

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1673



Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to declare the conferment of a masteral degree equivalent to professional eligibility in the civil service.

Section 3, B, Article IX of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"The Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the Government, shall establish a career service and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy in the civil service. It shall strengthen the merit and reward system, integrate all human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability..."

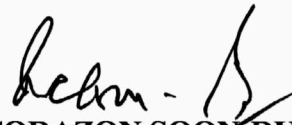
It envisions that appointments in the civil service be made only according to merit and fitness to be determined by competitive examination, except those positions which are policy-determining, primarily confidential or highly technical.

Pursuant to this, the Commission regularly conducts professional and sub-professional examinations all over the country.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 1080, the bar examinations and the examinations given by the various boards of examiners of the Government are declared as civil service

examinations. Hence, those who passed these examinations may be appointed into the civil service without the necessity of passing the civil service examinations, except those positions requiring highly specialized knowledge not covered by the ordinary board examinations.

This bill aims to grant the same if not a more fitting privilege to conferees of masteral degrees recognizing their educational competence and fitness for appointment or promotion to career positions in the civil service by reason of their having completed post graduate studies which are equivalent, if not more than the passing of the bar or board examinations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A MASTERAL
DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO PROFESSIONAL ELIGIBILITY IN THE
CIVIL SERVICE**

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

SECTION 1. The conferment of a masteral degree by an institution of higher learning duly accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Department of Education is hereby declared as equivalent to professional eligibility in the civil service for purposes of appointment to positions requiring professional eligibility in the classified service in the Government or any of its branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities and agencies including government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, except with regards to positions requiring highly specialized knowledge not covered by the masteral degree of the holder.

SECTION 2. The registrars or other responsible officers of duly accredited colleges and universities offering masteral degrees shall regularly furnish the Commissioner of Civil Service with a list of graduates of their respective colleges or universities who have been conferred with masteral degrees within sixty days from conferment.

SECTION 3. Eligibility shall commence on the date of conferment. Provided, that for those who have already been conferred masteral degrees prior to the passage of this Act, their eligibility shall be deemed to commence from the approval hereof.

SECTION 4. The Commissioner of Civil Service shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved.