



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5253



Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As provided in Section I of Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, it is the policy of the State to “*protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.*” This constitutional mandate can only be realized through our teachers, who are the foundation of our education system. With this objective in mind, this proposed bill introduces critical amendments to Republic Act No. 7836, the “*Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994*,” to ensure that our teachers meet the highest standards of competence and professionalism.

Through quality teachers, the Philippines can develop holistic learners that can propel the country to development and progress¹. Hence, enhancing teacher quality becomes essential for long-term nation building. Therefore, this proposed measure introduces critical reforms to ensure their competence and professionalism.

The key amendments shall be:

- *Strengthen the Board for Professional Teachers* by expanding its membership and diversifying representation to include key education stakeholders.
- *Enhance Professional Standards* by raising the qualifications for Board members and integrating the Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers (PPST) through the submission of teaching portfolios for licensure applicants.

¹ Mark Anthony Llego. *Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers (PPST)*. (August 11, 2017). <https://www.teacherph.com/philippine-professional-standards-for-teachers/>

- *Modernize the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET)* by refining its scope, establishing a regular review panel, and promoting transparency through the publication of results and test questions.

By raising the standard for our Professional Teachers, this bill is a crucial investment in our educators and in the future of every Filipino learner.

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



REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.

2nd District, City of Cebu



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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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 5 of Republic Act (R.A) No. 7836 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “Sec. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* - There is hereby created
4 under this Act a Board for Professional Teachers, hereinafter called the Board,
5 a collegial body under the general supervision and administrative control of the
6 Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the
7 Commission, composed of ~~five (5)~~ **SEVEN (7)** members who shall be
8 appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the recommendees
9 chosen by the Commission.

~~[The recommendees shall be chosen from the list of nominees selected by the accredited association of teachers,]~~ **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC), EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ECCDC), ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ALCU), PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (PASUC), COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES (COCOPEA), AND AN ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS SHALL EACH RECOMMEND NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) NOMINEES WHO SHALL BE EVALUATED BY THE COMMISSION BASED ON ~~[who duly possess all]~~ the qualifications prescribed in Section ~~[8]~~ 3 of this Act. THE FINAL LIST OF NOMINEES SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AND POSTED ON THE COMMISSION'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE.**

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

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING NOMINEES UNDER THIS SECTION, THE ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION SHALL REFER TO A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION AND COMPOSED OF AT LEAST 20% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS WITH VALID PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.”

SECTION 2. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

“Sec. 7. Term of Office. – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date they assume office~~]; *Provided*, That the first appointees to the Board under this Act shall hold office according to the following terms: one (1) member shall serve for one (1) year; one (1) member for two (2) years; the chairman, vice-chairman, and one (1) member for three (3) years].~~ **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO ARE OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES SHALL BE SECONDED TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR TERM SUBJECT TO EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS.** Vacancies shall be served for the unexpired term only. No person who has served **AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD** for two (2) consecutive terms shall be eligible for reappointment. Appointment to fill an unexpired term shall be considered an appointment to a complete term.

1 The chairman or any member shall take his oath of office prior to the
2 performance of his duties.”

3 **SECTION 3.** Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

4 “Sec. 8. **Qualifications of Board Members.** – Each Board member must at the
5 time of **his/her** appointment:

- 6
- 7 a. Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- 8 b. Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity, and possessed
9 of high moral values in **his/her** personal as well as professional conduct
10 and has not been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- 11 c. Be a holder of [~~the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in~~
12 ~~Education and preferably a holder of a master's or doctorate degree in~~
13 ~~education, or their equivalents,~~] **A MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE**
14 **DEGREE IN EDUCATION OR OTHER ALLIED DISCIPLINES**
15 **FROM A DULY RECOGNIZED HIGHER EDUCATION**
16 **INSTITUTION** [~~duly recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine~~
17 ~~government~~];
- 18 d. Be a professional teacher with a valid certificate of registration and valid
19 professional license, save those members who shall compose the first
20 Board for Professional Teachers;
- 21 e. Has been a professional teacher in the active practice of the teaching
22 profession for at least ten (10) years in **EARLY CHILDHOOD,**
23 elementary, [~~and~~] secondary **LEVEL, OR IN THE TERTIARY**
24 **LEVEL AS A FULL-TIME FACULTY IN A TEACHER**
25 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION (TEI);** and
- 26 f. Not be, **AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT**, an official member of
27 the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in any [~~university, college, school,~~
28 ~~or institution~~] **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION** conferring a
29 bachelor's degree in education or its equivalents [~~for at least three (3) years~~
30 ~~prior to his appointment,~~], and neither connected with a review center or
31 with any group or association where review classes or lectures in
32 preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted, **NOR**
33 **HAVE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN SUCH. PROVIDED, THAT**
34 **THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE**

1 **RULES TO GOVERN THE PRACTICE OF THE MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT NO CONFLICT OF**
3 **INTEREST SHALL ARISE IN THEIR FUNCTIONS RELATED**
4 **TO THE CONDUCT OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION**
5 **AND RELEASE OF THE RESULTS.**

6 Provided, ~~[however]~~ **FURTHER**, That the membership to the Board shall be
7 evenly distributed to cover all levels of education, including equitable
8 representation of the different fields of specialization.

9 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**
10 **SHALL ALSO HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE IN**
11 **IMPLEMENTING TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE**
12 **PRESCRIBED BY THE TEC AND REGULATED BY THE CHED,**
13 **TEST DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS, AND LOGISTICS IN**
14 **IMPLEMENTING LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENTS AND SYSTEM**
15 **EVALUATION.”**

16 **SECTION 4.** Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended as follows:

17 “Sec. 13. Examination, Registration and License Required. – Except as otherwise
18 specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as
19 professional teachers shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be
20 given at least once a year in such places and date as the Board may determine upon
21 approval by the Commission.

22 A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the
23 Commission are required before any person is allowed to practice as a professional
24 teacher in the Philippines, except as otherwise allowed under ~~[this Act]~~ **SECTION 8**
25 **OF R.A. NO. 10533, OR THE “ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF**
26 **2013”: PROVIDED, THAT THEY PASS THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION**
27 **WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF HIRING.”**
28

29 **SECTION 5.** . Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 “Sec. 14. Scope of Examination. – The examinations for the **EARLY**
31 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION**, elementary,
32 and secondary school teachers shall be separate[.], **AND** ~~[The examination for teachers~~
33 ~~in the elementary level]~~ shall consist of ~~[two (2)]~~ **THE FOLLOWING** parts, namely:
34 ~~[professional]~~ **GENERAL** education, ~~[and]~~ ~~[general]~~ **PROFESSIONAL** education,
35 and/OR field of specialization, **AS APPLICABLE** ~~[The examination for teachers in the~~
36 ~~secondary level shall consist of three (3) parts, namely: professional education, general~~
37 ~~education, and field of specialization].”~~
38

39 **FOR APPLICANTS WITH THE REQUIRED UNITS IN PROFESSIONAL**
40 **EDUCATION, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 6 OF THIS ACT, THE**
41 **EXAMINATIONS SHALL CONSIST OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

1 AND FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION, AS DETERMINED BY THE
2 COMMISSION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE TEC.”

3 **SECTION 6.** A new Section 14-A shall be added after Section 14 of R.A No. 7836:

4 **‘Section 14-A. Creation of a Technical Panel for the Licensure Examination–**
5 **Every three (3) years, the Board shall appoint a Technical Panel who shall review**
6 **and assess the Questionnaire for the Licensure Examination for Teachers and**
7 **assess its effectiveness in determining the knowledge and readiness of an**
8 **applicant to be admitted to the roll of Professional Teachers.**

9 **The Technical Panel shall be composed of the following:**

- 10 1. **Representative, Teacher Education Council;**
- 11 2. **Representative, Bureau of Curriculum Development of DepEd;**
- 12 3. **Representative, CHED Technical Panel for Teacher Education**
- 13 4. **Representative, Organization of Professional Teachers, recognized**
14 **by the Board of Professional Teachers**

15 **SECTION 7.** Section 15 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

16 “Sec. 15. Qualification Requirements of Applicant. – No applicant shall be admitted
17 to take the examination unless, on the date of the filing of the application, **he/she** shall
18 have complied with the following requirements:

- 19 a. A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has reciprocity with the
20 Philippines in the practice of the teaching profession;
- 21 b. At least eighteen (18) years of age;
- 22 c. In good health and of good reputation with high moral values;
- 23 d. Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court for an offense involving
24 moral turpitude;
- 25 e. A graduate of a ~~[school, college or university]~~ **HIGHER EDUCATION**
26 **INSTITUTION DULY** recognized by the government and possesses the
27 minimum educational qualifications, as follows:

- 28
- 29 1. For teachers in ~~[preschool]~~ **THE EARLY CHILDHOOD**
30 **EDUCATION**, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education
31 (BECED) or its equivalent;
- 32 2. **FOR TEACHERS IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION**
33 **PURSUANT TO R.A. NO. 11650, OR THE “INSTITUTING A**
34 **POLICY OF INCLUSION AND SERVICES FOR LEARNERS**
35 **WITH DISABILITIES IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE**
36 **EDUCATION ACT”, A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SPECIAL**
37 **NEEDS EDUCATION (BSNED) OR ITS EQUIVALENT;**
- 38 3. For teachers in the elementary grades, a bachelor's degree in elementary
39 education (B[S]EED) or its equivalent;
- 40 4. For teachers in the secondary grades, a bachelor's degree in education or
41 its equivalent with a major ~~[and minor]~~ or a bachelor's degree in arts and
42 sciences with **THE REQUIRED UNITS IN PROFESSIONAL**

1 **EDUCATION AS DETERMINED BY THE TEC** ~~[at least eighteen~~
2 ~~(18) units in professional education];~~

3 5. For teachers of vocational and two-year technical courses, a bachelor's
4 degree in the field of specialization or its equivalent, with **THE**
5 **REQUIRED UNITS IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AS**
6 **DETERMINED BY THE TEC** ~~[at least eighteen (18) units in~~
7 ~~professional education]; and~~

8 6. **FOR THOSE WITH OTHER APPLICABLE FIELDS OF**
9 **SPECIALIZATION, THE MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL**
10 **QUALIFICATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE**
11 **COMMISSION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE TEC.**

12
13 f. **HAS SUBMITTED AND PASSED THE PORTFOLIO OF**
14 **ATTAINMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR**
15 **TEACHING AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 7 OF THIS ACT;**
16 **AND**

17 g. **HAS COMPLETED A REFRESHER COURSE IN A**
18 **GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED TEI AS DEFINED UNDER R.A.**
19 **NO. 11713, OR THE "EXCELLENCE IN TEACHER EDUCATION**
20 **ACT" WITHIN ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE**
21 **EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS WHO FAILED TO PASS THE**
22 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION TWO (2) TIMES."**

23 **SECTION 8. 7. A new Section 15-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:**

24 **"SEC. 15-A. SUBMISSION OF PORTFOLIO OF ATTAINMENT OF**
25 **THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS. – GRADUATES OF HIGHER**
26 **EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WHO SHALL BE TAKING THE WRITTEN**
27 **EXAMINATION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A TEACHING**
28 **PORTFOLIO AS EVIDENCE OF THEIR ATTAINMENT OF THE**
29 **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.**

30
31 **THE TEC SHALL BE CAPACITATED TO DEVELOP AND ISSUE**
32 **APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION, ASSESSMENT,**
33 **AND EVALUATION OF THE PORTFOLIO OF ATTAINMENT OF THE**
34 **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHING. THESE GUIDELINES**
35 **SHALL ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROFESSIONAL**
36 **STANDARDS AND UPHOLD THE QUALITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE**
37 **ASSESSMENT PROCESS ACROSS INSTITUTIONS."**

38 **SECTION 9. . Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:**

39 **"Sec. 16. RELEASE OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; Report of the**
40 **EXAMINATION RESULTS. – THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION**
41 **QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDING ANSWERS SHALL BE RELEASED**
42 **BY THE COMMISSION TO THE TEC WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS AFTER**
43 **THE DAY OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAMINATION.**

44
45 **FURTHER,** the Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the
46 examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate **IN EACH COMPONENT**
47 to the **COMMISSION** for approval and appropriate action.

48
49 **THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO MAKE PUBLIC THE LICENSURE**
50 **EXAMINATION TEST QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDING ANSWERS,**

1 **AND THE PERFORMANCE OF TEIS WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE**
2 **RELEASE OF THE EXAMINATION RESULTS.”**

3 **SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*.** – Within sixty (60) days
4 from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall update its IRR necessary for the
5 full and effective implementation of this Act.

6 **SECTION 11. *Transitory Provision*.** – The Commission and the Board shall update
7 their existing policies and issuances to ensure their alignment with this Act within a
8 period of six (6) months from its effectivity, and report the same to Congress on the
9 first year of its implementation.

10 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause*.** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
11 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts not affected shall remain
12 in full force and effect.

13 **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause*.** – All other laws, executive orders, presidential
14 decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof
15 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
16 amended accordingly.

17 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity*.** – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act
18 shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a
19 newspaper of general circulation.
20

21 Approved,