

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

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7197



**Introduced by: Representatives Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta and Franz
“Chicoy” E. Alvarez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the Constitution provides that “The State shall give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.” This policy is anchored on the State’s recognition of the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare as essential for the enjoyment of the people of the blessings of democracy.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Coast Guard Academy to serve as the overall administrative and operational educational institution in the field of Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration in the country.

The Philippine Military Academy, the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and the Coast Guard Officer’s Course administered by the Coast Guard Officer School are among the institutions which at present are the main sources of Coast Guard Officers. However, these institutions could no longer provide the proper training because of inadequate facilities and logistical support.

Considering the various tasks given to the Philippine Coast Guard under Republic Act No. 9993 and with the peculiarities of its being the premier maritime law enforcement agency in the country, it is imperative that there must

be a dedicated educational institution that would specifically cater to the needs of the Philippine Coast Guard and maritime law enforcement in general.

The Academy shall be established in a two hundred (200) hectare land granted to the Coast Guard District Palawan by the Local Government, located in Brgy. Apurawan, Aborlan, Palawan. The location is ideal considering its different terrains consisting of sea, land and mountain.

Thus, in order to promote to the highest degree possible the enhancement and development of maritime law enforcement and administration, research and training in the country, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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1 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD**
2 **ACADEMY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR**
3 **OTHER PURPOSES**

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress*
5 *assembled:*

6 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
7 Coast Guard Academy Act of 2020.”

8 **SEC. 2. Declaration of State Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of
9 the State to promote the welfare and modernization of the Philippine Coast
10 Guard geared towards the enhancement of the Service by ensuring adequate and
11 professional Officers that will perform the multifarious tasks and functions of
12 the Philippine Coast Guard.

13
14 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the Philipinen Coast Guard Academy.** - In
15 furtherance of the policy enunciated in Section 2 of this Act, an educational
16 institution known as the Philippine Coast Guard Academy (PCGA) shall be
17 established at Apurawan, Aborlan, Palawan for the training of selected
18 candidates for permanent commission as officers in the Philippine Coast Guard
19 Corps of Officers.

20
21 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be
22 established to serve as the overall administrative and operational educational

institution in the field of Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration in the country. It shall aim to promote to the highest degree possible, the enhancement and development of maritime law enforcement and administration, research and training in the country.

SEC. 5. Organization and Administration. - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be autonomous from the Coast Guard Education and Training Command, however both shall work hand in hand in developing the doctrinal programs and values applicable to both, taking into consideration the customs and traditions of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be headed by the superintendent who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation from among the Flag Officers in the Coast Guard service. The Superintendent shall have a maximum term of three (3) years.

SEC. 6. The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall have a Board to be composed of the following:

- (a) The Deputy Commandant for Administration as Chairman of the Board;
- (b) The Superintendent as the Vice-Chairman of the Board;
- (c) The Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Education and Training Command as member;
- (d) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services Command as member;
- (e) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection Command as member;
- (f) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Security command as member;
- (g) Dean of the Philippine Coast Guard Corps of Professors as member; and
- (h) Dean of Civilian Faculty as member.

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall, in addition to their pay, allowances, and collateral entitlement under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, be entitled to per diem for every board meeting actually attended and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred. The Board shall fix the amount of per diem its members may be entitled to, subject to the pertinent budgetary laws, rules, and regulations on compensation, honoraria and allowances.

65 **SEC. 7. Duties and Powers of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy**
66 **Board.** - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall have the following
67 duties and powers in addition to its general powers of administration:
68

- 69 (a) To confer such degree as may be determined by the Academic Council
70 to successful candidates for graduation;
71 (b) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, civilian
72 instructors, professors and other employees of the Academy, to fix
73 and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other
74 employees; to determine their hours of service, and such other terms
75 and conditions as it may deem proper; and to remove them for causes
76 as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;
77 (c) To approve the curricula, rules of discipline, and creation of the
78 different departments drawn up by the Academic Council as herein
79 under provided;
80 (d) To provide academic fellowship and scholarship for members of the
81 Corps of Professors and Faculty Member;
82 (e) To provide rules for the administration of the Academy such as
83 general ordinances and regulations consistent with the provisions
84 herein;
85 (f) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal
86 property of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when
87 necessary for the benefit of the Academy or for the aid of the cadets,
88 in accordance with the directions and instructions of the donor, and,
89 in default thereof, in such manner as the Academy Board may, in its
90 discretion, determine;
91 (g) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law for the
92 support of the Academy;
93 (h) To manage and utilize such income as maybe generated by the
94 Academy for the maintenance, support, and improvement of the same;
95 and
96 (i) To authorize the Superintendent to enter into Contract, Memorandum
97 of Understanding / Agreement, and such other instrument, to the
98 extent as may be allowed by law, relative to the performance of his /
99 her powers and functions and for the effective implementation of the
100 provisions herein.

101
102 **SEC. 8.- Progress Report.** - Within thirty (30) days after the close of the
103 Academic Year, the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall file with the
104 Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard a detailed report setting forth the
105 progress, condition, and needs of the Academy.
106

107 **SEC. 9. - Section 8. The Academic Council.** - There shall be an
108 Academic Council consisting of the Superintendent and the Directors of all the
109 departments of the Academy. The Academic Council shall have the power to
110 determine the applicable tuition fees and academic charges; prescribe the
111 curricula, promulgate rules of discipline; and propose for the creation of
112 various departments as it may be necessary, subject to the approval of the
113 Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board.

114
115 It shall fix the requirements for admission to the Academy as well as for
116 graduation and the conferment of a degree. The Academic Council alone shall
117 have the power to recommend students or others to be recipients of degrees.

118
119 **SEC. 10. - Corps of Professors.** - The Corps of Professors shall form
120 part of the Faculty of the Academy. It shall be composed of the Philippine Coast
121 Guard Uniformed Personnel who are permanently assigned with the Academy.
122 The qualifications for admission to the Corps of Professors shall be determined
123 by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Council. The same shall be headed by
124 a Dean who shall be selected by the Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council
125 from among the members of the Corps of Professors.

126
127 A separate career pattern shall be promulgated by the Philippine Coast
128 Guard Organization for the professional advancement and promotion of the
129 members of the Corps of Professors within three (3) months from the
130 effectivity of this act.

131
132 **SEC. 11. - The Faculty.** - The body of Civilian Professors and
133 Instructors of the Academy shall constitute the Faculty of the Academy. It shall
134 be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Superintendent upon
135 recommendation by the members of the Faculty. In the appointment of
136 Professors and Instructors of the Academy, neither religious test shall be applied
137 nor shall the religious opinions or affiliations of the faculty of the Academy be
138 made a matter of examination or inquiry. Provided, however, that no Professor
139 or Instructor in the Academy shall inculcate sectarian tenets in any of their
140 teachings or attempt either directly or indirectly, under penalty or dismissal by
141 the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board, to influence students of the
142 Academy for or against any particular church or religious sect.

143
144 **SEC. 12. - Relevant Civil Service and Licensure Examinations.** - The
145 civilian Professors and Instructors in the Academy must have passed the
146 relevant civil service or licensure examinations as a requisite for appointment.

147
148 The Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council may require from both
149 members of the Corps of Professors and Faculty additional educational

150 training, schooling, and Masters and Doctorate degrees to raise the academic
151 standards of the Academy. The same will be adopted in the career pattern of the
152 members of the Corps of Professors. Similarly, it may also be used as basis for
153 the promotion and career advancement of the members of the Faculty.

154
155 **SEC. 13. - The Registrar.** - There shall be a Register of the Academy
156 appointed by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. He or she shall sit as
157 the Secretariat of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board and shall be the
158 custodian of all the records of the same. He or she shall also fulfill such other
159 duties and responsibilities as the Superintendent may direct.

160
161 **SEC. 14. - Philippine Coast Guard Cadets.** - Cadets shall be admitted
162 to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy upon the approval of the Commandant
163 of the Philippine Coast Guard. Provided that they meet the qualifications and
164 entry requirements prescribed herein.

165
166 Their years of Government Service shall start on the date of their
167 admission to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy for purposes of computation
168 of Philippine Coast Guard Active Service and entitlement to long pay benefits.

169
170 **SEC. 15. - Exchange Program.** - The Academy may admit students
171 from the counterparts of the Philippine Coast Guard from foreign Coast Guard
172 / Naval / Maritime Police Organizations, especially those from members of the
173 Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Cadets. This is to foster
174 regional cooperation and facilitate the coordination among the aforementioned
175 organizations. Similarly, the Academy may send Cadets to the appropriate
176 Academy of the aforementioned organizations.

177
178 Students from the foreign Coast Guard / Naval / Maritime Police
179 Organizations, which provide scholarship and sponsorship from their own
180 academy to Cadets sent by the Academy, shall also receive corresponding
181 privileges from the Academy. Otherwise, they shall be required to pay such fees
182 and charges as may be determined by the Academic Council. Upon graduation,
183 they shall then return to their respective organizations.

184 **SEC 16. The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Cadet Corps.** - The
185 Philippine Coast Guard Academy Cadet Corps shall be the Student Body of the
186 Philippine Coast Guard Academy. It shall be composed of Philippine Coast
187 Guard Cadets, and Foreign Cadets. Provided, that the Foreign Cadets shall not
188 exceed ten percent (10%) of the total student population of the Academy.

189
190 **SEC. 17. Qualifications and Entry Requirements.** - All Cadets shall be
191 selected from among the candidates by the Academic Council. The minimum

192 qualifications for admission to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy are as
193 follows:

- 194
195 (a) Must be natural born Filipino citizen (applicable only to candidates
196 for Philippine Coast Guard cadets);
197 (b) Single with no parental obligations;
198 (c) Must be in good physical condition;
199 (d) Must neither be less than seventeen (17) nor more than twenty-two
200 (22) years of age on the first day of the Academic Year; and
201 (e) At least Secondary Level Graduate (Senior High School or its
202 Equivalent)
203

204 The Academic Council may determine such other requirements for
205 admission to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy, as may be necessary, that
206 are applicable either separately for the Philippine Coast Guard Cadets or for
207 Foreign Cadets only or applicable for both Filipino and Foreign Cadets.
208

209 **SEC. 18. Discipline and Justice System.** - Within three (3) months from
210 the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall
211 prepare the discipline and justice system applicable to all cadets of the
212 Academy, subject to the approval of the Philippine Coast Guard Commandant.
213

214 **SEC. 19. Commission to the Active Philippine Coast Guard Service.** -
215 Upon satisfactory completion of the course of instruction at the Philippine Coast
216 Guard Academy, Cadets shall be commissioned as Ensigns in the active
217 Philippine Coast Guard Service with relative seniority in the order of their final
218 general academic standings.
219

220 Philippine Coast Guard Cadets who shall suffer, before graduation,
221 permanent and total disability by reason of injury or sickness while in the
222 Academy shall be considered as retired from service with the rank of Cadet and
223 shall be entitled to the retirement benefits of an Ensign in the Philippine Coast
224 Guard.
225

226 **SEC. 20. Conferment of the Degree.** - Graduates of the Philippine
227 Coast Guard Academy shall be conferred the Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree.
228 The Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council shall develop such curricula that
229 will cater to the primary functions of the Philippine Coast Guard under Republic
230 Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, responsive to the
231 needs of the maritime stakeholders and the maritime interest of the Country,
232 subject to the approval of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. The said
233 curricula will then be endorsed to the Commission on Higher Education for
234 accreditation and approval.

235
236 **SEC. 21. Masters and Doctorate Degree.** - The Philippine Coast Guard
237 Academy may also offer Masters and Doctorate Degrees for qualified
238 Philippine Coast Guard Personnel who desire to obtain advance knowledge on
239 relevant maritime concerns and enhance their professional capabilities.

240
241 The said Masters and Doctorate Degrees may be offered to other students,
242 both local and foreign who are non-Philippine Coast Guard personnel, subject to
243 corresponding fees that may be approved by the Philippine Coast Guard
244 Academy Board.

245
246 **SEC. 22 . Pay, Allowances, and Collateral Entitlements.** - Members of
247 the Philippine Coast Guard Corps of Professors and other Philippine Coast
248 Guard Uniformed Personnel assigned at the Philippine Coast Guard Academy
249 shall receive such pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements corresponding to
250 their ranks as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing
251 Rules and Regulations.

252
253 Members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel appointed as such in
254 the Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall receive the pay, allowances, and
255 collateral entitlements enjoyed by their counterparts in the Philippine National
256 Police Academy or Philippine Military Academy, whichever is higher, subject
257 to applicable rules and regulations.

258
259 Philippine Coast Guard Cadets shall receive pay and allowances as
260 provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and
261 Regulations reckoned from admission in the Academy.

262 **SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within three (3)
263 months from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard shall
264 formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations and prescribe the
265 procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the same for approval by
266 the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

267
268 Similarly, the Table of Organization and Equipment , including the
269 Plantilla Positions of members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel of
270 the Academy shall be prepared by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board
271 for approval by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

272
273 **SEC. 24. Appropriations.** - For carrying out the purposes and
274 provisions of this Act, the sum of one billion eight hundred million pesos (Php
275 1,800,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the purposes of the establishment of
276 the Philippine Coast Guard Academy. It shall be treated as a separate and
277 distinct budget item from the regular appropriations of the Philippine Coast

Guard. It shall be implemented in a staggered basis. Five hundred million pesos (Php 500,000,000.00) will be released by the Department of Budget and Management annually for the two (2) succeeding years. An additional eight hundred million pesos (Php 800,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the purpose of acquiring a modern training ship for the Philippine Coast Guard Academy to supplement classroom instructions.

Thereafter, the amount of sixty million pesos (Php 60,000,000.00) shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the maintenance and operation of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy.

SEC. 25. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 26. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 27. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,