710

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 710

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) has become an indispensable collaborator of the Philippine Coast Guard in its mission to promote safety of life and property at sea, safeguard the marine environment and resources, and enforce all applicable maritime laws. The Auxiliary have been consistently part of the maritime operation of the Philippine Coast Guard particularly in the development of community relations

The role and function of the PCGA does not end in providing assistance to the Philippine Coast Guard in search and rescue operations, moreover, but are tasked to promote environmental programs in the protection and preservation of the marine resources.

The PCGA, at present, has 19,000 active members composed of volunteers who utilize their own resources to assist and support the Coast Guard mission. To further strengthen and professionalize the organization of the Auxiliary, significant reforms must be instituted.

This proposed bill seeks to establish the role and mandate of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, to define the administrative powers of its officers over the organization and to institute mechanisms for a democratic procedure of selecting officers and commanders.

Hence, in view of the foregoing, immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUDY J. SYJUCO

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AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Act of 2003".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Principle. – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to ensure and promote safety of life and property at sea and to safeguard the marine environment and resources.

SECTION 3. Statement of Objectives. – It is hereby declared that the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary shall:

a) Promote safety and effect rescues on and over the high seas and on navigable waters;
b) Promote efficiency in the operation of motorboats and yachts;
c) Foster a wider knowledge of, and better compliance with, the laws, rules, and regulations governing the operation of motorboats and yachts; and
d) Facilitate other operations of the Philippine Coast Guard.

SECTION 4. Functions and Responsibilities. – The Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a.) Conduct search and rescue operations in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard;
b.) Promote safety in the operation of vessels; and
c.) Promote environmental programs in the protection and preservation of the marine resources.

SECTION 5. Organization. The Auxiliary is structured with the following administrative and supervisory unit levels:

(a) **Squadron** – This level is the basic Auxiliary organizational unit and the working level which translates program into action. Each squadron is led and managed by a Squadron Commander. All Auxiliarists must be a member of a squadron.

(b) **Division** – The squadrons are grouped and clustered into divisions for purposes of administrative effectiveness. Each division is led and managed by a District Commander. The division provides administrative, training, communication and supervisory support to squadrons and promotes district policy.

(c) **District**– Squadrons and divisions are organized in districts comparable to the Philippine Coast Guard. Each district is led and managed by a District Commander. The district provides administrative and supervisory support to divisions, accomplishes policy of the District commander and promotes policy of the national organization.

(d) **National** – The national level is the seat of the National Executive Committee (NEC) led by the National Commander and composed of the National Deputy Commanders for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and the Chief Director, Office of the Auxiliary. The NEC serves and functions as the Auxiliary's senior leadership and management group.

The National Commander shall be elected by the Commanders in all levels in a General Assembly called for the purpose. In the case of the Commanders in lower levels, they shall be elected by their members in a General Assemblies called for the purpose, in their respective jurisdictions.

The Support Staff shall be appointed by each Commander to assist in the implementation of the Auxiliary's plan and programs, and execution of their other functions and responsibilities.

SECTION 6. Administration. – The administration of the Auxiliary shall be exclusively vested in the National Commander. Provided, operations involving the execution of the missions and program of the Philippine Coast Guard, shall be closely coordinated and with the approval of the Commandant.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,