



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
20th Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 5010



Introduced by **REP. MARIO O. SALVADOR**

Explanatory Note

Employment in the public service, in most cases, requires hurdling a competitive examination as a means to determine merit and fitness. Thus, Section 2 (2), Article IX of the Constitution provides that “appointments in the civil service shall be made only according to merit and fitness to be determined, as far as practicable, and, except to positions which are policy-determining, primarily confidential, or highly technical, by competitive examination.”

Laws have been passed to propel graduates into the civil service without having to go through any competitive examination but with a caveat. Presidential Decree No. 907 for example confers automatic civil service eligibility to honor graduates of four-year or longer courses from schools, colleges and universities of good standing as the determined by the Commission on Higher Education. The rationale given by the law is that graduating with honors earned under the competitive atmosphere of the academic community is as good as qualifying mark in a competitive examination to determine merit and excellence for public employment. However, it is high time to reward not only the honor graduates of four-year or longer courses.

Some four-year courses do not require their graduates to pass any licensure examinations to be able to practice their professions. To be able to secure employment in the public service, these graduates have to take the required civil service examinations unless they are considered eligible under special laws and relevant Civil Service Commission issuance. While these graduates are eligible to take the civil



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service examinations in order to have professional eligibility for second level positions in government, some opt to be employed in first level positions requiring only sub-professional eligibility due to lack of opportunities in second level positions.

Needless to mention, qualification for a sub-professional eligibility only requires less than for years of college education. Going through four years of college education and earning degrees as a result entail a good measure of sacrifices and hardships not only from the students but also from the parents who have to endure every financial difficulties so that their children will be able to finish school yet upon graduation, they still need to get the required eligibility should they decide to pursue first level positions in government. Giving these graduates of four-year courses automatic sub-professional eligibility, which this Bill seeks, is a small reward for their feat but it can also be considered as a vast recognition of their parents' role in that regard.

Thus, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

MARIO O. SALVADOR

Representative

Second District, Nueva Ecija



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Introduction by **REP. MARIO O. SALVADOR**

**AN ACT GRANTING SUB-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL CIVIL SERVICE
ELIGIBILITY FOR THOSE COMPLETED BACHELOR DEGREES**

Be it enacted by the Congress of the Philippines:

SECTION 1: *Short Title.* The act shall be known as the “Bachelor’s Degree Eligibility Act”.

SEC. 2: *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the state to afford the youth with every possible opportunity for participation and involvement in national endeavors, especially those that will lead to the improvement of communities and other public service.

This Act recognizes that a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution of higher learning whose college programs are known for its Center of Excellence by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) is a demonstration of high levels of intellectual discipline and competence. Accordingly, this Act declares that such discipline and competence shall be considered a valid determination of merit and fitness for civil service, consistent with the constitutional provision that competitive examinations shall be utilized only when practicable similar to Presidential Decree No. 907, “Granting Civil Service Eligibility to Honor Graduates”.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For the Purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:



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- a. **Center of Excellence (COE)** is defined by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as a department within a higher education institution, which continuously demonstrates excellent performance in the areas of instruction, research and publication.
- b. **Accredited Institution of Higher Learning.** Refers to any public or private university or college that is officially authorized and recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to offer and grant degrees in the Philippines.
- c. **Bachelor's Degree.** Refers to a four-year (or more) undergraduate degree awarded by an Accredited Institution of Higher Learning.

SEC. 4. *Grant of Civil Service Eligibility.* All graduates of a bachelor's degree program designated as a Center of Excellence (COE) by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be granted Sub-Professional Civil Service Eligibility, without any need for a competitive examination.

In line with this, the Civil Service Commission shall issue appropriate certification of eligibility upon application by the qualified graduate provided that he/she is:

- a) Citizen of the Republic of the Philippines;
- b) Has not been found guilty of crime involving moral turpitude or of infamous, disgraceful or immoral conduct, dishonesty, drunkenness or addiction to drugs;
- c) Has not been previously found guilty of offenses relative to, or in connection with the conduct of a civil service examination; and
- d) Has not been dismissed from the service for cause.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.



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SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.