

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1895

Introduced by Representative Ben P. Evardone

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Civil service in the legislative branch of government is a unique type of job amongst all in the bureaucracy. Essential knowledge includes policy analysis and review, knowledge of existing jurisprudence, comparative and historical analysis of policies, international relations, and domestic knowledge of practically all issues, aspects, and concerns that beset the Philippines. Technical skills such as bill drafting, technical writing, bookkeeping, and the like are also needed for the smooth workflow expected of the legislators.

These competencies are expected of the workforce in the legislature, and the government must make certain that additional skills and knowledge of the existing corps of employees will be developed. This bill seeks the creation of the Philippine Legislative Academy to answer that need.

Its objectives are as follows:

- (a) To enable its officers and employees to efficiently and effectively provide the necessary legislative and administrative support services to Congress and its Members;
- (b) To create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative service officers and employees; and
- (c) To provide a system of training and continuing education for personnel in order to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are recruited into the career legislative service.

The Academy shall serve as the training school for legislative officers and employees in the Career Service of the Legislature (CSL) under the highest academic and competency standards to be set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Those who have finished their courses in the Academy shall be given priority in appointments and promotions given that they have added knowledge that will serve for the development of the organization.

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


BEN P. EVARDONE
Representative, Lone District of Eastern Samar

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1895

Introduced by Representative Ben P. Evardone

AN ACT

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Policy.* - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to ensure an
2 efficient and credible Career Service of the Legislature (CSL). Toward this end, it is
3 imperative to provide members of the CSL with continuing appropriate education and
4 training. The CSL shall include the officers and employees of Congress composed of the
5 Senate, the House of Representatives, the Commission on Appointments and the Senate
6 and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunals. It shall also include the career officers
7 and employees of the Philippine Legislative Academy established under this Act.

8
9 SEC. 2. *Objectives.* - It is the purpose of this Act to professionalize, upgrade and
10 strengthen the work force of Congress in order:

11 (a) To enable its officers and employees to efficiently and effectively provide the
12 necessary legislative and administrative support services to Congress and its Members;

13 (b) To create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative
14 service officers and employees; and

15 (c) To provide a system of training and continuing education for personnel in
16 order to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are recruited into the career
17 legislative service.

18
19 SEC. 3. *Philippine Legislative Academy.* - To carry out the policy and objectives
20 enunciated in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, there is hereby established a Philippine Legislative
21 Academy, herein referred to as the Academy. The Academy shall be a unit of both
22 Houses of Congress and shall operate under its administration, supervision and control. It
23 shall be located at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

24
25 SEC. 4. *Functions.* - The Academy shall serve as a training school for legislative
26 officers and employees for positions in the CSL. For this purpose, it shall provide and
27 implement a curriculum for legislative education as well as conduct seminars, workshops
28 and other training programs to upgrade legislative support services, capabilities and
29 efficiency, and shall perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying out its
30 mandate.

31
32 SEC. 5. *Governing Board* - The Academy shall have, as its governing body, a
33 Board of Trustees composed of the Chair of the Civil Service Commission, the Secretary
34 of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, as *ex officio*
35 members; and an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate chosen by the Senate

1 President, and an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives
2 chosen by the Speaker, both of whom shall have served in such positions for at least five
3 (5) years, as designated members.
4

5 The *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as such for the
6 duration of their incumbency in their respective offices. All members shall serve without
7 compensation, but shall be entitled to a reasonable honoraria/allowance for the
8 performance of their duties.
9

10 SEC. 6. *Executive Board.* -- The Executive Board of the Academy shall be
11 designated by the Board of Trustees, and shall be composed of a Chancellor, two (2) Vice
12 Chancellors and an Executive Secretary. The Executive Board shall serve for a term of
13 three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments.
14

15 In case of a vacancy in any Executive Board position, the Board of Trustees shall
16 designate a replacement who shall serve in such position for the remainder of the
17 unfinished term.
18

19 The Chancellor shall have as requisite qualifications meritorious service as an
20 incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate or an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of
21 the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years,
22 and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.
23

24 A Vice Chancellor shall be chosen from each House. A Vice Chancellor shall
25 have as requisite qualifications meritorious service as an incumbent Executive Director or
26 Deputy Executive Director of the Senate or the House of Representatives, who shall have
27 served as such for at least three (3) years, and belongs to the ranks of the Career
28 Executive Service.
29

30 The Executive Secretary shall have the same requisite qualifications and the same
31 compensation at least as a Service Director II. He or she shall serve on a full-time basis
32 and shall be the Recorder-Secretary of the Board of Trustees.
33

34 If no such person meets the abovementioned requirements for any position, the
35 Board of Trustees shall designate such official with the closest qualifications.
36

37 The Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors shall serve without compensation, but
38 shall be entitled to reasonable honoraria/allowance for the performance of their
39 designated duties as determined by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law. The
40 members of the Executive Board shall not engage in the private practice of any
41 profession.
42

43 SEC. 7. *Academy Staff.* - The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of professional
44 lecturers. A lecturer shall be nominated by any of the members of the Executive Board of
45 the Academy; and, such nomination shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for
46 approval. Lecturers whose nominations are approved by the Board of Trustees shall be
47 included in the list of lecturers, and shall be entitled to reasonable honoraria and
48 allowance as deemed fit by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.
49

50 SEC. 8. *Academic Courses.* - The academic courses and the publication of a
51 legislative service journal and such other documents shall be determined by the Executive
52 Board and shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.
53

54 SEC. 9. *Criteria for Selection and Admission to the Academy.* - The criteria for
55 the selection and admission to the Academy shall be determined by the Executive Board
56 and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
57

1 SEC. 10. Appointment and Promotion. - Legislative officers and employees who
2 have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy and have satisfactorily
3 complied with all the requirements incident thereto shall be given priority for
4 appointment, selection or promotion to any position of vacancy in the CSL.
5

6 SEC. 11. *Consortium Agreements*. - The Academy may enter into consortium and
7 similar or related agreements with educational and training institutions for the
8 development and implementation of programs for capability building, career
9 development and legislative orientation.
10

11 SEC. 12. *Tax Exemptions*. - The provision of any general or special law to the
12 contrary notwithstanding:
13

14 (a) All revenues and assets of the Academy used actually, directly and exclusively
15 for educational purposes shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;

16 (b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to the Academy
17 shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable
18 deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the
19 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;

20 (c) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical,
21 historical and cultural books, supplies, equipment, machinery and other materials,
22 including scientific and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt
23 from customs duties and taxes; and

24 (d) Educational services rendered by the Academy shall be exempt from value-
25 added tax.
26

27 SEC. 13. *Legislative Academy Fund*. -All legacies, gifts and donations to the
28 Academy established under this law shall constitute a special fund to be known as the
29 Legislative Academy Fund. This fund shall be administered and disbursed by the Board
30 of Trustees of the Academy exclusively for the purposes of this Act.
31

32 SEC. 14. *Appropriations*. -- The amount necessary to carry out the initial
33 implementation of this Act, including the operation, maintenance and improvement of the
34 Academy, shall be charged against the General Appropriations Act of 2011 and every
35 year thereafter under the programs of the Congress of the Philippines.
36

37 SEC. 15. *Separability Clause*. - Should any provision under this Act be deemed
38 invalid, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force
39 and effect.
40

41 SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws and regulations inconsistent with the
42 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
43

44 SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
45 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
46

47 Approved,