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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to correct an unintended consequence of the enactment of the Customs Brokers Act of 2004: that instead of facilitating trade, it has established barriers to trade.

The law, in its present form, prohibits firms, companies or associations from being registered or licensed for the practice of the customs broker profession. The private sector notes that this provision limits the practice to single brokers—who have limited bonding, security, financial, transport and other capabilities—and is contrary to international best practice. Furthermore, it could jeopardize the jobs of those employed in 800 existing brokerage companies.

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

Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	)	7 JNN 31 M1 172
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## INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAR ROXAS

## AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9280, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CUSTOMS BROKERS ACT OF 2004, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 29 of Republic Act 9280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 29. [Prohibition Against corporate Practice] *ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.* – The practice of customs broker is a professional service, admission to which shall be determined upon the basis of individual and personal qualification. [No firm, company, or association may be registered or licensed as such for the practice of customs service broker profession.]

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, and other administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.