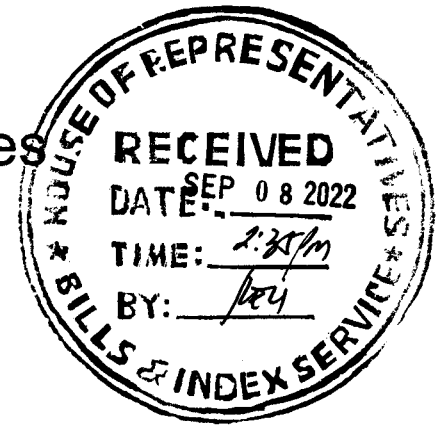




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4595



Introduced by Representative Khymer Adan T. Olaso

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The maritime profession is unique. Unlike all other professions, the skill and competency requirements are universal and dictated by an international convention of which the Philippines is a signatory, such as the "*International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, 1978, As Amended (STCW Convention)*." The STCW Convention lays down requirements that are basic and useful in attesting to the seafarer's competency and physical fitness.

In the Philippines, the maritime profession is regulated under Republic Act No. 8544, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998*." Section 14, paragraph (d) of this law requires that for the applicants to qualify to take the licensure examinations for merchant marine officer positions, they have to be graduates of Bachelor of Science in Maritime Transportation or Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering in a school, academy, institute, college or university duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This is a requirement that is not in accordance with the spirit of the STCW Convention. Filipino citizens who are already holders of a foreign license but did not graduate from a university, academy or institution recognized by the CHED cannot apply for and be issued a license in the Philippines because of this requirement.

This bill seeks to allow Filipino citizens who are holders of a foreign license but who did not graduate from the local educational institution, to secure a license for merchant marine officer positions provided that such applicants have completed the prescribed review course in a school, academy, institute,

college or university duly recognized by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

The rapid evolution of technology and development in the maritime industry calls for a change in the way that maritime education, training, and licensing be viewed and considered. The STCW Convention is best at adapting to these rapid changes by being abreast of the present requirements brought about by new technologies.

Republic Act No. 10635 established the MARINA as the single maritime administration responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the 1978 international convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers. In fulfilling this role, MARINA shall ensure that the examination, licensing and certification system for marine deck and engine officers are in accordance with the requirements prescribed under the STCW Convention.

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


KHYMER ADAN T. OLASO
Representative
1st District, Zamboanga City

1 Health (DOH) accredited medical institution conducting physical and
2 medical examinations for seafarers;

3 (d) In the case of Marine Deck/Engineer Officer, he must
4 be a graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Maritime Transportation
5 or Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering in a school, academy,
6 institute, college or university duly recognized by the Commission
7 on Higher Education (CHED);

8 (e) For an applicant taking the examination, other than that
9 for the Marine Deck/Engineer Officer, he must have completed in
10 course approved by the appropriate government agency, as defined
11 in the rules and regulations implementing this Act.

12 **“AN APPLICANT WHO IS A FILIPINO CITIZEN,**
13 **HOLDER OF A LICENSE AS A MARINE DECK OR**
14 **ENGINEER OFFICER ISSUED BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY**
15 **BUT NOT A GRADUATE OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**
16 **IN MARITIME TRANSPORTATION OR BACHELOR OF**
17 **SCIENCE IN MARINE ENGINEERING IN A SCHOOL,**
18 **ACADEMY, INSTITUTE, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**
19 **DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE CHED, MAY BE ALLOWED**
20 **TO TAKE THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION IN THE**
21 **PHILIPPINES: *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH FOREIGN**
22 **LICENSED APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED THE**

1 **PRESCRIBED REVIEW COURSE AND TRAINING IN A**
2 **SCHOOL, ACADEMY, INSTITUTE, COLLEGE OR**
3 **UNIVERSITY DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE MARITIME**
4 **INDUSTRY AUTHORITY.”**

5 SEC. 2. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other
6 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed
7 repealed or amended accordingly.

8 SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the
9 MARINA shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
10 implementation of this Act.

11 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
12 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 Approved,