

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 706



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL "JAVI" L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Professionals play an important role in nation-building, providing essential or basic services that underpin the safety, health, welfare and development of our communities.

Accordingly, Sec. 14, Art. XII of the Constitution mandates the State to promote the development of Filipino professionals. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) was established for this purpose – to ensure the competence and competitiveness of Filipino professionals. Under Republic Act No. 8981, the PRC is to regulate the practice of professions by conducting licensure examinations, and certifying and registering successful examinees.

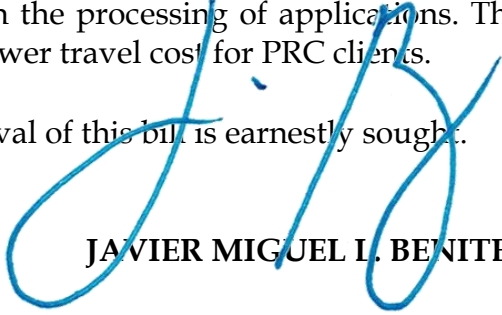
Under the same law, the PRC is also authorized to create regional offices to perform its functions. Currently, the Regional Office of the PRC for Western Visayas is located in Iloilo City. The PRC Regional Office VI supervises four (4) off-site Service Centers - three (3) in Iloilo City and one (1) in Bacolod City - that process applications for licensure examinations, issuance of identification cards, and certification and authentication.

Iloilo City hosts a total of four (4) PRC offices that serve applicants for licensure examinations, and licensed professionals in the entire Panay and Guimaras, and its 4.7 million population – or a PRC office for every 1.2 million people. Meanwhile, Negros Occidental, including Bacolod City, and its 3.2 million population only has one (1) PRC office.

The growing demand for PRC services arising from an increasing population and number of college graduates¹ thus necessitate the establishment of at least one (1) additional Service Center in Negros Occidental.

A PRC Service Center in Victorias City will decongest the workload of PRC Service Center in Bacolod City, and will benefit not only the Third District of Negros Occidental but also local government units in the north of the province. This will enhance efficiency in the processing of applications. This will make transactions faster, and will lower travel cost for PRC clients.

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



JAVIER MIGUEL I. BENITEZ

¹ From 50,246 college degree holders in 2000 to 171,339 in 2015, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

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Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL “JAVI” L. BENITEZ**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION
(PRC) SERVICE CENTER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE
OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a Service Center of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in the City of Victorias, Province of Negros Occidental.

SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the PRC shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement its provisions.

SEC. 3. The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the operationalization of the PRC Service Center in the City of Victorias, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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,