



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 4197

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recognizing the undeniable impact of quality education on national development, the 1987 Constitution expressly declares as policy that “[t]he State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.”¹ It further mandates the State to “protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels” and to “take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.”²

Teachers are central to the fulfillment of this constitutional duty. In fact, there are evidence that student learning is highly impacted by teacher quality.³ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in its 2015 Report,⁴ highlighted studies showing positive associations between student achievement and teacher characteristics such as academic skills, content knowledge, professional development, and years of experience. Other research also identifies education background, certification status, perseverance, preparedness coursework, and leadership experience as critical factors influencing teacher effectiveness.⁵

In the Philippines, however, student performance continues to lag behind international benchmarks. Filipino learners scored among the lowest in the 2018 and 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) administered by the

¹ Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution.

² Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution.

³ UNESCO. The Impact of teacher knowledge on student achievement in 14 Sub-Saharan African countries, p. 7. Published in 2013. Available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000225832> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Teachers and Educational Quality: Monitoring Global Needs for 2015, p. 67. Published in 2006. Available at <https://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/teachers-and-educational-quality-monitoring-global-needs-for-2015-en.pdf> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

⁵ Journal of Education and Practice. Does Teacher Quality Affect Student Achievement? An Empirical Study in Indonesia, p. 35. Published in 2016. Available at <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1115867.pdf> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

OECD,⁶ as well as in the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)⁷ and the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM).⁸ These outcomes persist despite the reforms introduced in the past decade, underscoring the urgent need to address teacher quality as a key driver of education outcomes.

Equally concerning is the performance of aspiring teachers in the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET). From 2009 to 2019, the national passing rate averaged only 30 percent, reaching beyond 50 percent only after the pandemic. In 2024, of the 260,672 LET examinees, only 140,329 passed.⁹ Furthermore, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has identified numerous higher education institutions (HEIs) with consistent zero passing rates in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT), including 77 HEIs offering Bachelor of Elementary Education programs and 105 offering Bachelor of Secondary Education programs.¹⁰

These systemic gaps highlight the necessity of legislative reforms to strengthen the teaching profession and improve the preparation, regulation, and accountability of teachers. Accordingly, this measure proposes the following amendments to Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, or the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994:

- a) Expand the pool of nominees to the Board of Professional Teachers under the PRC to include representatives from the Teacher Education Council (TEC), Department of Education (DepEd), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), and Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), in addition to existing accredited associations;
- b) Establish clear rules to prevent conflicts of interest among Board members;

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⁶ DepEd. PISA 2018 National Report of the Philippines. Published in December 2019. Available at <https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/PISA-2018-Philippine-National-Report.pdf> (Accessed on 1 July); OECD. PISA 2022 Results (Volume I and II) - Country Notes: Philippines. Published in December 2023. Available at https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2022-results-volume-i-and-ii-countrynotes_ed6fbcc5-en/philippines_a0882a2d-en.html (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

⁷ TIMSS. International Results in Mathematics and Science, p. 9 & 80. Published in 2020. Available at <https://www.iea.nl/sites/default/files/2021-01/TIMSS%202019-International-Results-in-Mathematics-andScience.pdf> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

⁸ SEA-PLM. National Report of the Philippines, p. 11. Published in March 2021. Available at <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/2556/file/Southeast%20Asia%20Primary%20Learning%20Metrics%202019%20National%20Report%20of%20the%20Philippines.pdf> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

⁹ PRC. March 2024 Results of Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers Released in Forty-Seven (47) Working Days. Published on 24 May 2024. Available at [https://www.prc.gov.ph/node/6903#:~:text=Examination%20eServices-,March%202024%20Results%20of%20Licensure%20Examination%20for%20Professional%20Teachers%20Released,%2DSeven%20\(47\)%20Working%20Days&text=The%20Professional%20Regulation%20Commission%20\(PRC,and%20regulations%20governing%20licensure%20examinations.8itext=N.%20C.%20R](https://www.prc.gov.ph/node/6903#:~:text=Examination%20eServices-,March%202024%20Results%20of%20Licensure%20Examination%20for%20Professional%20Teachers%20Released,%2DSeven%20(47)%20Working%20Days&text=The%20Professional%20Regulation%20Commission%20(PRC,and%20regulations%20governing%20licensure%20examinations.8itext=N.%20C.%20R) (Accessed on 1 July 2025); Rappler. RESULTS: September 2024 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. Published on 13 December 2024. Available at <https://www.rappler.com/bulletinboard/examination-results/licensure-professional-teachers-september-2024/> (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

¹⁰ EDCOM 2. Miseducation, The Failed System of Philippine Education, EDCOM II Year One Report, p. 179. Published in 2024. Available at <https://edcom2.gov.ph/media/2024/02/EDCOM-II-Year-One-Report-PDF022924.pdf>. (Accessed on 1 July 2025).

- c) Improve and expand qualification requirements for applicants for registration as professional teachers, including a mandatory refresher course for those who fail any component of the licensure examination within three (3) years; and
- d) Mandate the public release of examination questions and information on examiners to enhance transparency and accountability.

These amendments are designed to elevate the teaching profession, strengthen teacher preparation, and produce world-class Filipino educators. In alignment with the findings and recommendations of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


EDUARDO "BRÖ. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING 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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7836, or the "Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994," as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 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 DULY POSSESS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 8 OF THIS ACT AND** 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 [~~selected by the accredited association of teachers, who duly possess all the qualifications prescribed in Section 8 of this Act~~] **FROM THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC); DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED); COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (COCOPEA); COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED); ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ALCU); PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (PASUC); AN ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS; AND AN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION GRADUATES.**

A SCREENING COMMITTEE SHALL BE FORMED TO EVALUATE THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AND THE FINAL LIST OF NOMINEES SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC. The chair[~~man~~]**PERSON** and the vice-

1 chair[man] **PERSON** of the Board shall be appointed from these five (5)
2 members by the President: Provided, That the members of the first Board
3 appointed under this Act shall be automatically registered as professional
4 teachers and issued with the certificate of registration and professional
5 license upon payment of the fees for examination, registration, and other
6 fees prescribed by the Commission."
7

8 **SEC. 2.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby amended to
9 read as follows:
10

11 "SEC. 7. Term of Office. - The members of the Board shall hold office for a
12 term of three (3) years from the date they assume office [~~: Provided, That~~
13 ~~the first appointees to the Board under this Act shall hold office according to~~
14 ~~the following terms: one (1) member shall serve for one (1) year; one (1)~~
15 ~~member for two (2) years; the chairman, vice chairman, and one (1)~~
16 ~~member for three (3) years].~~ **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO ARE**
17 **EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL BE**
18 **SECONDED TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR**
19 **TERM.** Vacancies shall be served for the unexpired term only. No person
20 who has served **AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD** for two (2) consecutive
21 terms shall be eligible for reappointment. Appointment to fill an unexpired
22 term shall be considered an appointment to a complete term.
23

24 [~~The chairman or any member shall take his oath of office prior to the~~
25 ~~performance of his duties.]"~~

26
27 **SEC. 3.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby amended to read
28 as follows:
29

30 "SEC. 8. Qualifications of Board Members. - Each Board member must at
31 the time of [his] appointment:
32

33 (a) xxx

34 (b) xxx

35 (c) Be a holder of [~~the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in~~
36 ~~Education and]~~ **AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE**, preferably [~~a holder of~~
37 ~~a master's or doctorate degree in education,]~~ **HOLDING A DOCTORATE**
38 **DEGREE, IN EDUCATION**, or their equivalent[s], from a university, school,
39 college, academy, or institute duly constituted, recognized, and/or
40 accredited by the Philippine government;

41 (d) xxx

42 (e) Has been a **REGISTERED AND LICENSED** professional teacher in the
43 active practice of the teaching profession for at least ten (10) years [~~in the~~
44 ~~elementary and secondary level]; and~~

45 (f) Not be an official or member of the faculty of, nor have A pecuniary
46 interest in any university, college, school, or institution conferring a
47 bachelor's degree in education or its equivalent[s ~~for at least three (3) years~~
48 ~~prior to his appointment]~~, and neither connected with a review center or with
49 any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for
50 the licensure examination are offered or conducted.

1 *Provided, however,* That the membership to the Board shall be evenly
2 distributed to cover all levels of education, including equitable
3 representation of the different fields of specialization.
4

5 **THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL ALSO HAVE THE**
6 **NECESSARY EXPERTISE IN IMPLEMENTING TEACHER EDUCATION**
7 **PROGRAMS THAT ARE OFFERED BY THE TEC AND REGULATED BY**
8 **THE CHED, TEST DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS, AND LOGISTICS**
9 **IN IMPLEMENTING WIDE-SCALE ASSESSMENTS AND SYSTEM**
10 **ACCREDITATIONS.**
11

12 **THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE RULES TO**
13 **GOVERN THE PRACTICE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENSURE**
14 **THAT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST ARISES IN THEIR FUNCTIONS**
15 **RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION**
16 **AND RELEASE OF THE RESULTS."**
17

18 **SEC. 4.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby amended to
19 read as follows:
20

21 "SEC. 9. Compensation of the Board. - The chair~~[man]~~**PERSON**, vice-
22 chair~~[man]~~**PERSON**, and members of the Board shall receive compensation
23 comparable to the compensation received by existing regulatory boards
24 under the ~~[Professional Regulation]~~ Commission, computed on the basis of
25 the number of examinees/candidates."
26

27 **SEC. 5.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended is hereby amended to
28 read as follows:
29

30 "SEC. 12. Removal of a Board Member. – The chair~~[man]~~**PERSON** or any
31 member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines
32 upon recommendation of the Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence,
33 **TERMINAL ILLNESS**, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable
34 conduct, commission or ~~[toleration]~~ **TOLERANCE** of irregularities in the
35 examination, **OR FINAL JUDGMENT OF CRIMES INVOLVING MORAL**
36 **TURPITUDE**, after having been given the opportunity to defend ~~[himself]~~
37 **ONESELF** in a proper administrative investigation.
38

39 In the course of **THE** investigation, the President may preventively
40 suspend the respondent."
41

42 **SEC. 6.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby deleted in
43 its entirety and replaced with the following:
44

45 **"SEC. 13. REGISTRATION AND LICENSE. - APPLICANTS FOR**
46 **REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FOR**
47 **TEACHERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE**
48 **FOLLOWING, AS THE CASE MAY BE:**

49 a) **A WRITTEN EXAMINATION TO BE GIVEN AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR**
50 **IN SUCH PLACES AND DATES AS THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE**
51 **UPON APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE REQUIRED**

1 FOR GRADUATES OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AS PROVIDED IN
2 SECTION 15 OF THIS ACT AND GRADUATES OF NON-EDUCATION
3 PROGRAMS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 18 UNITS OF
4 CERTIFICATION IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE);

- 5 b) SUBMISSION OF A PORTFOLIO OF ATTAINMENT OF THE
6 TEACHING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRADUATES OF
7 TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY THE
8 TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL IN LIEU OF TAKING THE
9 WRITTEN EXAMINATION; OR
10 c) SUBMISSION OF A TEACHING EXPERIENCE PORTFOLIO FOR
11 THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TEACHING IN HIGH-LEVEL BASIC
12 EDUCATION AND TERTIARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS. THE
13 COMMISSION, THE TEC, AND THE CHED SHALL PROVIDE THE
14 APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT,
15 EVALUATION, AND EQUIVALENCY OF PRIOR TEACHING
16 EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF YEARS
17 OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE."

18
19 **SEC. 7.** Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby deleted in
20 its entirety and replaced with the following:

21
22 **"SEC. 14. SCOPE OF EXAMINATION. - THE EXAMINATIONS**
23 **FOR TEACHERS SHALL BE GIVEN SEPARATELY BY PROGRAM,**
24 **ALIGNED WITH THE RELEVANT PROGRAMS, STANDARDS, AND**
25 **GUIDELINES ISSUED. THE EXAMINATIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE**
26 **FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:**

- 27
28 a) TEACHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS;
29 b) TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE TEC
30 AND REGULATED BY THE CHED; AND
31 c) EXISTING CURRICULUM OF BASIC AND CHILD CARE
32 EDUCATION.

33
34 THE EXAMINATIONS MAY INCLUDE A PRACTICAL
35 COMPONENT AS A SUPPLEMENT TO WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.
36 GRADUATES FROM NON-EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHALL BE
37 ABLE TO CHOOSE THEIR EXAMINATION PROGRAM
38 REGARDLESS OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

39
40 IN CASE OF FAILURE IN THE EXAMINATION BY THE
41 AFOREMENTIONED EXAMINEES, CONTENT COURSES IN THEIR
42 CHOSEN SUBJECT SHALL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THEY CAN
43 RETAKE THE EXAMINATION."

44
45 **SEC. 8.** Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby further
46 amended to read as follows:

47
48 "SEC. 15. Qualification Requirements of Applicants. - No applicant shall be
49 admitted to take the examination unless, on the date of filing of the
50 application, [he] **THE APPLICANT** shall have complied with the following
51 requirements:

- 1 (a) xxx
2 (b) xxx
3 (c) xxx
4 (d) xxx

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

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

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

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

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

18 **A GRADUATE FROM A TEACHER**
19 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE CHED, AND**
20 **POSSESSES THE MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**
21 **PURSUANT TO TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY**
22 **THE TEC AND REGULATED BY THE CHED, OR EQUIVALENT**
23 **PROGRAMS OR OTHER PROGRAMS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY**
24 **THE CHED, WITH AT LEAST EIGHTEEN (18) UNITS IN PROFESSIONAL**
25 **EDUCATION;**

26 **(f) APPLICANTS WHO FAILED TO PASS COMPONENT/S OF THE**
27 **EXAMINATION IN THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS SHALL BE REQUIRED**
28 **TO COMPLETE A REFRESHER COURSE FOR THE FAILED**
29 **COMPONENT IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED TEACHER EDUCATION**
30 **INSTITUTION BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO RETAKE THE**
31 **EXAMINATION."**

32
33 **SEC. 9.** Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby amended
34 to read as follows:

35
36 **"SEC. 16. RELEASE OF QUESTIONS AND** Report of the Results of the
37 **Examination. - THE BOARD SHALL, NOT LATER THAN FORTY-EIGHT**
38 **(48) HOURS AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAMINATION,**
39 **RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC THE QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION ON**
40 **THE EXAMINERS. THE BOARD SHALL FORM A TESTING BOARD**
41 **EVERY YEAR, TO CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS**
42 **ACCREDITED TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. THE**
43 **EXAMINATION SHALL BE VALIDATED THROUGH A THIRD-PARTY**
44 **ASSESSMENT BEFORE AND AFTER ADMINISTRATION. ITEM**
45 **ANALYSIS IS RECOMMENDED TO BE DONE AFTER THE**
46 **ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAMINATION.**

47
48 The Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) day after the
49 examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate **BY**
50 **EXAMINATION COMPONENT** to the ~~[Professional—Regulation]~~
51 Commission for approval and appropriate action.

1
2 THE BOARD SHALL ALSO RELEASE THE LICENSURE
3 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE OF TEACHER EDUCATION
4 INSTITUTIONS, WITH A TEN (10)-YEAR TRACK RECORD ANALYSIS,
5 AS PROVIDED BY THE CHED, THROUGH APPROPRIATE
6 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCES FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE PUBLIC
7 INCLUDING POSTING OF THE SAME ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITES OF
8 THE COMMISSION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND
9 PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS OF NATIONAL CIRCULATION IN
10 SUCH PERIOD AND FREQUENCY AS THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE.

11
12 TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SHALL, UPON RELEASE
13 OF SCHOOL EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE, ALSO MAKE PUBLIC
14 THEIR LICENSURE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE, WITH A TEN (10)-
15 YEAR TRACK RECORD ANALYSIS, THROUGH PLACEMENT IN THREE
16 (3) CONSPICUOUS PLACES ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC,
17 INCLUDING THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS,
18 IF AVAILABLE.

19
20 NO UNDUE PROMOTION OR ADVERTISEMENT SHALL BE
21 ALLOWED FOR REVIEW CENTERS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES FOR
22 PURPOSES OF TAKING CREDIT FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF
23 APPLICANTS WHO TOOK THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS FOR
24 TEACHERS, AND SUCH CREDIT SHALL BE ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO
25 THE TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WHERE THE
26 APPLICANTS GRADUATED."

27
28 **SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) day from the
29 effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate the implementing rules and
30 regulations (IRR) necessary for the full and effective implementation of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 11. Policies and Issuances.** - The Commission and the Board shall update
33 their existing policies and issuances relevant to this Act and its IRR, ensure their
34 alignment with the same within a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act,
35 and report the same to Congress after the first year of its implementation.

36
37 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
38 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
39 remain in force and effect.

40
41 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
42 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
43 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

44
45 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
46 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

47
48 *Approved,*