

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 5734



Introduced by Representative ANTONIO M. DIAZ

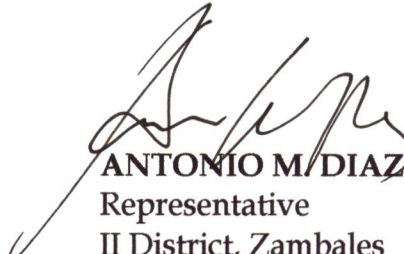
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine government allocates an approximate P270,000.00 for each cadet of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) for a four-year study leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation or Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering. Pursuant to the mandate of Republic Act No. 3680, PMMA is tasked to produce efficient and well-trained merchant marine officers who can favorably compare with marine officers of progressive maritime countries sufficient to carry the expanding international trade in times of peace and capable of serving as naval and military auxiliary officers in times of war and national emergency. Its secondary purpose is to produce young men well-trained in other field of merchant marine service, like marine surveyors, port supervisors, shipping office personnel, and ship management.

Normally, a PMMA graduate would immediately apply for employment in the international shipping lines. The compensation in an international vessel is far above what domestic shipping offers. Our seafarers bask in the recognition that among the overseas workers in the country, they are perhaps the biggest dollar earners. This translates to benefit to their respective family and positively impinges on the national economy.

The sentiment, however, is that PMMA graduates who are subsidized heavily by the government in order to finish a four-year course should be mandated also to serve the government. There is wisdom in this proposal. On one hand, there is the yearning to immediately help in improving the economic status of the family. On the other, the call for public service, i.e., return to government what is justly due it by the rendition of mandatory government service. A balancing-on-interest of these ideals would lead one to see that a limited mandatory government service achieves what both proposals are after. This bill addresses these core concerns.

In view of the foregoing, immediately approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


ANTONIO M. DIAZ
Representative
II District, Zambales

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 5734

Introduced by Representative ANTONIO M. DIAZ

**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3680 AND
INSTITUTING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO GRADUATES
OF PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY (PMMA)
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 3680 is hereby amended to read:

Section 12. Graduates of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy who are holders of a Bachelor of Science [degree] in Marine Transportation, major in navigation and seamanship, shall be exempted from taking the [third mate examination] OPERATIONAL LEVEL DECK WATCH KEEPING OFFICER EXAMINATION [and those]. Likewise, those who are holders of a Bachelor of Science [degree in Marine Transportation major in steam engine and electrical engineering] IN MARINE ENGINEERING shall be exempted from taking the [fourth steam engineer's] OPERATIONAL LEVEL ENGINE WATCH KEEPING EXAMINATION.

Section 12-A. All graduates of the PMMA, except those who opted to serve the Philippine Navy (PN) or Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shall be required to serve a staggered or continuous service of a minimum of twenty four (24) months in any government agency, bureau, institution or entity. Said service must be completed on or before the fifth year after graduation.

Failure to comply with the mandatory government service above-mentioned shall make the graduate liable to treble the total amount of the subsidy spent during his study and shall further disqualify him to be registered as an accredited merchant mariner.

Section 2. All laws, decrees, executive acts, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.