescue equipment,  
9 armaments, ammunition, and as contingency fund for petroleum, oil and lubricants  
10 (POL) requirement during emergencies; *Provided further*, that no amount of the said  
11 Trust Receipt shall be used for the payment of salaries and other allowances; *Provided*  
12 *furthermore*, that the PCG and the Department of Budget and Management shall jointly  
13 issue guidelines for the implementation of this Section and the Trust Receipt shall be  
14 subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

15

16 **SECTION 30. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90)  
17 days from the approval of this Act, the DOTC Secretary shall promulgate rules and  
18 regulations necessary to ensure its effective implementation.

19

20 **SECTION 31. *Separability Clause.*** If any portion or provision of this Act is  
21 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of other  
22 provisions not affected thereto.

23

24 **SECTION 32. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
25 rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with  
26 this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

27

28 **SECTION 33. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
29 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,