

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8559

**Introduced by Representatives Mark O. Go, Roman T. Romulo,
Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Pablo John F. Garcia
and Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7836 or the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act was enacted in 1994 with the objective geared towards promotion, development and professionalization of teachers and the teaching profession, and the supervision and regulation of the licensure examination. It created the Board for Professional Teachers, under the supervision of the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC). The law was amended in 2004 by Republic Act No. 9293, amending in particular Sections 15, 26 and 31.

This bill seeks to introduce further amendments to RA 7836 by amending Sections 5, 8, 13, 15 and 16. It seeks to widen the nomination for the members of the Board of Professional Teachers by including the Teachers Education Council (TEC), Department of Education (DepEd), accredited association of private schools and school administrators and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the selection of nominees in addition to the accredited association of teachers.

Another proposed amendment is the issuance of appropriate rules by the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) that will govern the practice of members of the Board to avoid conflict of interest in the conduct of licensure examinations and the release of results. Also included in the bill is the recognition of the probationary employment of a teacher as an exception to the requirement of professional license in the practice of teaching subject to certain conditions.

The bill likewise proposes additional academic qualifications for applicants who will take the licensure examinations for teachers and the requirement of a refresher course for those who have failed to pass the licensure examination for three times.

The proposed amendments seeks to improve and attune the provisions of RA 7836 with the prevailing situation and needs of the education sector and to further meet the objectives set by the law.

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



MARK O. GO



ROMAN T. ROMULO



MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO



PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA



JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ

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AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7836,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PHILIPPINE TEACHERS
PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 1994” AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9293

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* — There is hereby created under this Act a Board for Professional Teachers, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the general supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the recommendees chosen by the Commission. The recommendees shall be chosen from the list of nominees FROM [selected by] THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC); DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED); ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS; COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED); and accredited association of teachers, who duly possess all the qualifications prescribed in Section 8 of this Act.

The chairman and the vice-chairman of the Board shall be appointed from these five (5) members by the President: *Provided*, That the members of the first Board appointed under this Act shall be automatically registered as professional teachers and issued with the certificate of registration and professional license upon payment of the fees for examination, registration, and other fees prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

SEC. 8. *Qualifications of Board Members.* - Each Board member must at the time of his or her appointment:

- (a) Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity, and possessed of high moral values in his personal as well as professional conduct and has not been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- (c) Be a holder of the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education and preferably a holder of a master's or doctorate degree in education, or their equivalents, from a university, school, college, academy or institute duly constituted, recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- (d) Be a professional teacher with a valid certificate of registration and valid professional license, save those members who shall compose the first Board for Professional Teachers;
- (e) Has been a professional teacher in the active practice of the teaching profession for at least ten (10) years in the elementary and secondary level; and
- (f) [Not be an official or member of the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in any university, college, school, or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in education or its equivalents for at least three (3) years prior to his appointment, and neither connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted]

PROVIDED, THAT THE PRC SHALL ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE RULES TO GOVERN THE PRACTICE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST SHALL ARISE IN THEIR FUNCTIONS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND RELEASE OF THE RESULTS.

Provided, [however], FURTHER, That the membership to the Board shall be evenly distributed to cover all levels of education, including equitable representation of the different fields of specialization.

SEC. 3. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

SEC. 13. *Examination, Registration and License Required.* — Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as professional teachers shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given at least once a year in such places and dates as the Board may determine upon approval by the Commission. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE ALLOWED UNDER SECTION 8, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OR UNDER A LEGITIMATE PROBATIONARY EMPLOYMENT IN

PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO DOLE-DECSCHED-TESDA ORDER NO. 1 SERIES OF 1996, TO TEACH PRIOR TO ACQUIRING THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATE AND LICENSE, A [a] valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the Commission are required before any person is allowed to practice as a professional teacher in the Philippines, except as otherwise allowed under this Act.

SEC. 4. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby further amended as follows:

“Sec 15. *Qualification Requirements of Applicant.* - No applicant shall be admitted to take the examination unless, on the date of the filing of the application, he or she shall have complied with the following requirements:

(a) A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the teaching profession;

(b) At least eighteen (18) years of age;

(c) In good health and of good reputation with high moral values;

(d) Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court for an offense involving moral turpitude;

(e) A graduate of a school, college or university recognized by the government and possesses the minimum educational qualifications, as follows:

(1) For teachers in preschool, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education (BECED) or its equivalent;

(2) For teachers in the elementary grades, a bachelor's degree in elementary education (BSEED) or its equivalent;

(3) For teachers in the secondary grades, a bachelor's degree in education or its equivalent with a major and minor, or a bachelor's degree in arts and sciences with at least eighteen (18) units in professional education;

(4) For teachers of vocational and two-year technical courses, a bachelor's degree in the field of specialization or its equivalent, with at least eighteen (18) units in professional education;

(5) FOR SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY GRADES, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SPECIAL NEEDS IN EDUCATION (BSNED);

(6) FOR TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY GRADES,

SPECIFICALLY GRADES 4-8, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD EDUCATION (BTLED);

(7) FOR TLE TEACHERS IN GRADES 9-10, SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR THE TECH-VOC LIVELIHOOD TRACK, TVET TRAINERS/INSTRUCTORS, AND FACULTY MEMBERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION (BTVTED);

(8) FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY GRADES, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BPED);

(9) FOR TEACHERS IN THE SECONDARY GRADES SPECIFICALLY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL UNDER THE ARTS AND DESIGN TRACK, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CULTURE AND ARTS EDUCATION (BCAED); AND

(10) OTHER APPLICABLE COURSES AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY CHED AND DEPED.

(F) IF AN APPLICANT HAS PREVIOUSLY FAILED TO PASS THE EXAMINATION THREE TIMES, HE OR SHE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A REFRESHER COURSE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE, BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO RETAKE THE EXAMINATION."

SEC. 5. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 16. *RELEASE OF THE QUESTIONS AND Report of the Results of the Examination.* - THE BOARD SHALL, NOT LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE EXAMINATION RESULTS, RELEASE THE QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL PANEL ON TEACHER EDUCATION, TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL, AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. ADDITIONALLY, T[t]he Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate to the Professional Regulation Commission for approval and appropriate action."

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Act, the Professional Regulation Commission shall update its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary for the full and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 7. Transitory Provision. - The Professional Regulation Commission and the Board of Professional Teachers shall update its existing policies and issuances relevant to

this Act and ensure its alignment with the same within a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act and report the same to Congress on the first year of its implementation.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act or the application of such section in provision to any person in circumstance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision of this Act shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, circulars, administrative orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,