

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

Nineteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10251

Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Re-Acquisition Act of 2003 mandates that Filipinos who have acquired citizenship in other countries shall retain their Philippine citizenship subject to certain conditions. Section 5 of the law provides for the civil and political rights, responsibilities and liabilities of persons who will retain or re-acquire Philippine citizenship. Sub-section (3) of Section 5 provides, "Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and swear to an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office: *Provided*, That they renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took that oath."

This bill seeks to amend the said provision to accommodate qualified Filipino professionals with dual citizenship to be appointed as an administrator, faculty or researcher in our public higher education institutions (HEIs) either on a full time or part time basis.

At present, our public HEIs are in need of highly qualified professionals to be part of their academic and administrative personnel that would further boost their capability and human resource to deliver quality tertiary education. There are many Filipino professors and professionals who have acquired citizenship in other countries who are willing to be appointed and be part of our public HEIs but such action is prohibited under the present law on citizenship.

In a consultation meeting conducted by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Dr. Tirso Ronquillo expressed that there is a need to hire and engage more faculty experts, researchers, and even administrators in public HEIs in the country. He noted that there are inadequate human resources in science-technology-innovation (STI), and research and development (R&D).

One potential source of increasing human resources in our public HEIs is the naturalized Filipinos in other countries who have re-acquired their citizenship by virtue of R.A. 9225. Many natural-born Filipino scientists, engineers, and researchers who are dual citizens are willing to be appointed in the government but reluctant to renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took that oath for one reason or another. Should this requirement of law be amended, many dual citizens will be enticed to work for the government. Their knowledge and expertise when used and applied in the Philippines will definitely help address the critical challenges in advancing excellent education, research, and innovation.

This proposed measure seeks to provide our public HEIs a wider elbow room to search for and hire the best applicants who possesses the skills and qualifications needed for their institutions.

In view of the foregoing, immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARK C. GO

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AN ACT
ALLOWING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY, RESEARCHERS, AND
ADMINISTRATORS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 5 (3) OF REPUBLIC ACT
9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-
ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003

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

Section 1. Section 5 (3) of Republic Act No. 9225 or the “Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003” shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 5. *Civil and Political Rights and Liabilities.* — Those who retain or re-acquire Philippine citizenship under this Act shall enjoy full civil and political rights and be subject to all attendant liabilities and responsibilities under existing laws of the Philippines and the following conditions:

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(3) Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and swear to an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office: *Provided, That, EXCEPT FOR THOSE APPOINTED AS FACULTY, RESEARCHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS,* they renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took that oath;

Sec. 2. If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 3. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,