

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **204**

Introduced by Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon

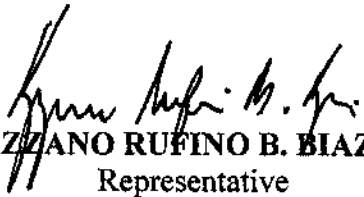
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to shift or change the title from "Prison Guard" to "Corrections Officer" attached to the ranks of the Custodial Force of the Bureau of Corrections and to adjust their salary grades accordingly. Department Circular No. 39 dated December 31, 1989 of the Secretary of Justice renamed the then Bureau of Prisons into the present Bureau of Corrections. The rationale behind the changing of the Bureau's name is to conform to the ongoing trends of modern penology – shifting from antiquated punitive system of incarceration to the humanistic rehabilitation approach. The same principle is also applied in this bill.

The change in position or title is not only appropriate but also legitimate and in accordance with the ongoing correctional process with the view of surmounting the obstacle in the field of corrections. Corrections Officer, as a position, carries with it the name of the Agency itself similar with that of allied forces such as the Philippine National Police with their Police Officers, the Bureau of Fire Protection with their Fire Officers and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology with their Jail Officers. The Custodial Force must also cope with the dynamics of the times. Furthermore, the change of title to Corrections Officer will streamline and upgrade the position of the Custodial Personnel into its proper perspective to conform to the idea that the correctional world is no longer the punitive and vindictive type but more on the human understanding motivated by hope and justice.

The members of the Custodial Force are also employees of the National Government who draw their salaries therefrom, similar to those uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the public school teachers and therefore, in the interest of fair play and equality, the corresponding adjustment in the salary grade level attached to their ranks will put them at par with these mentioned government agencies.

Compared to the uniformed personnel of other agencies engaged in similar nature of work as the Bureau of Corrections, the members of the Custodial Force are left out and seemingly overlooked. Sensing the urgent need to boost the morale of the said personnel and to prevent demoralization among their ranks, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District of Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
CHANGING THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
CUSTODIAL FORCE OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTING
THEIR SALARY GRADES ACCORDINGLY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known and cited as the **“Bureau of Corrections Custodial Force Act of 2004.”**

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and improve the social and economic status of the custodial force of the Bureau of Corrections. Toward this end, the State shall adopt policies that will protect the rights of the custodial force and promote their welfare.

Section 3. Change in Nomenclature and Adjustments. The present title “Prison Guard” attached to the ranks of the Custodial Force of the Bureau of Corrections is hereby changed to “Corrections Officer” which is as follows, together with the needed justification:

	Salary Grade
a. Director	30
b. Assistant Director	29
c. Penal Superintendent IV to Superintendent IV	27
d. Penal Superintendent III to Superintendent III	25
e. Penal Superintendent II to Superintendent II	24
f. Penal Superintendent I to Superintendent I	23
g. Penal Institution Supervisor to Corrections Institution Supervisor	22
Prison Security Officer III to Corrections Institution Supervisor	22
h. Prison Security Officer II to Corrections Supervising Officer III	20
i. Prison Security Officer I to Corrections Supervising Officer II	18
j. Prison Guard III to Corrections Supervising Officer I	15
k. Prison Guard II to Corrections Officer II	13
l. Prison Guard I to Corrections Officer I	10

Section 4. Retirement Benefits. A Custodial personnel upon compulsory retirement from the ranks of Corrections Officer I to Superintendent IV shall be paid all his due benefits corresponding to a salary grade equivalent to one (1) rank higher than that of his last position held as indicated in the table below:

	Salary grade upon retirement
Superintendent IV	28
Superintendent III	26
Superintendent II	25
Superintendent I	24
Corrections Institution Supervisor	23
Corrections Supervising Officer III	21
Corrections Supervising Officer II	19
Corrections Supervising Officer I	16
Corrections Officer II	14
Corrections Officer I	11

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,