

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

Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6039

Introduced By: HON. CARLOS M. PADILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, under Article XII, Section 14, provides that:

The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower, and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State.

In line with this Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 8981 created the Professional Regulation Commission to administer, implement, and enforce regulatory policies of the national government with respect to the regulation and licensing of the various professions and occupations under its jurisdiction, including the enhancement and maintenance of professional and occupational standards and ethics and the enforcement of the rules and regulations relative thereto.

Moreover, the Professional Regulatory Boards which are under the administrative supervision of the PRC are tasked to monitor the conditions affecting the practice or occupation under their respective jurisdictions and whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession or occupation and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards.

As can be seen from the foregoing, continuing professional education is vital and necessary to enhance and maintain high professional and occupational, ethical and technical standards in the practice of the different professions in the Philippines.

Hence, there is an urgent need to institute measures that will strengthen the Continuing Professional Education Program of the government.

Accordingly, the immediate passage of this act is hereby enjoined.


CARLOS M. PADILLA

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

Fifteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 6089

Introduced By: HON. CARLOS M. PADILLA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING CONTINUING
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS IN
THE PHILIPPINES

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 as the "*Continuing Professional Education Act of 2011*".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and upgrade the practice of professions in the country. Towards this end, the state shall institute measures that will continuously improve the competence of Filipino professionals in accordance with international standards of practice, thereby ensuring their contribution to the upliftment of the general welfare, economic growth and development of the nation.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - The following terms shall be defined under this Act:

- a. "APO" refers to the Accredited Professional Organization
- b. "Continuing Professional Education" or "CPE" refers to the inculcation, assimilation and acquisition of knowledge, skills, proficiency and ethical and moral values, after the initial registration of a professional, that raise and enhance the professional's technical skills and competence;
- c. "CPE Provider" refers to a natural person or a juridical entity which include among others, accredited or non-accredited professional

organization, firm, partnership, corporation or institution which offers, organizes or arranges CPE programs, activities or resources for implementation or administration;

- d. "CPE Programs, Activities or Resources" refers to the regime of CPE which enhance the competence of the professional by upgrading or updating knowledge and skills for the profession as brought about by modernization and scientific and technical advancements in the profession. The scope shall be beyond the basic preparation for admission to the practice of the regulated profession. Its content shall be related to the practice of the profession.
- e. "Conventions" refers to the gathering of registered and licensed professionals which shall include, among others, conferences, symposia or assemblies for round table discussions;
- f. "Post Graduate Degree Program" refers to masteral or doctoral degree which the professional is currently enrolled;
- g. "PRC" refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;
- h. "PRBs" refers to the Professional Regulatory Boards;
- i. "Self-Directed Learning Package" refers to learning which uses course manuals or accredited learning modules. Accredited learning modules include self-instructional materials or programs which may be in the form of printed manual, audio and video cassette tapes, films, computer-assisted learning, study kits, learning aids and modules or the use of information highway and has defined objectives and adequate content relative to professional practice.

SECTION 4. Strengthening the CPE Program.- The existing Continuing Professional Education Program of the Professional Regulation Commission is hereby institutionalized and strengthened, and along with this, there shall be formulated and implemented a CPE Program in each of the regulated professions with the following objectives:

- a. To provide and ensure the continuous education of registered and licensed professionals in accordance with the latest trends in their profession brought about by modernization as well as scientific and technological advancement;
- b. To raise and maintain the professionals' capability in delivering quality professional services;

- c. To attain and maintain the highest standards and quality in the practice of professions;
- d. To address the professionals' need for continuing ethical education and values formation;
- e. To make the Filipino professionals globally competitive; and
- f. To promote the general welfare of the public.

SECTION 5. Nature of CPE Programs. - The CPE programs consist of properly planned and structured educational activities, the implementation of which requires the participation of a determined group of professionals to meet the requirements of maintaining and improving the occupational, technical and ethical standards of professions. These shall include but not limited to the following:

- a. Trainings and seminars to enhance the practice of profession;
- b. Conduct of conventions of accredited professional organizations;
- c. Academic Post Graduate Degree Programs;
- d. Self-Directed learning packages such as the preparation and authorship of technical papers, teaching manuals and books; and
- e. Technical tours and workshops;
- f. Professional exchange programs.

SECTION 6. Program implementation. - The over-all implementation of the CPE Program shall be undertaken by the Professional Regulation Commission and the Professional Regulatory Boards for each profession which shall:

- a. formulate and review of CPE Program in each of the regulated professions;
- b. formulate, adopt and promulgate guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the CPE Program;
- c. organize CPE Councils for each of the regulated professions and promulgate guidelines for their operation;
- d. coordinate with concerned government agencies and private organizations in the implementation of CPE Program and other measures provided under this Act.

SECTION 7. CPE Council. - There is hereby created a CPE Council in every regulated profession which shall be under the supervision of the Professional Regulatory Board and shall be composed of a Chairman and two (2) Members.

The Chairman of each of the CPE Council shall be the Chairman of the Professional Regulatory Board, the first member shall be the President or Officer of the Accredited Professional Organization and the second member shall be the President or Officer of the national organization of deans or department chairman of schools, colleges or universities offering the course of the regulated profession, and in case of the absence of this organization, the second member shall be appointed by PRC chosen from the recommendees of the PRB of the professionals from the academic sector.

The term of office of the Chairman and Members of the CPE Council shall be co-terminus with their respective term of office in the PRB, APO and the national organization of deans and department chairman of schools, colleges or universities.

The PRB shall also determine the CPE council's budget, including travel expenses, allowances and per diems when attending official CPE council meetings or attending to matters assigned to them.

SECTION 7. Functions of the CPE Council. - The CPE Council for each profession shall have the following functions:

- a. Evaluate and approve applications for accreditation of CPE providers;
- b. Evaluate and approve application for accreditation of CPE programs, activities or sources as to their relevance to the profession and determine the number of CPE credit units (CUs) to be earned on the basis of the contents of the program, activity or resource submitted by the CPE providers;
- c. Evaluate and approve applications from exemption from CPE requirements;
- d. Monitor the implementation of the CPE providers of their program, activities and resources;
- e. Periodically access and upgrade criteria for accreditation of CPE providers and CPE programs, activities and resources; and
- f. Perform such other functions that may be necessary, desirable and incidental to the proper implementation and execution of CPE programs and policies.

SECTION 9. Secretariat. - A CPE Council Secretariat is hereby created under the Professional Regulation Commission, which shall be headed by an Executive Director to be appointed by the Chairman of PRC. The CPE Council secretariat shall provide technical, administrative and operational support to the CPE Councils and the Professional Regulatory Boards in the implementation of CPE programs.

SECTION 10. CPE as a Mandatory Requirement in the Renewal of Professional License and in the Accreditation System for the Practice of Professions. - The continuing professional education for every professional registered under the PRC is hereby declared a mandatory requirement in the renewal of professional license and in the accreditation system for the practice of professions.

SECTION 11. Applications and Incentives. - CPE credit units earned by a professional may be applied as equivalent to the training requirements for promotion in positions in government agencies and private firms and in teaching positions in academic institutions.

SECTION 12. Role of the Accredited Professional Organization. - The Accredited Professional Organization (APO) shall assist the PRC and PRB in the implementation of the Continuing Professional Education Program and for this purpose, organize a CPE Committee of the APO.

SECTION 13. Role of Concerned Government Agencies and the Private Sector. - All concerned government agencies and private firms and organizations employing professionals shall include the CPE as part of their human resource development plan and program and allocate the necessary funding requirement for the attendance of their professionals in CPE programs.

SECTION 14. Funding. - (a) The amount necessary to carry out this Act shall be incorporated under the appropriation of the Professional Regulation Commission in the General Appropriations Act; and (b) The annual funding requirement for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the annual income of the PRC.

SECTION 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The PRC together with the Professional Regulatory Boards in consultation with the APOs shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within six months upon the enactment of thereof.

SECTION 16. Separability Clause. - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared separable, and if any clause, sentence, provision or section hereof, should be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Act which can be given force and effect without the provisions which have been declared invalid.

SECTION 17. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders and other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.