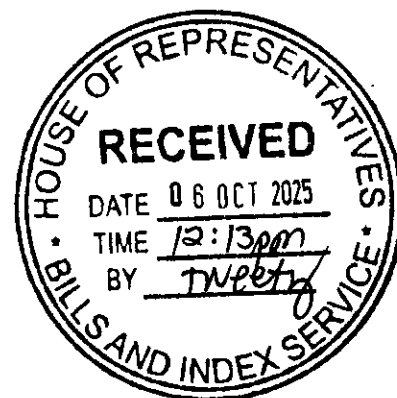


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5131**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD BY INTRODUCING POLICY
AND ORGANIZATIONAL REFORMS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of life and property at sea, protecting the marine environment, and safeguarding the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines. Under Republic Act No. 9993, otherwise known as the Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009, the PCG was established as an armed and uniformed service attached to the Department of Transportation (DOTr).¹ Over the past decade, however, emerging maritime threats, increasing international obligations, and rapid developments in the maritime domain have outpaced the capabilities of the PCG, necessitating a comprehensive update to its legal charter.

The Philippines, as an archipelagic state with over 36,000 kilometers of coastline² and situated at the crossroads of vital international shipping lanes, faces unprecedented challenges. These include rising tensions in the West Philippine Sea,³ illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing,⁴ and the growing threat of maritime environmental disasters such as the most recent significant coral reef damage around Pag-asa Reef 1, just 2.6 kilometer east of Pag-asa Island, Palawan, caused by Chinese maritime militia vessel (bow number 16868).⁵

¹ Section 2, Republic Act No. 9993

² Destination Earth: Philippines. (20 October 2023). Retrieved from: <https://destination-earth.eu/case-studies/philippines/#:~:text=The%20Philippines%20is%20an%20archipelagic,funding%20based%20on%20forecast%20information.>

³ Philippines: Calming Tensions in the South China Sea. (23 May 2024). Retrieved from: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia-pacific/philippines-south-china-sea/philippines-calming-tensions-south-china-sea>.

⁴ Oceana: Protecting World's Oceans. (09 July 2025). A troubling tide: The problem of illegal fishing and declining catch. Retrieved from: <https://ph.oceana.org/press-releases/a-troubling-tide-the-problem-of-illegal-fishing-and-declining-catch/>.

⁵ Lagniton, L. (15 July 2025). Chinese vessel causes extensive damage to coral reef off Pag-asa Island. Retrieved from: <https://maritimefairtrade.org/chinese-vessel-causes-extensive-damage-to-coral-reef-off-pag-asa-island/>.

The PCG has been actively involved in the management of the rising tensions in the West Philippine Sea involving the People's Republic of China (PRC). On February 18, 2025, the PCG reported that a People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Harbin Z-9 helicopter conducted unprofessional and reckless flight maneuvers against a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 208B Grand Caravan EX aircraft conducting a routine maritime domain awareness flight over Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal).⁶ On August 11, 2025, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) vessel BRP Suluan successfully evaded pursuit and a water cannon blast from the Chinese Coast Guard (CCG), which resulted in a collision with another Chinese vessel, a warship of the PLAN.⁷ On August 13, 2025, just two days after the collision of two Chinese vessels, a Chinese fighter jet intercepted a patrol aircraft of the Philippine Coast Guard while it was flying over Scarborough Shoal.

These developments demand a modern, well-equipped, and professional Coast Guard that can respond effectively and align with international maritime conventions. This bill seeks to repeal Republic Act No. 9993 and introduce a comprehensive Revised Philippine Coast Guard Law, which will:

- Strengthen organizational structure by creating three core functional commands — Maritime Safety Services Command, Marine Environmental Protection Command, and Maritime Security Law Enforcement Command — with appropriate support, operational, and technical units to meet the diverse challenges of maritime governance.
- Increase personnel capacity and professionalism, ensuring adequate manning levels across sixteen Coast Guard districts nationwide, supported by provisions for specialized technical officers such as doctors, lawyers, and environmental specialists.
- Align salaries, ranks, and benefits of PCG uniformed personnel with those of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to attract and retain highly skilled personnel while providing career growth and retirement security.
- Modernize assets and infrastructure by authorizing the PCG to develop a comprehensive development plan for vessels, aircraft, navigation and communications systems, and maritime monitoring facilities to secure the nation's maritime zones and enhance disaster response.
- Ensure sustainable financing by establishing mechanisms for grants, donations, and international partnerships while safeguarding public accountability and transparency in procurement and resource use.

⁶ Nepomuceno, P. (19 February 2025). PH patrols to continue in BdM despite Chinese Navy's dangerous acts. Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1244404>.

⁷ Chi, C. (11 August 2025). China Coast Guard collides with own warship while chasing Philippine vessel. Retrieved from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/08/11/2464739/china-coast-guard-collides-own-warship-while-chasing-philippine-vessel>.

- Institutionalize accountability and discipline through the creation of a Coast Guard Internal Affairs Service (CGIG-IAS), which will promote integrity, efficiency, and discipline within the organization.
- Strengthen disaster response and environmental protection, empowering the PCG to develop oil spill response and containment systems and coordinate closely with local government units and international partners to mitigate maritime disasters.
- Enhance national security coordination by integrating PCG operations with the AFP in times of war or national emergency, including interoperability through shared training and personnel exchange programs.

By modernizing the PCG, this legislation seeks to position the Philippines as a responsible maritime nation, capable of protecting its vast maritime zones, fulfilling its international obligations, and ensuring the safety, security, and sustainability of its seas. In light of increasing regional tensions and the strategic importance of the Philippine maritime domain, the passage of this measure is urgent and necessary.

Approval of this bill shall usher in a stronger, more professional, and better-equipped Philippine Coast Guard, ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.


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1 Communications, Electronics and Information System Service, Special Operations
2 Force, Aviation Force, Civil Relations Service Command, Canine Force, Intelligence
3 Force, and other operational commands as may thereafter be created as needed;
4

5 c) The technical services shall consist of the Legal Service, Medical Service,
6 Ecumenical Service, Dental Service, Veterinary Service, Medical Administrative
7 Corps, Nurse Corps, and other technical services that may or hereinafter be created
8 as needed;
9

10 d) Operating commands shall consist of the sixteen (16) districts located
11 nationwide covering specific areas of responsibilities composed of stations that shall
12 have field offices called sub-stations down to detachments or posts. These coast
13 guard districts are: National Capital Region-Central Luzon (CGD NCR-CL), Central
14 Visayas (CGD CV), Southwestern Mindanao (CGD SWM), Southeastern Mindanao
15 (CGD SEM), Palawan (CGD PAL), Western Visayas (CGD WV), Southern Visayas
16 (CGD SV), Southern Tagalog (CGD STL), Northern Mindanao (CGD NM), Bicol (CGD
17 BCL), Northwestern Luzon (CGD NWL), Eastern Visayas (CGD EV), Northeastern
18 Luzon (CGD NEL), Southern Mindanao (CGD SM), Northeastern Mindanao (CGD
19 NEM) and Coast Guard districts in Bangsamoro Administrative Region in Muslim
20 Mindanao (CGDs BARMM): *Provided*, That the PCG may create other new districts
21 subject to existing laws; and
22

23 e) The Special Services consist of the Legislative Liaison Affairs, Internal Audit,
24 and Center for Strategic Studies.
25

26 In addition to the aforementioned basic structure of the PCG, the Commandant
27 of the PCG is authorized to reorganize, modify, or create districts, commands,
28 services, or units to enhance operational efficiency and command structure. Such
29 changes shall be subject to the recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation
30 and the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in accordance
31 with applicable laws, rules and regulations: *Provided*, That the minimum manning level
32 of the PCG shall be sufficient to support its mandate, which shall be filled in
33 accordance with the enlistment schedule approved by the DBM: *Provided, further*,
34 That the functional commands, administrative support units, operational support units,
35 operating units, technical services and special services shall be authorized and
36 designated to perform all duties and functions of the PCG within their individual areas
37 of responsibility, including finance and procurement.
38

39 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

40
41 SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of the PCG.* - The PCG shall have the following
42 powers and functions:
43

44 a) Enforce regulations in accordance with all relevant maritime international
45 conventions, treaties or instruments and national laws for the promotion of safety of
46 life and property at sea within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines and conduct
47 port state control implementation;
48

49 b) Conduct random inspections on all merchant ships and vessels, including
50 inspections prior to departure, to ensure and enforce compliance with safety

standards, rules and regulations;

c) Detain, stop, or prevent a ship or vessel which does not comply with safety standards, rules and regulations from sailing or leaving port;

d) Conduct emergency readiness evaluation on merchant marine vessels;

e) Issue and enforce rules and regulations for the promotion of safety of life and property at sea on all maritime-related activities, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the DOTr;

f) Determine, fix or prescribe charges, rates, and penalties, as may be necessary, to implement its provisions, as well as the provisions of laws, issuances, decrees, and orders related to the implementation of PCG functions, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the DOTr;

g) Coordinate, develop, establish, maintain, and operate aids to navigation, vessel traffic system, maritime communications, and search and rescue facilities within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines;

h) Remove, destroy, or tow to port sunken or floating hazards to navigation, including illegal fish traps and vessels, at or close to sea lanes which may cause hazards to the marine environment;

i) Issue permits for the salvage of vessels and to supervise all marine salvage operations and wreck removal, and to auction the abandoned vessels or wrecks to defray the expenses of such removal, as well as prescribe and enforce rules and regulations governing the same;

j) Render aid to persons and vessels in distress and conduct search and rescue during maritime accidents within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines, including the high seas, in accordance with applicable international conventions. In the performance of this function, the PCG may enlist the services of other government agencies and the merchant marine fleet;

k) Investigate and inquire into the causes of all maritime accidents involving death, casualties and damage to properties;

l) In coordination with other relevant government agencies, enforce and maintain maritime security, and prevent or suppress terrorism at sea, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations;

m) Assist in the enforcement of laws on fisheries, immigration, tariff and customs, forestry, firearms and explosives, human trafficking, dangerous drugs and controlled chemicals, transnational crimes, and other applicable laws within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines;

n) Board and inspect all types of merchant ships and watercrafts in the performance of these functions;

1 o) Promulgate, administer, and enforce laws, rules and regulations for the
2 protection of marine environment and resources from offshore sources of pollution
3 within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines;

4
5 p) Develop oil spill response, containment, and recovery capabilities against
6 ship-based pollution;

7
8 q) Grant, within the capabilities and consistent with its mandate, requests for
9 assistance of other government agencies in the performance of their functions;

10
11 r) Organize, train and supervise the PCG Auxiliary (PCGA) for the purpose of
12 assisting the PCG in carrying out its mandated functions;

13
14 s) Recommend to the President of the Philippines the issuance of rules and
15 regulations pertaining to the assistance and support that the AFP should extend to the
16 PCG to enhance the latter's capability during emergencies; and

17
18 t) Perform such other functions that may be necessary in the attainment of the
19 objectives of this Act.

20 21 THE PCG COMMANDANT

22
23 SEC. 5. *The PCG Commandant.* – The PCG shall be headed by a
24 Commandant who shall have the rank of Admiral: *Provided,* That he or she shall be
25 appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the Flag Officers in the
26 Coast Guard service. He or she shall hold a command-at-sea badge and must have
27 served as District Commander and Functional Service Commander, including other
28 major commanders carrying the rank of Vice Admiral. The Commandant shall have a
29 maximum term of three (3) years which shall commence on the date the appointment
30 is signed, unless sooner terminated by the President. The PCG Commandant shall be
31 compulsorily retired upon completion of the maximum term or upon relief by the
32 President.

33
34 SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Commandant.* - The Commandant shall
35 exercise the following powers and functions:

36
37 a) Elaborate and execute the national maritime laws relating to the functions of
38 the PCG;

39
40 b) Direct and control tactical as well as strategic movements, deployment,
41 placement, or utilization of the PCG or any of its units and personnel, including its
42 equipment, facilities and other resources: *Provided,* That the Commandant may
43 delegate this power to subordinate officials with respect to the units under the latter's
44 command, subject to the guidelines as the Commandant may prescribe in accordance
45 with existing laws, rules and regulations;

46
47 c) Prescribe, in accordance with existing laws, the organization or re-
48 organization, powers, functions, and duties of the various staff, services, installation,
49 and other units of the PCG;

1 d) Issue policies and instructions regarding personnel, funds, properties,
2 records, correspondence, and such other matters as may be necessary to effectively
3 carry out the functions, powers and duties of the PCG, in accordance with existing
4 laws, rules and regulations;

5
6 e) Approve the recommendation of the different promotion or assignment boards
7 and ensure observance of merit and fitness in the process of promotion and
8 assignment;

9
10 f) Exercise disciplinary authority over all uniformed personnel and non-
11 uniformed personnel of the PCG; and

12
13 g) Perform any task or directive issued by the President of the Philippines:
14 *Provided*, That such command and direction of the Commandant may be delegated to
15 subordinate officials with respect to the units under the latter's respective commands,
16 subject to the guidelines as the Commandant may prescribe in accordance with the
17 rules and regulation prescribed under existing laws.

18 19 ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

20
21 SEC. 7. *Personnel*. – The PCG shall consist of the following categories of
22 personnel:

23
24 a) *Officer* refers to a uniformed member of the PCG who is commissioned as
25 officer by the President of the Philippines or the Secretary of Transportation, as the
26 case may be, and belongs to the officers' corps;

27
28 b) *Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)* refers to the classification of uniformed
29 member of the PCG with ranks below commissioned officers and performing jobs
30 specific to their occupational specialty particularly those ranks with equivalent grades
31 of E-4 to E-10;

32
33 c) *Enlisted Personnel* refers to the classification of uniformed members of the
34 PCG particularly those ranks with equivalent grades of E-1 to E-3;

35
36 d) *Non-uniformed personnel* refers to permanent, temporary, contractual,
37 coterminous and casual civilian employees of the PCG whose appointments are
38 governed by the Civil Service laws, rules and regulations;

39
40 e) *Probationary ensign* refers to a person who is called to active duty but awaiting
41 commissionship into the PCG or awaiting training;

42
43 f) *Draftee* refers to a person who has completed basic training and is awaiting
44 enlistment into the PCG active service;

45
46 g) *Cadet* refers to a person who is enrolled in service academies under the
47 sponsorship of the PCG;

48
49 h) *Candidate* refers to a person who is undergoing training for commissionship;

1 and

2
3 i) *Trainee* refers to a person who is undergoing training to qualify as member of
4 the non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel's corps of the PCG.

5
6 *Provided*, That the ranks and grades of all uniformed personnel in the PCG,
7 whether officers or non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel, shall be the same
8 and equal as that used and observed in the AFP and the PNP.

9
10 SEC. 8. *Ranks and Grades of PCG Officers.* – The ranks and grades of PCG
11 Officers shall be as follows:

RANK	ACRONYM	PAY GRADE
Admiral	ADM	O-10
Vice Admiral	VADM	O-9
Rear Admiral	RADM	O-8
Commodore	COMMO	O-7
Captain	CAPT	O-6
Commander	CDR	O-5
Lieutenant Commander	LCDR	O-4
Lieutenant Senior Grade	LTSG	O-3
Lieutenant Junior Grade	LTJG	O-2
Ensign	ENS	O-1

24
25 SEC. 9. *Technical Officers.* – Other professionals that may join the PCG service
26 as technical officers are:

- 27
28 a) Lawyers;
29 b) Doctors;
30 c) Priests, Pastors, Imam, and other certified clerics;
31 d) Dentists;
32 e) Veterinarians; and
33 f) Nurses

34
35 *Provided*, That any applicant holding the degree of any of the abovementioned
36 professions shall have qualified and passed the appropriate licensure examination,
37 when applicable, of the respective professions to be qualified for entry into the Coast
38 Guard service: *Provided, however*, That other board professions not listed above may
39 still be recruited as part of the technical stream upon verification of the PCG of its need
40 thereof.

41
42 SEC. 10. *Officer Rank Distribution.* – The officer rank distribution of the PCG shall
43 be as follows: *two per centum* (2%) in the Flag Officer rank; *six per centum* (6%) in the
44 rank of Captain; *twelve per centum* (12%) in the rank of Commander; *eighteen per*
45 *centum* (18%) in the rank of Lieutenant Commander; *twenty per centum* (20%) in the
46 rank of Lieutenant Senior Grade; and *forty-two per centum* (42%) in the ranks of
47 Lieutenant Junior Grade and Ensign: *Provided*, That such distribution is based on the
48 ratio between officers and non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel, which is
49 one (1) officer for every seven (7) non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel:
50 *Provided, further*, That if the actual number in a rank is less than the number

prescribed in a lower rank, the difference may be applied as an increase to the number prescribed in the lower rank.

SEC. 11. *Distribution of Flag Officers.* – Other than the Commandant who occupies the rank of Admiral, the total number of flag ranks shall not exceed two (2) percent of the total population of officers distributed observing the pyramidal structure as hereunder prescribed:

Vice Admiral	0.15%
Rear Admiral	0.35%
Commodore	1.50%
Total	2.00%

Provided, That if the actual number in a rank, except in the case of Coast Guard Admiral and Vice Admiral, is less than the number herein prescribed, the difference may be applied as an increase to the number prescribed in the lower rank: *Provided, further*, That no officer shall be promoted to the rank of Commodore or higher unless there is an existing vacancy, and the officer is occupying a position in the table of organization that requires the rank which is being considered for promotion.

SEC. 12. *Maximum Tenure in Rank.* – The maximum tenure of officers in the ranks of Captain and Flag Officer in the PCG are hereby prescribed, as follows:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Maximum Tenure in Rank</u>
Admiral	three (3) years
Vice Admiral	three (3) years
Rear Admiral	three (3) years
Commodore	five (5) years
Captain	ten (10) years

Unless earlier separated, retired, or promoted to the next higher rank or occupying a position calling for the higher rank in the PCG Table of Organization, Captains and Flag Officers shall be retired upon the attainment of the maximum tenure in rank herein prescribed, or upon reaching the age of compulsory retirement whichever comes earlier: *Provided*, That Captains or flag officers who have not reached the age of retirement shall be retired due to attrition if they have at least twenty (20) years in service, otherwise it shall be separation from service.

SEC. 13. *Maximum Tenure in Position of the Commandant.* – The Commandant is hereby limited to a maximum tenure of three (3) years, unless otherwise earlier relieved by the President or competent authority.

SEC. 14. *Ranks and Grades of Non-Commissioned Officers / Enlisted Personnel.* – The ranks and pay grades of PCG non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel shall be, as follows:

RANK	ACRONYM	PAY GRADE
First Master Chief Petty Officer	FMCPPO	E-10
Master Chief Petty Officer	MCPO	E-9
Senior Chief Petty Officer	SCPO	E-8

1	Chief Petty Officer	CPO	E-7
2	Petty Officer First Class	PO1	E-6
3	Petty Officer Second Class	PO2	E-5
4	Petty Officer Third Class	PO3	E-4
5	Seaman/Seawoman First Class	SN1/SW1	E-3
6	Seaman/Seawoman Second Class	SN2/SW2	E-2
7	Apprentice Seaman/Seawoman	ASN/ASW	E-1

8
9 SEC. 15. *Maximum Tenure in Rank for Non-Commissioned Officers.* – The
10 maximum tenure of non-commissioned officers in the ranks of Chief Petty Officer to
11 First Master Chief Petty Officer in the PCG are, as follows:

12	Rank	Maximum Tenure in Rank
13		
14	First Master Chief Petty Officer	Three (3) years
15	Master Chief Petty Officer	Five (5) years
16	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Eight (8) years
17	Chief Petty Officer	Ten (10) years

18
19 Any non-commissioned officers holding lower ranks than the above who stays in
20 a rank for ten (10) years without being promoted to the next higher rank shall be
21 evaluated by the Re-enlistment Fitness Board who shall verify suitability to continue in
22 service and submit a recommendation for the approval of the Commandant: *Provided,*
23 That the original enlistment term in the PCG shall be three (3) years and subsequent
24 re-enlistment shall be for the term of six (6) years, with the application for re-enlistment
25 to be reviewed by the Re-enlistment Fitness Board for recommendation to the
26 Commandant for approval: *Provided, further,* That the uniform allowance shall be
27 payable every three (3) years after complying with the physical fitness test.

28
29 SEC. 16. *Non-uniformed Personnel.* – There shall be non-uniformed
30 personnel positions in the PCG. The head of the non-uniformed personnel shall
31 occupy a rank of Director III and shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines
32 upon recommendation of the Commandant. The Commandant shall determine the
33 additional plantilla positions required for the purpose subject to the evaluation and
34 approval of the DBM in accordance with the civil service and other pertinent laws, rules
35 and regulations.

36
37 SEC. 17. *Appointments.* – The appointment of the PCG Commandant and Flag
38 Officers shall be approved by the President of the Philippines upon the
39 recommendation of the Secretary of the DOTr. Appointments of all PCG non-
40 commissioned officers / enlisted personnel shall be made by the PCG Commandant.
41 Appointments of PCG officers, which shall be in the initial rank of Coast Guard Ensign
42 shall be through a commissionship into service by the DOTr Secretary upon the
43 recommendation of the Commandant.

44
45 The initial entry ranks for technical officers like lawyers, medical doctors, and
46 ecumenical clerics shall be Lieutenant Senior Grade; dentists and veterinarians shall
47 be Lieutenant Junior Grade; while nurses shall be commissioned to the rank of Ensign.
48 Appointment of other technical professions that may be required later shall be based
49 on the academic attainment or ranking in licensure examination results issued by
50 competent authority.

1 Appointments as well as the promotion of all non-uniformed personnel shall be
2 in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) laws, rules and regulations.

3
4 SEC. 18. *Basic Qualification for Uniformed Personnel.* – To qualify as officer or
5 non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel of the PCG, the applicant, at the time
6 of application:

- 7
8 a) Must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines;
9 b) Must be a person of good moral conduct;
10 c) Must have passed the psychiatric, psychological, drug, and physical tests to
11 be administered by the PCG Medical Service or by any PCG accredited government
12 hospital for the purpose of determining physical and mental health;
13 d) Must possess a formal baccalaureate degree, with appropriate license when
14 applicable or professional civil service eligibility for appointment as officer, and must
15 have finished at least seventy-two (72) non-repetitive units of college education, or is
16 a senior high school graduate with six (6) months Technical Education and Skills
17 Development Authority skills course related to the functions of PCG for appointment
18 as non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel upon effectivity of this Act; and
19 e) Must not have been dishonorably discharged from military employment or
20 dismissed for cause from any non-uniformed personnel position in the government.

21 SEC. 19. *Promotions of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers / Enlisted*
22 *Personnel.* – The promotion of PCG officers and non-commissioned officers / enlisted
23 personnel shall be based on merit and fitness in accordance with the following
24 procedures:

25
26 a) Officers shall only be promoted after undergoing deliberation before the
27 promotion boards: *Provided*, That the promotion boards shall submit the results of their
28 deliberation to the Commandant for approval and corresponding endorsement to the
29 Secretary of the DOTr for transmittal to the President of the Philippines for approval;
30 and

31 b) There shall also be appropriate promotion boards for non-commissioned
32 officers / enlisted personnel whose recommendation shall be submitted to the
33 Commandant for approval.

34 *Provided, further*, That at the time of promotion, the officer or non-commissioned
35 officer / enlisted personnel concerned shall possess all the qualifications and none of
36 the disqualifications provided under pertinent laws, rules and regulations, specifically
37 on the completion of required career course, training, examination and minimum time-
38 in-grade as applicable for specific ranks.

39 *Provided, finally*, That except for the position of Commandant, no other officer
40 shall be promoted, assigned or designated to the rank of Commodore or higher if he
41 has less than one (1) year of active service remaining prior to compulsory retirement.

42 SEC. 20. *Gender Sensitivity Program.* – Gender concerns shall be addressed in
43 all planning activities, setting of priorities, allocating of resources, and identifying
44 actions and activities of the PCG. It shall also incorporate a gender sensitive
45 perspective in the implementation of such plans and programs.

1 Gender sensitivity shall also be mainstreamed in all its internal policies,
2 strategies, budget, projects, structures and mechanisms, including hiring, promotions,
3 assignment, training opportunities, pay and benefits. A gender perspective shall
4 likewise be integrated in all its training programs, especially for maritime search and
5 rescue.

6
7 SEC. 21. *PCG Insignia, Decorations and Awards.* – The PCG shall have its own
8 insignia and badges to denote rank, specialty, and assignment including uniforms,
9 decorations, and awards, all of which shall be submitted to the National Historical
10 Institute for registration in the flags and heraldic list: *Provided*, That there shall be an
11 established awards system which shall be administered by the PCG under such rules
12 and regulations as may be promulgated with the approval of the Secretary of the DOTr.

13
14 SEC. 22. *Legal Assistance.* – The Secretary of the DOTr or the Commandant of
15 the PCG may authorize lawyers of their respective agencies to provide legal
16 assistance to any member of the PCG charged with an offense or crime resulting from
17 the performance or on occasion of official duty. The government lawyers so authorized
18 shall have the power to administer oaths.

19
20 The legal officers duly authorized to handle, litigate, and appear for the PCG
21 personnel herein shall be entitled to receive a special counsel allowance (SCA) or
22 lawyer's incentive pay (LIP) amounting to not more than fifty percent (50%) of their
23 base pay which shall be included in the pay slip of said legal officer for the duration of
24 the case in court.

25
26 There shall be a prosecution and litigation unit to handle and monitor all cases
27 filed for or against the PCG or its personnel in relation to the performance of PCG
28 functions. Legal officers assigned therein shall automatically be entitled
29 to SCA or LIP.

30
31 SEC. 23. *Power to Administer Oath.* – Officers of the PCG in the active service
32 with the grade of O-5 or when designated with appropriate orders as administrative
33 officer of a unit, shall have the power to administer oaths on matters which are
34 connected with the performance of their official duties. Senior non-commissioned
35 officers, those with grades E-7 to E10, who are designated through appropriate orders,
36 as Chief-Master-At-Arms (CMAA) or unit master chief are also empowered to
37 administer oaths.

38
39 SEC. 24. *Maritime and Coast Guard Attaché.* – Subject to existing laws, rules
40 and regulations, the PCG may designate a maritime and coast guard attaché in the
41 International Maritime Organization, other international institutions, or as member of
42 diplomatic missions or embassies upon the recommendation of the Secretary of
43 Transportation.

44
45 The assignment or deployment of the maritime or coast guard attaché shall be
46 with the prior approval of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

PAYS, ALLOWANCES, AND BENEFITS

SEC. 25. *Salaries and Other Benefits.* – The uniformed personnel of the PCG shall receive the same base pay, hazard pay, and other benefits and allowances as are now or hereafter may be authorized for corresponding salary grades and ranks in the AFP. The salaries and allowances of the non-uniformed personnel of the PCG shall be in accordance with existing Salary Standardization Law and CSC laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 26. *Longevity Pay and Allowances.* – Uniformed personnel of the PCG shall be entitled to a longevity pay of ten percent (10%) of their basic monthly salaries for every five (5) years of continuous active service, which shall be reckoned from the date of actual service in the PCG: *Provided*, That the totality of such longevity pay shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the basic pay. They shall also continue to enjoy the subsistence allowance, quarters allowance, clothing allowance, cost of living allowance, hazardous duty pay and other collateral allowances but not limited to sea duty pay, flying pay, special counsel allowance, occupational specialty pay, instructors duty pay, combat pay for officers and non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel of the PCG performing combat duties or activities or engaged in actual performance of duties as defined in regulations to be issued by the Commandant and all other applicable allowances as provided by existing laws: *Provided, further*, That the PCG shall, subject to approval of the President of the Philippines, issue a specific policy pertaining to collateral allowances for specific duties actually performed. All collateral allowances shall be reflected in the pay slip of qualified personnel.

SEC. 27. *Uniformed Personnel Missing in Action.* – The survivors of any officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel who, while in the performance of duty, is officially confirmed missing in action, kidnapped or captured by lawless elements shall be entitled to receive the same pay and allowances to which such officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel is entitled from the time of the latter's disappearance: *Provided*, That the compulsory retirement of an absentee, in applicable cases, shall be processed to allow the survivors to enjoy the retirement benefits: *Provided, further*, That should the Commandant, upon the recommendation of the proper authority or immediate supervisor, subsequently rule that the officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel concerned has been absent from duty without authority, such member or the latter's survivors shall reimburse the PCG all such amount and allowances that have been received in accordance with this section and other pertinent sections of this Act.

SEC. 28. *Emergency and Medical Assistance.* – The PCG shall have an emergency medical assistance fund, sourced from the PCG's Annual Budget Plan as reflected in the General Appropriations Act for hospitalization, operation, medication, and rehabilitation of personnel arising from injuries and illnesses suffered on occasion of or in the performance of official functions to be used exclusively in areas not serviceable by the PCG Hospital.

ACTIVE SERVICE AND SEPARATION

SEC. 29. *Active Service.* – For purposes of this Act, active service of the uniformed personnel shall refer to services rendered as an officer and non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel, cadet, trainee, or draftee in the PCG and services rendered as a non-uniformed personnel in the Philippine Government prior to the date of separation or retirement from the PCG: *Provided, That,* for purposes of retirement, the personnel shall have rendered at least ten (10) years of active service as officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel in the PCG: *Provided, further,* That no period of such non-uniformed personnel's government service longer than the active coast guard service shall be credited for purposes of retirement. Service rendered as cadet in any service academy in the Philippines or abroad under the sponsorship of the PCG such as the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, probationary officer, draftee, or trainee shall be included in computing the years in active service for retirement purposes if such personnel joins the service right after graduation.

SEC. 30. *Retirement.* – Upon attaining fifty-seven (57) years of age or accumulation of thirty (30) years of continuous satisfactory active service, whichever comes later, a PCG uniformed personnel shall be compulsorily retired: *Provided, That* technical officers may extend their tenure of service up to sixty (60) years or until having accumulated twenty (20) years of satisfactory active service, whichever comes later: *Provided, further,* That the Commandant shall be compulsorily retired upon the completion of the tour of duty as provided under Section 13 of this Act or upon relief by the President.

Any officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel may choose to retire on their own option upon accumulating at least twenty (20) years in active service.

For purposes of this Act, an officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel who dies after having accumulated at least twenty (20) years of satisfactory active service shall be considered as retired.

The retirement of non-uniformed personnel of the PCG shall be governed by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) law, rules and regulations.

SEC. 31. *Separation.* – Separation from the Coast Guard service may be done through compulsory retirement, optional retirement upon reaching twenty (20) years in service, disability discharge, expiration of enlistment term, voluntary resignation, attrition, dismissal for cause, or death.

The separation of non-uniformed personnel of the PCG shall be governed by the Civil Service law, rules and regulations.

SEC. 32. *Attrition.* – There shall be established a system of attrition within the uniformed members of the PCG within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to be submitted by the PCG to the President of the Philippines for approval.

1 SEC. 33. *Retirement Benefits.* – An officer or uniformed personnel who is retired
2 under Section 30 of this Act, or the retiree's qualified survivors, are entitled to receive,
3 and may choose from, any of the following applicable benefits:

4
5 a) *Gratuity Pay.* – A lump sum payment of gratuity pay equivalent to one (1)
6 month of base and longevity pay computed based on one (1) grade higher than the
7 permanent salary grade last held for every year of service; or

8
9 b) *Retirement Pay* – A monthly retirement pay equivalent to fifty percent (50%)
10 of monthly base and longevity pay computed based on one grade higher than the
11 permanent salary grade last held by the personnel in case of twenty (20) years of
12 active service, increasing by two and one-half percent (2½%) for every year of service
13 rendered beyond twenty (20) years up to a maximum of ninety percent (90%) for thirty-
14 six (36) years of active service and over.

15
16 *Provided,* That non-commissioned officers who attain the rank of Chief Petty
17 Officer, Senior Chief Petty Officer and of Master Chief Petty Officer shall, upon
18 retirement, be entitled to the retirement pay and benefits of an Ensign: *Provided,*
19 *further,* That a Master Chief Petty Officer shall receive a gratuity equivalent to that of
20 an Ensign plus one-half (1/2) of the difference between the gratuity of an Ensign and
21 a Chief Petty Officer; a Senior Chief Petty Officer shall receive a gratuity equivalent to
22 that of an Ensign plus one-half (1/2) of the difference between the gratuity of a Master
23 Chief Petty Officer and a Chief Petty Officer; while a First Master Chief Petty Officer
24 shall be retired with the rank of Ensign but with the retirement pay and benefits of a
25 Lieutenant Junior Grade (O-2), as provided for in existing laws: *Provided, furthermore,*
26 That, upon retirement, officers and non-commissioned officers are entitled to receive
27 monthly retirement pay upon retirement, or may opt to receive a lump sum equal to
28 thirty-six (36) months of the monthly retirement pay and three years thereafter shall
29 receive an annual retirement pay payable in equal monthly installment as they accrue.

30
31 The retirement pay of officers and non-commissioned officers / enlisted
32 personnel who are killed in action or wounded in action resulting in total permanent
33 disability shall be computed at the rate of ninety percent (90%) of the monthly base
34 and longevity pay based on one grade higher than the permanent salary grade last
35 held by the personnel regardless of years in active service.

36
37 The retirement pay of all PCG uniformed personnel retirees shall be subject to
38 adjustment on the prevailing scale of base pay of uniformed personnel in the active
39 service.

40
41 The retirement benefits of non-uniformed personnel shall be governed by
42 applicable Civil Service laws and regulations and the GSIS Law.

43
44 SEC. 34. *Separation Pay.* – Officers and non-commissioned officers / enlisted
45 personnel separated from the PCG without having accumulated at least twenty (20)
46 years of satisfactory active service, or their qualified survivors, shall receive a
47 separation pay equivalent to one-month base plus longevity pay based on the
48 permanent salary grade the officer and non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel
49 holds at the time of separation for every year of active service: *Provided,* That in the
50 case of an officer in the grade of Captain or higher who incurs physical disability in the

1 line of duty, the basis of the separation pay shall be one grade higher than the salary
2 grade held by such officer at the time of separation: *Provided, further,* That cadets,
3 candidates, trainees, or draftees who voluntarily resign from service shall not be
4 entitled to any separation pay.

5
6 The separation benefits of non-uniformed personnel shall be governed by
7 applicable Civil Service laws and regulations and the GSIS Law.

8
9 **SEC. 35. Benefits for Death and Total Permanent Disability in the Line of Duty**
10 ***or During Training.*** – Qualified survivors of officers and non-commissioned officers /
11 enlisted personnel, including cadets, candidates, trainees and draftees who died in
12 the line of duty without having accumulated at least twenty (20) years of satisfactory
13 active service are entitled to a monthly life annuity, equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of
14 the base and longevity pay computed based on one grade higher than the permanent
15 salary grade last held by the deceased officer and non-commissioned officer / enlisted
16 personnel at the time of death: *Provided,* That survivors of cadets, candidates,
17 trainees, and draftees who died during training through their own fault or negligence
18 shall not be entitled to this benefit.

19
20 Officers or non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel, including cadets,
21 candidates, trainees, and draftees who suffer total permanent physical disability in the
22 line of duty or during training without having accumulated at least twenty (20) years of
23 satisfactory active service shall be entitled to a monthly life annuity, equivalent to fifty
24 percent (50%) of the base and longevity pay computed based on one grade higher
25 than the permanent salary grade last held by the officer or non-commissioned officer
26 / enlisted personnel when the disability occurred: *Provided,* That the extent of the
27 disability or sickness which renders such member unfit or unable to further perform
28 the duties of the position held shall be certified by the appropriate government hospital
29 like the Philippine General Hospital: *Provided, further,* That cadets, candidates,
30 trainees and draftees who suffer total permanent physical disability during training
31 through their own fault or negligence shall not be entitled to this benefit.

32
33 The death and disability benefits of non-uniformed personnel shall be governed
34 by applicable Civil Service laws and regulations and the GSIS Law.

35
36 **SEC. 36. Survivors.** – The family of deceased officers or non-commissioned
37 officers / enlisted personnel who are alive may claim benefits after such uniformed
38 personnel dies in line of duty or when the pensioner dies. The following criteria shall
39 apply:

40
41 a) Surviving spouse if married to the deceased prior to the latter's retirement or
42 separation and not legally separated by judicial decree from the deceased issued on
43 grounds not attributable to said spouse: *Provided,* That the spouse's entitlement of
44 benefits shall terminate when the spouse dies, remarries, cohabits, or engages in a
45 common-law relationship;

46
47 b) Surviving children of officers or non-commissioned officers / enlisted
48 personnel born of marriage contracted prior to retirement or separation from the
49 service, surviving children adopted legally prior to retirement or separation, illegitimate
50 children born while the deceased parent was still on active service: *Provided,* That

entitlement to benefits shall terminate when such children attain twenty-one (21) years of age or upon marriage: *Provided, further*, That those who have reached the age of twenty-one (21) years but are incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical defect acquired prior to age of majority shall remain entitled to the benefits; and

c) In default of those mentioned in paragraph (a) and (b), the surviving parent or parents.

As regards question of filiation involving survivor-claimants, the same shall be submitted first by the claimants to a competent court for determination before benefits can be given.

SEC. 37. *Survivorship Benefits.* – The qualified survivors are entitled to a monthly annuity equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the officer or non-commissioned officer's / enlisted personnel's retirement or separation benefits, to be divided among them in equal shares and with the right of accretion.

Survivorship benefits for non-uniformed personnel shall be governed by the GSIS Law.

SEC. 38. *Disability Pension.* – In addition to the other benefits under this Act, an officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel who is retired or separated by reason of disability, which is the proximate result of wounds or injuries sustained or sickness or disease acquired in the line of duty shall receive a monthly disability pension, as follows:

a) If and while the disability is rated twenty-five percent (25%) – Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00);

b) If and while the disability is rated fifty percent (50%) – Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00);

c) If and while the disability is rated seventy-five percent (75%) – Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00); and

d) If and while the disability is rated one hundred percent (100%) – Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00).

The officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel receiving the benefits under this Section may be required to undergo periodic physical and medical examination to determine the extent of disability for purposes of adjusting the disability pension.

SEC. 39. *Old-Age Pension.* – A retired PCG uniformed personnel who is at least sixty-five (65) years of age shall be entitled to old-age pension amounting to Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) monthly and an additional amount of One thousand seven hundred pesos (P1,700.00) monthly upon reaching the age of seventy (70): *Provided*, That only retired PCG uniformed personnel who shall have been honorably discharged or retired after at least twenty (20) years total PCG active service or sooner

1 separated while in the active service in the PCG due to disability arising or incurred in
2 actual operations or performance of duties are entitled to receive this monthly benefit.

3
4 SEC. 40. *Application of Related Laws on Retirement and Separation of*
5 *Uniformed Personnel.* – The retirement system under Presidential Decree (PD) No.
6 1638, as amended, and the provisions of RA 8220, RA 9365, and other similar
7 applicable laws, insofar as not inconsistent with applicable provisions of this Act, shall
8 be given suppletory effect.

9
10 SEC. 41. *Incentives and Awards.* – There shall be established an incentives and
11 awards system which shall be the same and equal as that used and observed in the
12 AFP and the PNP, including the *Medalya ng Kagitingan* (Medal of Valor) to be
13 administered by a board under such rules, regulations and standards as may be
14 promulgated by the PCG: *Provided*, That equivalent awards shall be given by the PCG
15 for every award duly given by respectable civic organizations in a nationwide selection
16 for outstanding achievement or performance of any member: *Provided, further*, That
17 in the case of non-uniformed personnel, the system of incentives and awards shall be
18 approved and in accordance with CSC laws, rules and regulations.

19 20 DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

21
22 SEC. 42. *Disciplinary System.* – The PCG shall adopt the PCG Code of
23 Conduct which shall be applicable to all its uniformed personnel while non-uniformed
24 personnel shall be covered under the disciplinary rules of the Civil Service. The
25 Commandant shall be assisted by the Coast Guard Internal Affairs in enforcing
26 discipline and order within its ranks though for disciplinary issues depending on
27 gravity, unit commanders shall exercise disciplinary powers over personnel under their
28 command. The PCG shall, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, issue
29 policies, rules and procedures applying the PCG Code of Conduct based on the
30 provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 408, as amended by RA 516, RA 242, PD 1968,
31 and PD 1166: *Provided*, That for non-uniformed personnel, the PCG shall issue rules
32 and procedures implementing Book VII of Executive Order No. 292 and applicable
33 CSC laws, administrative rules, and issuances: *Provided, further*, That in times of war,
34 during which the PCG or any of its offices is attached to the DND, the military justice
35 system of the AFP shall apply.

36
37 SEC. 43. *Disciplinary Authority.* – The Commandant shall exercise disciplinary
38 authority at any time over all personnel of the PCG. The authority to discipline shall
39 also be exercised by unit commanders and Commanding Officers including Station
40 Commanders, Sub-Station Commanders, and head of Morning Report Carrying Units.

41
42 SEC. 44. *Jurisdiction.* – A complaint or a charge filed against a PCG member
43 shall be heard and decided exclusively by the disciplining authority who has acquired
44 original jurisdiction over the case, notwithstanding the existence of concurrent
45 jurisdiction as regards the offense.

46
47 SEC. 45. *Dismissal of PCG Personnel.* – The Commandant, after due notice and
48 summary hearing, may immediately remove or dismiss any respondent PCG
49 personnel, and major unit commanders may recommend such in any of the following
50 cases:

1 a) In cases of drug abuse where subsequent confirmation test confirms the use
2 of prohibited drugs;

3 b) When the charge is serious and the evidence of guilt is strong;

4
5 c) When the respondent is a recidivist or has been repeatedly charged and there
6 are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent is guilty of the charges; and

7
8 d) When the respondent is guilty of a serious offense involving conduct
9 unbecoming a PCG personnel.

10
11 An officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel who is continuously
12 absent without approved leave for at least thirty (30) calendar days shall be considered
13 on absence without official leave and shall be presumed voluntarily resigned:
14 *Provided*, That such officer or non-commissioned officer / enlisted personnel shall be
15 informed, by registered mail, at the address appearing on such officer's or non-
16 commissioned officer's / enlisted personnel's 201 file not later than five (5) calendar
17 days from the effectivity thereof.

18
19 The dismissal of PCG non-uniformed personnel shall be governed by Civil
20 Service laws, rules and regulations.

21
22 SEC. 46. *Coast Guard Inspector General and Internal Affairs Service (CGIG-*
23 *IAS)*. – To maintain accountability in government service through discipline and
24 efficiency, there shall be an Internal Affairs Service in the PCG. The CGIG-IAS shall
25 foster and promote accountability in government service within the PCG and follow the
26 basic principles of integrity, objectivity, independence, confidentiality, professionalism,
27 competence, courage, trust, honesty, fairness, forthrightness, public accountability',
28 and respect for others and themselves. It shall have the power to investigate and
29 inquire into any and all activities of the PCG units and personnel, review processes,
30 procedures and operations to determine if such were conducted effectively and
31 efficiently.

32
33 The personnel of the CGIG-IAS, whether officer or non-commissioned officer /
34 enlisted personnel who are performing actual investigative duties, including PCG
35 personnel who perform investigative duties, shall be granted occupational specialty
36 pay which shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of their basic pay and shall be reflected
37 in their pay slip for the work performed: *Provided*, That such personnel shall not be
38 entitled to the occupational specialty pay under Section 26 hereof.

39 40 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

41
42 SEC. 47. *Organization of a PCGA*. – The PCG shall continue to maintain,
43 supervise, develop, and train the PCGA as a non-uniformed personnel volunteer
44 organization under the direct control and supervision of the PCG Commandant. The
45 PCGA shall assist the PCG in the promotion of safety of life and property at sea, the
46 preservation of the marine environment and its resources, the conduct of maritime
47 search and rescue, the maintenance of aids to navigation, and such other activities
48 that enhance maritime community relations which include civic action, participation
49 under the National Service Training Program, youth development, recreational safety,
50 and other related activities.

1 SEC. 48. *Coast Guard Reserve Force.* — In accordance with existing laws, rules
2 and regulations, and the exercise of its powers and functions under Section 4 of this
3 Act, the PCG may establish a reserve force to augment the PCG force in the event of
4 national emergency or disaster, consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations.
5 The PCG reservist shall undergo regular training and shall be organized, trained,
6 equipped, and administered by a PCG Reserve Command under the direction of the
7 Commandant and whose members may be called to active duty in the exigency of the
8 service. The PCG shall adopt pertinent policies and guidelines for the purpose,
9 subject to the approval of the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of
10 Transportation.

11
12 SEC. 49. *Lateral Entry.* – Active members of other uniformed services under the
13 AFP, PNP, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and
14 Bureau of Corrections may join the PCG through lateral entry. The rank for officers
15 eligible for such entry must not be higher than Lieutenant Commander and Petty
16 Officer Second Class for non-commissioned officers / enlisted personnel.
17 Notwithstanding the corps they wish to join, all entrants shall only be accepted if, on
18 or before time of entry, they are: a) not under investigation, b) not on AWOL status, c)
19 not serving sentence, whether administrative or criminal, d) have not been issued
20 reprimand in the last two (2) years, or e) have not received an unfavorable rating in
21 the latest performance rating.

22
23 However, if an entrant possesses specific skills that may not be readily
24 developed in new recruits, lateral entry may be allowed for ranks higher than those
25 mentioned above: *Provided*, That the new entrant can serve at least ten (10) years in
26 PCG active service prior to reaching the mandatory retirement age.

27
28 SEC. 50. *Exemption from Attachment, Taxes, Duties, Charges, and Fees.* –
29 Retirement benefits granted by this Act, including benefits received from a duly
30 instituted provident fund and mutual benefit association, shall not be subject to
31 attachment, levy, execution, or any tax of whatever nature, subject to the pertinent
32 provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

33
34 In the establishment and operation of radar and radio stations and other
35 communication facilities, the PCG shall not be subject to payment of charges and fees
36 as imposed by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC): *Provided*, That
37 the PCG shall only use frequencies as may be allowed or assigned by the NTC
38 consistent with international regulations and guidelines.

39
40 The PCG shall, in the performance of its functions, enjoy such rights and
41 privileges enjoyed by other governmental and law enforcement agencies,
42 instrumentalities, and government-owned and controlled corporations such as
43 exemption from registration fees, application for license, and payment of fees as
44 imposed by other governmental agencies or regulatory bodies.

45
46 The importation of instruments, equipment, machineries, spare parts, and
47 apparatuses shall be exempt from customs duties and taxes in accordance with the
48 provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs
49 Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)."

1 SEC. 51. *Loans, Grants, Bequests and Donations.* – The PCG may receive
2 grants, bequests, and donations and enter into loan agreements, whether from local
3 or foreign sources for purposes relevant to its functions, subject to the provisions on
4 donations under the General Appropriations Act and other pertinent laws, rules and
5 regulations.

6
7 The Secretary of the DOTr may enter into a loan agreement with foreign financial
8 institutions, subject to the provisions on loan agreements under the General
9 Appropriations Act and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

10
11 SEC. 52. *PCG Properties and Lighthouse Reservations.* – The PCG shall
12 continue to exercise exclusive ownership, possession, management, control and
13 supervision over all properties transferred to it by virtue of Executive Order No. 475,
14 dated 30 March 1998, and Executive Order No. 477, dated 15 April 1998, such as,
15 *inter alia*, vessels, watercrafts, firearms, armaments, munitions, communications and
16 electronic equipment, vehicles, buildings, real state, lighthouse stations, and
17 reservations.

18
19 SEC. 53. *Establishment and Expansion of Coast Guard Bases, Equipment and*
20 *Facilities.* – In coordination with other appropriate government agencies, the PCG shall
21 develop and enhance its capabilities in the performance of its mandated functions and
22 establish its strategic presence. To this end, the PCG shall, through the guidance of
23 Congress, draft its development plan that shall reflect its asset, equipment, and facility
24 requirement that includes floating assets, laboratories, land-based support facilities,
25 land mobility, arms and ammunition, rescue and hospital ship, maritime monitoring
26 surveillance and communications system, port facilities, air assets, and air stations.

27
28 SEC. 54. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – For submission to the
29 Secretary of the DOTr for approval, the PCG, not later than one hundred twenty (120)
30 days from the effectivity of this Act, shall issue rules and regulations, determine, fix or
31 prescribe charges, rates, and penalties, as may be necessary, to implement its
32 provisions, as well as the provisions of laws, issuances, decrees and orders related to
33 the implementation of PCG functions.

34
35 SEC. 55. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
36 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PCG.
37 Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

38
39 SEC. 56. *Transitory Provisions.* – All previous appointments and promotions of
40 PCG uniformed personnel made prior to the enactment of this Act shall remain valid
41 and subsisting.

42
43 SEC. 57. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits and Pension Indexation.* – The
44 retirement benefits of personnel affected by the implementation of Republic Act No.
45 9993, Joint Resolution No. 4, s. 2009, and Joint Resolution No. 1 s. 2018, shall be
46 adjusted, as follows:

47
48 a) For non-commissioned officers whose retirement benefits were
49 affected by the implementation of Republic Act No. 9993, any discrepancies
50 resulting from the application of this Act and Republic Act No. 9993 shall be returned

1 to the retiree. This adjustment shall also apply to the indexation of pensions to base
2 pay scale adjustments affected by Republic Act No. 9993; and
3

4 b) The retirement benefits of personnel holding the ranks of admiral and vice
5 admiral, who were adversely affected by Joint Resolution No. 4, s. 2009, entitled:
6 "Joint Resolution Authorizing the President of the Philippines to Modify the
7 Compensation and Position Classification System of Civilian Personnel and the
8 Base Pay Schedule of Military and Uniformed Personnel in the Government, and for
9 Other Purposes," and Joint Resolution No. 1 s. 2018, entitled: "Joint Resolution
10 Authorizing the Increase in Base Pay of Military and Uniformed Personnel in the
11 Government, and for Other Purposes", shall be adjusted to align with the benefits of
12 their contemporary ranks of General and Lieutenant General in the AFP and the
13 PNP.
14

15 Furthermore, personnel affected by the aforementioned joint
16 resolutions shall be paid the corresponding difference in pay and allowances
17 resulting from these adjustments.
18

19 SEC. 58. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
20 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full
21 force and effect.
22

23 SEC. 59. *Repealing Clause.* – RA 9993 is hereby repealed and all laws, decrees,
24 executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are
25 inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby repealed, amended, or modified
26 accordingly.
27

28 SEC. 60. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,