



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

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4138

Introduced by Honorable Jesus Crispin C. Remulla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Code Commission of the Philippines to review and codify all existing laws.

Laws are important to build and maintain a peaceful and orderly society. Laws establish basic rights, protect properties and govern social relationships. However, on account of amendments, repeals or enactment of new legislations, laws become archaic, redundant, obsolete or inconsistent. For this reason, it is necessary to make major improvements in the organization, clarity, and accessibility of laws.

Codification of laws must be undertaken to identify and separate laws which are still effective from those that are no longer valid. In codification, laws are organized, simplified and clarified thereby reducing the volume of legislations, rendering them more readable and legally clear, thus, making them more accessible and easier to enforce.

Under the proposed measure, the Code Commission shall be tasked to codify and review all Philippine laws. It shall publish in systematic form the whole mass of existing laws according to topic or subject. The Code Commission shall likewise be mandated to organize and simplify all the existing laws of the Philippines so as to make them accessible to ordinary persons.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently recommended.


JESUS CRISPIN C. REMULLA

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AN ACT
CREATING THE CODE COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES TO
REVIEW AND CODIFY ALL PHILIPPINE LAWS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Code Commission Act of the Philippines.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the right of the people to information. Towards this end, the Code Commission of the Philippines shall be created to review and codify all Philippine laws in order to establish and publish an organized, simplified and systematic form of the whole mass of existing laws to make it easily and conveniently accessible to everyone at any time.

SEC. 3. *Code Commission; Composition.* – There is hereby created a Code Commission of the Philippines, hereinafter referred to as the “*Commission,*” which shall review and codify all Philippine laws.

The Commission shall be composed of the following:

- a. Representative of the Philippine Judicial Academy, as Chairman;
- b. Representative of the Department of Justice, as Vice Chairman;

- c. Representative from the University of the Philippines Law Center;
- d. Representative from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines;
- e. Two (2) representatives from the Association of Law Deans of the Philippines; and

- f. Seven (7) reputable practicing lawyers or professors with extensive knowledge, training or expertise in Civil, Corporation, Criminal, Labor, Political, Remedial, and Tax Laws, as members.

With the exception of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the representative from the University of the Philippines Law Center who shall be appointed by their respective agencies in *ex-officio* capacity, the other members shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. **Functions.** – The Commission shall have the following functions:

- a. Compile all existing laws;
- b. Arrange the statutes relating to each subject in a logical sequence;
- c. Bring together statutes and parts of statutes which, because of similarity of subject matter, properly belong together;
- d. Eliminate from the compilation statutes which are no longer valid or effective;
- e. Recommend modification, amendment or repeal of a law when necessary;
- f. Codify the laws;
- g. Publish the laws in the most convenient and usable form, using such aids as numbering, cross referencing, tabling, indexing and sub-indexing consistently as will best facilitate locating the law on any subject; and

h. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Term of Office.* – The Commission shall complete its work and shall submit the drafts of the codes with its recommendations to the Congress of the Philippines not later than five (5) years from its full organization.

SEC. 6. *Compensation.* – The Chairman shall receive compensation equal to that of a Department Secretary while the members shall receive compensation equal to that of an official next in rank to a Department Secretary.

The Chairman and members of the Commission may receive per diem for every meeting actually attended at such amount to be fixed by the Commission but not to exceed Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per meeting.

SEC. 7. *Office.* – The Commission shall have its office in Metro Manila and may hold meetings at such time and place within the Philippines, as the Chairman may order in writing.

SEC. 8. *Appointment of Officials and Employees.* – The Chairman shall appoint the personnel and fix their salaries or compensation in accordance with existing laws as he may deem necessary in the implementation of this Act. The Chairman may contract consultants or experts to provide technical and necessary assistance or to conduct seminar and trainings relative to codification of laws. The consultants or experts shall be entitled to reasonable emoluments for their services as maybe determined by the Commission.

SEC. 9. *Other Bureaus or Offices of the Government.* – The Commission is empowered to call on officials or employees of any bureau,

office, agency or instrumentality of the government to assist or extend their cooperation to the Commission in connection with the performance of its functions to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Termination.* – Upon completion of its work and the submission of its report not later than five (5) years from the date of its organization, the Commission shall cease to exist and the services of the Chairman and the members, including all of the employees working under it shall terminate.

SEC. 11. *Records and Documents.* – All records and documents and proceedings of the Commission shall be delivered to the National Library for preservation or disposition by the latter. The other properties of the Commission shall be disposed of in accordance with existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial organization and operation of the Commission. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,