

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2709



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Introduced by

**HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
and  
**HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY, DEFINING ITS**  
**POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 1, Article XI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:  
"Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times  
be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity,  
loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives."

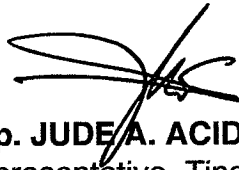
In line with this, the proposed legislation seeks the creation of the  
Philippine Legislative Academy to provide the members of the Career Service  
of the Legislature (CSL) with continuing appropriate education and training. It  
is to ensure the credibility of the officers and employees within the Career  
Service of the Legislature.

The Academy shall serve as a training school for legislative officers and  
employees for positions in the CSL and there shall also be provided and  
implemented a curriculum for legislative education to assure that the facility will  
live up to standards.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



**Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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**OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Philippine Legislative Academy Act.”

**Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure an efficient and credible Career Service of the Legislature (CSL). Toward this end, it is imperative to provide members of the CSL with continuing appropriate education and training.

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

**Section 3. *Objectives.*** It is the purpose of this Act to professionalize, upgrade

and strengthen the workforce of Congress in order to:

- a. Enable its officers and employees to provide the necessary legislative and administrative support services efficiently and effectively to Congress and its Members;
- b. Create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative service officers and employees; and,
- c. Provide a system of training and continuing education for personnel in order to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are recruited into the career legislative service.

**Section 4. *Philippine Legislative Academy.*** To carry out the policy and objectives enunciated in Sections 2 and 3 hereof, there is hereby established a Philippine Legislative Academy, herein referred to as the Academy. The Academy shall be a unit of both Houses of Congress and shall operate under its administration, supervision, and control. It shall be located at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

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

**Section 6. *Governing Board.*** The Academy shall have, as its governing body, a Board of Trustees composed of the Chair of the Civil Service Commission, the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, as ex officio members; and an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate chosen by the Senate President, and an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives chosen by the Speaker, both of whom shall have served in such positions for at least five (5) years, as designated members.

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

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

**Section 7. *Executive Board.*** The Executive Board of the Academy shall be designated by the Board of Trustees, and shall be composed of a Chancellor, two (2) Vice Chancellors, and an Executive Secretary.

The Executive Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments. In case of a vacancy in any Executive position, the Board of Trustees shall designate a replacement who shall serve in such position for the remainder of the unfinished term.

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

A Vice Chancellor shall be chosen from each House. A Vice Chancellor shall have, as requisite qualifications, meritorious service as an incumbent Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of the Senate or the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

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

If no persons meet the above-mentioned requirements for any position, the Board of Trustees shall designate such official with the closest qualifications.

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

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

**Section 8. *Academy Staff.*** The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of professional lecturers. A lecturer shall be nominated by any of the members of the Executive Board of the Academy; and such nominations that are approved by the Board of Trustees shall be included in the list of lecturers and shall be entitled to reasonable honoraria/allowance as deemed fit by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

**Section 9. *Academic Courses.*** The academic courses and the publications of a legislative service journal and such other documents shall be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 10. *Criteria for Selection and Admission to the Academy.*** The criteria for the selection and admission to the Academy shall be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 11. *Appointment and Promotion.*** Legislative officers and employees who have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy and have satisfactorily completed all the requirements incident thereto shall be given priority for appointment, selection, or promotion to any position or vacancy in the CSL.

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

**Section 13. *Tax Exemptions.*** The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- a. All revenues and assets of the Academy used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- b. Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to the Academy shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;
- c. Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, and cultural books, supplies, equipment, machinery, and other materials, including scientific and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from customs duties and taxes; and,
- d. Educational services rendered by the Academy shall be exempt from value-added tax.

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

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

**Section 16. *Separability Clause.*** Should any provision under this Act be deemed invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 17. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,