

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

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 1054



Introduced by Representative Neptali M. Gonzales II

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Legislative Branch is the policy-making body of the country. It requires competent, efficient and honest public servants to complement the earnest aspiration of lawmakers to serve the people with utmost responsibility, integrity and efficiency.

The Congressional secretariat officers and employees have the primary responsibility of providing the lawmakers with professional, technical and other necessary services for legislation. Such expectations shall only be achieved by the recruitment of highly qualified personnel and the provision of a system of training and continuing education program for the legislative officers and employees.

With these in mind, and to maintain the highest level of morale among the personnel assisting in the lawmaking process and to ensure the highest degree of professionalism in the service, it is proposed that the Philippine Legislative Academy be established. Through this measure, the guidelines needed to maintain a high level of technical and professional personnel in the Legislative Branch shall be maintained.


NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFORE 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 the policy of the State to
2 ensure an efficient and credible Career Service Of the Legislature (CSL).
3 Toward this end, it is imperative to provide members of the CSL with
4 continuing appropriate education and training.

5 The CSL shall include the officers and employees of Congress,
6 composed of the Senate, House of Representatives, the Commission on
7 Appointments and the Senate and House of Representatives Electoral
8 Tribunals.

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

1 (a) Enable its officers and employees to efficiently and effectively
2 provide the necessary legislative and administrative support services to
3 Congress and its Members;

4 (b) Create a pool of competent and development-oriented career
5 legislative service officers and employees; and

6 (c) Provide a system of training and continuing education for
7 personnel in order to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are
8 recruited into the career legislative service.

9 **SEC. 3. *Philippine Legislative Academy.*** – To carry out the policy
10 and objectives enunciated in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, there is hereby
11 established a Philippine Legislative Academy, herein referred to as the
12 Academy. The Academy shall be a unit of both Houses of Congress and
13 shall operate under its administration, supervision and control. It shall be
14 located at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

15 **SEC. 4. *Functions.*** – The Academy shall serve as a training school
16 for legislative officers and employees for positions in the CSL. For this
17 purpose, it shall provide and implement a curriculum for legislative
18 education as well as conduct seminars, workshops and other training
19 programs to upgrade legislative support services, capabilities and efficiency,
20 and shall perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying out
21 its mandate.

22 **SEC. 5. *Governing Board.*** – The Academy shall have, as its
23 governing body, a Board of Trustees composed of the Chair of the Civil
24 Service Commission, the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General
25 of the House of Representatives, as *ex officio* members; and an incumbent

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

5 The *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as such for
6 the duration of their incumbency in their respective offices.

7 All Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to
8 reasonable *honoraria*/allowance for the performance of their duties.

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

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

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

22 A Vice Chancellor shall be chosen from each House. A Vice
23 Chancellor shall have as requisite qualifications meritorious service as an
24 incumbent Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of the Senate or

1 the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least
2 three (3) years, and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

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

7 If no persons meet the abovementioned requirements for any position,
8 the Board of Trustees shall designate such official with the closest
9 qualifications.

10 The Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor shall serve without
11 compensation, but shall be entitled to reasonable *honoraria*/allowance for
12 the performance of their designated duties as determined by the Board of
13 Trustees or as provided by law.

14 The members of the Executive Board shall not engage in the private
15 policies of any profession.

16 **SEC. 7. Academy Staff.** – The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of
17 professional lecturers. A lecturer shall be nominated by any of the members
18 of the Executive Board of the Academy; and, such nominations are approved
19 by the Board of Trustees shall be included in the list of lecturers, and shall
20 be entitled to reasonable *honoraria*/allowance as deemed fit by the Board of
21 Trustees or as provided by law.

22 **SEC. 8. Academic Courses.** – The academic courses and the
23 publications of a legislative service journal and such other documents shall
24 be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the
25 Board of Trustees.

1 **SEC. 9. *Criteria for Selection and Admission to the Academy.*** –

2 The criteria for the selection and admission to the Academy shall be
3 determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Board
4 of Trustees.

5 **SEC. 10. *Appointment and Promotion.*** – Legislative officers and
6 employees who have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy
7 and have satisfactorily completed all the requirements incident thereto shall
8 be given priority for appointment, selection or promotion to any position or
9 vacancy in the CSL.

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

14 **SEC. 12. *Tax Exemptions.*** – The provision of any general or special
15 law to the contrary notwithstanding:

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

19 (b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to
20 the Academy shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be
21 considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in
22 accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of
23 1997, as amended;

24 (c) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific,
25 philosophical, historical and cultural books, supplies, equipment,

1 machinery and other materials, including scientific and educational
2 computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from customs duties
3 and taxes; and;

4 (d) Educational services rendered by the Academy shall be exempt
5 from value-added tax.

6 **SEC. 13. *Legislative Academy Fund.*** – All legacies, gifts, and
7 donations to the Academy established under this law shall constitute a
8 special fund to be known as the Legislative Academy Fund. This fund shall
9 be administered and disbursed by the Board of Trustees exclusively for the
10 purpose of this Act.

11 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the
12 initial implementation of this Act, including the operation, maintenance and
13 improvement of the Academy, shall be charged against the General
14 Appropriations Act of 2014 and every year thereafter under the programs of
15 the Congress of the Philippines.

16 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision under this
17 Act be deemed invalid, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected
18 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

19 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws and regulations inconsistent
20 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

21 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
22 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
23 newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.