

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3980**



Introduced by Representative KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Accordingly, Section 14, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to promote the sustained development of Filipino professionals. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) was created precisely for this purpose: to regulate and supervise the practice of the professions, to ensure competence and competitiveness of Filipino professionals, and to protect the public through a reliable system of professional licensure.

Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000," empowers the PRC not only to regulate and license the practice of the professions but also to create regional and satellite offices to efficiently deliver its services. At present, the PRC Regional Office in Cebu only has two (2) satellite offices located at Robinsons Galleria Cebu and SM City Cebu, both of which are situated in Cebu City. For professionals and licensure applicants residing in the Municipality of Pinamungajan, it takes at least two (2) hours of travel to reach these service centers. This situation poses not only logistical difficulties but also additional costs in terms of time, transportation, and lost opportunities.

The demand for PRC services continues to rise with the increasing number of graduates in Central Visayas. According to 2024 data from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), a total of 67,934 students graduated from higher education institutions in Region VII during Academic Year 2022–2023¹. This figure is composed of 33,215 graduates from private higher education institutions, 27,764 from state universities and colleges, and 6,955 from local universities and colleges. This large number of graduates underscores the urgent need to expand PRC's service capacity in the region.

The growing demand for PRC services arising from an increasing population and number of college graduates thus necessitate the establishment of an additional PRC Satellite Office in the Province of Cebu.

¹ "2024 Higher Education Facts and Figures." Commission on Higher Education, 2024, <https://ched.gov.ph/2024-higher-education-facts-and-figures/>.

This measure is a manifestation of our continuing duty to ensure accessible, responsive, and people-centered governance. It is also consistent with the constitutional directive to promote the professional development of Filipinos as a key driver of national progress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



Rep. KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA
3rd District, Province of Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3980**

Introduced by Representative KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) SATELLITE
OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PINAMUNGAJAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State, as enshrined in Section 14, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, to sustain the development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields.

Section 2. *Establishment of a PRC Satellite Office* - There shall be established, under the supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), a satellite office in the Municipality of Pinamungajan, Province of Cebu.

Section 3. *Appropriations.* – The PRC Chairman shall immediately include in its program the establishment, operation and maintenance of the PRC satellite office in the Municipality of Pinamungajan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Professional Regulation Commission, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the concerned local government unit, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,