

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress  
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 570

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Introduced by **Honorable Amado S. Bagatsing**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill addresses a scenario where a member of Congress, once newly elected, enters the halls of the House of Representatives or the Senate as a newcomer and a neophyte. Legislation, being a new found task, the member grapples with the problems of the country and struggles with lawmaking as soon as he steps into his office.

As an institution, Congress faces the challenge of producing lawmakers who go through the legislative process with barely having been clothed with the necessary skills and knowledge of their craft. Exposure to the process of lawmaking becomes a day to day learning experience to the newly seated members.

The proposed measure seeks to establish a Legislative Academy that will address the need to arm our legislators with the proper training, outlook and empowerment as they perform their tasks of nation building through legislation/.

In like manner, the Legislative Academy is also conceived as a training ground for the technical personnel of the Secretariat of the two Houses who serve as the support group of the members of Congress. Patterned after the two branches of government, namely the Executive and the Judicial branches who have their own training institutions, the Legislative Academy will be the in-house academic support of Congress.

In anticipation of the demands of Congressional work the passage of this bill is urgently requested.

  
**AMADO S. BAGATSING**  
Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> District, Manila

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

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

House Bill No. 570

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**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 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 efficient  
2 and credible Career Service of the Legislative Branch. Toward this end, it is imperative to  
3 provide members of the Career Service in the Legislative and prospective applicants with  
4 continuing appropriate education and training.

5       Sec 2. *Philippine Legislative Academy.* – There is hereby established a Philippine  
6 Legislative Academy (PLA), hereinafter referred to as the Academy, which shall be a unit of  
7 both House of Congress shall operate under their administration, supervision and control. It  
8 shall be located in the premise of the House of Representatives.

9       Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – The Career Service of the Legislature (CSL) shall include the  
10 career officers and employees of Congress composed of the Senate, the House of  
11 Representatives, the Commission on Appointments and the Senate and House Electoral  
12 Tribunals. It shall also include the career officers and employees of the Philippine Legislative  
13 Academy established under this Act.

14       Sec. 4. *Objectives.* – It is the purposes of this Act to professionalize, upgrade and  
15 strengthen the work force of Congress in order:

- 16       (1) To enable its officers and employees to efficiently provide the necessary  
17       legislative and administrative support services to Congress and its Members;  
18       (2) To create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative service  
19       officers and employees; and

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

4 Sec. 5. **Functions.** – The Legislative Academy shall serve as a training school for  
5 legislative staff officers and employees and other aspirants for positions in the CSL. For  
6 this purpose, it shall provide and implement a curriculum for legislative education as well  
7 as conduct seminars, workshops and other training programs to upgrade legislative  
8 support services capabilities and efficiency and shall perform such other functions as may  
9 be necessary in carrying out its mandate.

10 Sec. 6. **Governing Board.** – The Academy shall have as its governing body, a Board  
11 of Trustees, referred to as the Board, composed of five (5) members headed by the Chair of  
12 the Civil Service Commission as its chairperson, and four (4) regular members composed of  
13 the Secretary of the Senate, the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, a Deputy  
14 Secretary of the Senate and a Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives. The  
15 two deputy secretaries shall be appointed by their respective appointing powers for a term of  
16 three (3) years. The Chancellor of the Academy shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Board.

17 All members shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reasonable  
18 honoraria/allowance for the performance of their duties.

19 Sec. 7. **Executive Officials.** – The Executive officials of the Academy shall be  
20 composed of the Chancellor, two Vice Chancellors and an Executive Secretary who shall be  
21 designated/appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Executive officials shall serve for a  
22 term of three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments.

23 The Chancellor shall have as requisite qualifications, meritorious service for at least  
24 three (3) years as a Deputy Secretary of either House of Congress and with a Career  
25 Executive Service Officer (CESO) Rank.

26 A Vice Chancellor shall be chosen from each House and shall have as requisite  
27 qualifications meritorious service as an Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of  
28 the Senate or the House of Representatives for at least three (3) years, and holding a Career  
29 Executive Service Officer (CESO) Rank.

30 The Executive Secretary shall have the same requisite qualifications and the same  
31 compensation as a Deputy Executive Director. He/ she shall serve on a full time basis and  
32 shall be the *ex-officio* Recorder-Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

33 The Executive Officials of the Academy who were duly designated or appointed by

1 the Board of Trustees and qualified as such shall continue in their respective positions until  
2 the expiration of their initial terms, without prejudice to their reappointment as provided in  
3 this section: *Provided*, that if no such person meets the abovementioned requirements for any  
4 position, the Board of Trustees shall appoint such official with equivalent qualifications.

5 The Chancellor shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to a reasonable  
6 honoraria/allowance for the performance of his/her designated duties as determined by the  
7 Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

8 The Vice Chancellor shall have the compensation and privileges of an Executive  
9 Director.

10 For purposes of retirement privileges, seniority, and other benefits, service of the  
11 Executive Officials in the Academy shall be considered as service in the Career Service of the  
12 Legislature, except in cases not allowed by law.

13 The Executive Officials of the Academy shall not engage in the private practice of any  
14 profession.

15 Sec. 8. *Academy Staff.* – The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of professional  
16 lecturers. A Lecturer shall be nominated by any of the executive officials of the Academy;  
17 and such nomination shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Lecturers  
18 whose nominations are approved by the Board of Trustees shall be issued a formal  
19 appointment for a term of three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments.

20 Sec. 9. *Academic Courses.* – The academic courses and publications and other such  
21 documents shall be determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the rest of the  
22 executive officials and the corps of professional lecturers and shall take effect or be  
23 implemented upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

24 Sec. 10. *Selection and Admission of Participants.* – The criteria for the selection and  
25 admission of participants shall be determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the  
26 Executive officials and the Corps of Professional Lecturers subject to the approval of the  
27 Board of Trustees.

28 Sec. 11. *Appointment and Promotion.* – As soon as the Academy shall have been  
29 fully organized with the composition of its Corps of Professional Lecturers and other  
30 personnel, participants who have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy and  
31 have satisfactorily complied with all the requirements incident thereto shall be given priority  
32 for appointment/selection promotion to any position or vacancy in the Career Legislative  
33 Service.

34 Sec. 12. *Consortium Agreements.* The Academy may enter into consortium and

1 similar or related agreements with educational and training institutions for the development  
2 and implementation of programs for orientation, career development and capability building:  
3 *Provided*, that the honoraria, allowances, and other emoluments of personnel from the  
4 institutions involved with the consortium agreements shall not be taken from the funds of the  
5 Academy.

6       Sec. 13. *Gifts and Donations.* – All income, legacies, gifts and donations for the  
7 benefit of the Academy or for its support or maintenance shall be exempt from the payment  
8 of all forms of taxes, donors and donees' taxes, fees, income tax, real estate tax, assessments  
9 and other charges of the government, its branches and subdivisions.

10       Sec. 14. *Legislative Academy Fund.* – All legacies, gifts and donations to the  
11 Academy established under this law shall constitute a special fund to be known as the  
12 Legislative Academy Fund. This fund shall be administered and disbursed by the Board of  
13 Trustees of the Academy exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

14       Sec. 15. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00)  
15 necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act, including the operation,  
16 maintenance and improvement of the Academy, shall be included in the General  
17 Appropriations Act of the current year and every year thereafter under the programs of the  
18 Congress of the Philippines.

19       Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is  
20 adjudged invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force.

21       Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws and regulations that may be inconsistent with  
22 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

23       Sec. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,  
25 whichever comes earlier.

26       Approved.