

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5753



INTRODUCED BY REP. JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was created under Presidential Decree No. 474, series of 1974, to integrate the development, promotion, and regulation of the Philippine maritime industry.¹ Nearly five decades later, the agency remains the primary body responsible for enforcing maritime safety, vessel registration, and seafarer certification.

Over time, the Philippine maritime industry has expanded to become one of the most critical drivers of national growth. The Philippines continues to supply a significant portion of the world’s seafarers, with 578,626 Filipino seafarers deployed overseas as of 2023, according to data from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).² These seafarers contribute billions of pesos annually in remittances, supporting the domestic economy and sustaining countless Filipino households. Domestically, maritime transport remains essential to connecting the country’s 7,600 islands and ensuring the steady flow of goods and services across regions.

Despite its importance, the maritime sector faces serious institutional and structural challenges. MARINA’s systems, regulatory frameworks, and technological infrastructure have not kept pace with rapid global developments. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), through the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, 1978 as amended, continues to update its international benchmarks on maritime competence, digitalization, and safety management.³ Compliance with these standards requires greater institutional capacity, modern tools, and sustained funding— all of which remain limited within the current MARINA framework.

In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) allocated MARINA only ₱1.54 billion, representing less than 0.04 percent of the national budget, an amount to finance modernization, digital transformation, and full international compliance.⁴ As the Philippines strives to maintain its position as a major maritime labor supplier and as a key player in the global shipping network, a more capable, well-funded, and digitally empowered MARINA has become a national imperative.

¹ Presidential Decree No. 474 — Creating the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), June 1, 1974. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1974/06/01/presidential-decree-no-474-s-1974/>

² Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) — Overseas Employment Statistics, 2023 (Seafarer Deployment Report). <https://dmw.gov.ph>

³ International Maritime Organization (IMO) — Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, 1978 as amended. <https://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/Pages/STCW.aspx>

⁴ Department of Budget and Management (DBM) — General Appropriations Act (GAA) FY 2024, Republic Act No. 11975. <https://www.dbm.gov.ph>

In contrast, other Southeast Asian countries have restructured their maritime administrations to meet modern challenges. In Singapore, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) serves as an integrated regulatory and developmental agency overseeing port management, maritime services, and digital transformation. Its 2023 throughput exceeded 38 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and its Maritime Digitalisation Playbook sets clear technological targets that align industry, education, and government programs toward innovation.⁵

Indonesia, through its Ministry of Transportation and Statistics Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS), administers the “Tol Laut” or Sea Toll Program, which integrates inter-island logistics and modernizes domestic ports to address high transport costs in remote islands.⁶ Likewise, Malaysia’s Marine Department, under the Ministry of Transport, publishes detailed maritime statistics, safety inspection results, and port development reports aligned with international conventions, demonstrating strong regulatory coordination and maritime education support.⁷

These regional examples illustrate that sustained investment in maritime governance, digitalization, and human resource development are essential to achieving competitiveness and compliance with international standards. In comparison, the Philippine maritime administration remains structurally constrained by limited funding, fragmented functions, and outdated processes.

The proposed measure titled the “Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Modernization Act” seeks to address these systemic issues through institutional reform and technological advancement. It reorganizes MARINA into a strengthened, corporate-type maritime authority governed by a professional Board and managed by a Director General and Deputy Director Generals with clear mandates. It institutionalizes digital transformation, promotes research and development, establishes a Maritime Industry and Development Trust Fund to ensure sustainable financing, enhances seafarer protection, and strengthens compliance with international maritime conventions.

The bill further aims to promote fair competition and environmental responsibility within the shipping, shipbuilding, and ship repair sectors, aligning national policies with ASEAN and international maritime standards. With modern systems and adequate resources, MARINA will be better equipped to regulate vessel safety, improve connectivity through the Nautical Highway System, support fleet modernization, and protect the welfare of Filipino seafarers.

The modernization of MARINA is not merely an administrative reform—it is an economic, social, and strategic necessity. By aligning the Philippines’ maritime governance framework with regional and global best practices, this measure will enhance maritime safety, increase efficiency, create new opportunities for investment, and ensure that Filipino seafarers and domestic shipping industries remain globally competitive.

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


JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

⁵ Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) — Annual Report 2023–2024; Maritime Digitalisation Playbook; Port Statistics 2023. <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

⁶ Statistics Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS) — Sea Transportation Statistics 2023; Ministry of Transportation Republic of Indonesia – Sea Toll Program. <https://www.bps.go.id>

⁷ Marine Department Malaysia / Ministry of Transport — Maritime Statistics and Annual Reports, 2023. <https://www.mot.gov.my/en/maritime/reports-and-stats>

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MODERN, INNOVATIVE AND COMPETITIVE PHILIPPINE
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

3
4 **TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

5
6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This is Act shall be known as the “**Philippine Maritime**
7 **Industry Authority (MARINA) Modernization Act**”.

8
9 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish
10 a comprehensive framework to modernize the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA),
11 strengthen its regulatory systems, promote its digital transformation, drive innovation,
12 improve competitiveness across the industry, and continue to align with international
13 maritime standards consistent with our national policies.
14

15 SEC. 3. *Purposes.* – This Act aims to

- 16 (a.) Strengthen the institutional capacity of MARINA and promote the use of innovative
17 digital technology systems for fleet development, maritime safety priorities,
18 integrate global integrated shipping information system, vessel registration, crew
19 certification and compliance tracking, and such other processes for efficient and
20 real time service.
21
22 (b.) Promote and enhance the competence of the maritime work force by providing
23 adequate relevant education through quality and competitive schools; provide
24 appropriate training opportunities and accreditation to match the qualification
25 requirements of both local and international maritime employers.
26
27 (c.) Enhance the competitive level of Philippine flag vessels in the carriage of foreign
28 trade and ensure its compliance with international standards.
29
30 (d.) Promote better linkage of maritime zones in the Philippines through a modern
31 nautical highway system and ensure seaworthiness of vessels to ensure safe
32 transport of people, goods and services from port of embarkation to
33 disembarkation consistent and compliant with existing domestic and international
34 maritime policies.
35

- (e.) Promote fair competition among operators in the domestic shipping industry, promote and assist the shipbuilding and ship repair industry.
- (f.) Ensure the protection of our marine ecosystem and promote safer technology compliant with national and international standards thereby reducing or preventing maritime pollution by enriching biodiversity.
- (g.) Strengthen local and international inter-agency cooperation and collaboration to address maritime safety, pollution control, industry sustainability, workforce development and emerging technological issues.
- (h.) Regulate foreign and foreign owned vessels in Philippine waters.
- (i.) Enhance compliance and adoption of Philippine approved treaties, IMO conventions, regional and bilateral maritime agreements and to swiftly adopt to new standards and commitments.

SEC. 4 *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) Accredited Maritime Training Institution (MTI) — a higher-education or training institution duly accredited by MARINA to provide maritime education, training, and competency assessments in accordance with the STCW Convention and national regulations.
- (b) Affiliate — any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with another entity, including related directors, officers, or family-owned businesses, for purposes of conflict-of-interest determinations.
- (c) Certificate of Competency — a certificate issued to masters, officers, and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) radio operators in accordance with the provisions of Chapters II, III, IV, or VII of the Annex to the STCW Convention, entitling the lawful holder to serve and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein.
- (d) Certificate of Endorsement — an attestation by the maritime administration as to the authenticity and validity of certificates issued to masters and officers, in compliance with the STCW Convention.
- (e) Certificate of Proficiency — a certificate, other than a certificate of competency, issued to a seafarer stating that relevant requirements of training, competencies, or seagoing service under the STCW Convention have been met.
- (f) Classification Society — an organization, whether domestic or foreign, recognized by MARINA to set and enforce technical standards for ship design, construction, and maintenance, and to issue classification certificates.
- (g) Documentary Evidence — all documentation, other than a certificate of competency or certificate of proficiency, used to establish that the relevant requirements of the STCW Convention have been met.
- (h) Emergency and Disaster-Related Situation — any maritime incident, accident, disaster, or calamity requiring the deployment of vessels, crews, or maritime assets for rescue, relief, oil spill response, or similar emergency operations.

- (i) Flag State — the State under whose laws a vessel is registered and whose flag it is entitled to fly, thereby exercising jurisdiction and control over such ships in administrative, technical, and social matters.
- (j) Gross Tonnage (GT) — the total internal volume of a ship measured in accordance with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969, as adopted by MARINA.
- (k) Hazard Pay — an additional compensation for performing hazardous duties or enduring physical hardships in the course of duty.
- (l) Maritime Administration or Single Maritime Administration — the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), as the single government agency mandated to ensure complete and effective implementation of the STCW Convention.
- (m) Maritime Enterprise — any natural or juridical person engaged in the maritime industry, including shipowners, shipbuilders, ship repairers, ship managers, manning agencies, freight forwarders, port agents, or classification societies subject to MARINA regulation.
- (n) Nautical Highway System — the integrated network of roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) sea routes, ports, and terminals interconnecting major islands of the Philippines to facilitate maritime mobility of people, goods, and services.
- (o) Public Water Transport Utility — any vessel or operator licensed by MARINA to provide regular, scheduled sea transport of passengers or goods for hire within domestic routes and subject to public-service obligations.
- (p) Seafarer — any person who is employed, engaged, or works onboard seagoing ships, whether or not such ships are engaged in domestic or overseas trade, and to whom the STCW Convention applies.
- (q) Seaworthiness — the condition of a vessel being adequately constructed, equipped, manned, and maintained in accordance with MARINA rules and international conventions to safely navigate and carry its intended cargo or passengers.
- (r) Shipowner — any person, natural or juridical, registered as the owner of a ship or, in case of a bareboat charter, the charterer who assumes full control and responsibility of the vessel's operation.
- (s) STCW Convention — the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, and its subsequent amendments.

TITLE II – THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

SEC. 5. *The Maritime Industry Authority and Its Composition.* – The Maritime Industry Authority is hereby reorganized as an independent central maritime authority with a corporate structure. It shall be governed by a Maritime Industry Board headed by a Chairman which is the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

The Board shall be composed a Vice Chairman, eight (8) *ex officio* Members of the Board, and five (5) members from industry stakeholders. The President of the Republic of the Philippines shall be the appointing authority of the Members of the Board.

1 The Vice Chairman shall serve for a term of six (6) years, the *ex officio* members will
2 serve during the term of the appointing authority, and five (5) Board members from the
3 industry stakeholders shall have a staggered term: first two appointees shall serve for
4 four (4) years and the second batch of three appointees shall serve for three (3) years.

5
6 Except for the *ex officio* members, the regular members of the Board shall be entitled to
7 serve for two (2) consecutive terms only and shall no longer be reappointed after the
8 lapse of their terms. Any vacancy shall be filled up but it can only serve the unexpired
9 portion of the fix term of the predecessor.

10
11 The Board Secretary, preferably a lawyer with at least five (5) years' experience in the
12 Maritime Sector, shall be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the majority of
13 the Members of the Board.

14
15 The Board shall also be composed of eight (8) ex-officio Members, namely:

- 16 1. Secretary of the Department of Economic Planning and Development (DEPDEV)
- 17 2. Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF)
- 18 3. Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
- 19 4. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- 20 5. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
- 21 6. Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)
- 22 7. Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
- 23 8. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

24
25 In the absence of these cabinet Secretaries, they can send a permanent representative
26 to the Board with at least a rank of Undersecretary which can participate actively in the
27 deliberation of the Board on policy matters and issues of vital importance that require
28 immediate attention and decision by the Board.

29
30 SEC. 6. *Qualifications of the Board.* – The regular members of the Board shall be natural
31 born citizens of the Philippines, with at least eight (8) years of substantive experience in
32 the fields of law, science and technology, marine engineering, business administration,
33 accounting, auditing, finance management, fleet development, nautical science, maritime
34 logistics, maritime economics and environmental science. It shall be holders of Masteral
35 Degree relevant to these fields or a member of the Philippine Bar.

36
37
38 SEC. 7. - *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall meet regularly once a month and
39 may hold special meetings to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or at
40 least 50% of its Board Members including Ex Officio Members. A majority shall constitute
41 a quorum for the transaction of business. Members who cannot physically attend may
42 participate via online meeting platforms or telecommunications and shall be included in
43 the consideration of a quorum.

44
45 The Board may invite these observers or resource persons during their Board Meetings
46 when necessity requires their presence and inputs on important matters:

- 47 1.) one representative from the maritime shipping industry
 - 48 2.) one representative from the shipbuilding industry
 - 49 3.) one representative from the ship repair industry
 - 50 4.) one representative from the domestic shipping industry
 - 51 5.) one representative from the overseas seafaring industry preferably a ratings
52 officer
 - 53 6.) one representative from the maritime education sector
 - 54 7.) one representative from the manning services sectors preferably from duly
55 licensed entities under R.A. 12021
- 56

1 The Members of the Board or their representatives shall be entitled to transportation and
2 travel expenses during regular and special meetings.

3
4 The Board may invite relevant agencies, business entities or non-government
5 organizations as resource persons, if necessary.

6
7 Decisions of the Board shall be decided with the concurrence of the majority of the
8 members of the Board. A decision of the Board shall become final and executory within
9 seven (7) days after real-time posting in the website of the MARINA.

10
11 SEC. 8. *The Management.* – The Management shall be headed by a Director General
12 and shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the MARINA with a term of six (6) years
13 and a natural born citizen of the Philippines. It shall exercise general supervision and
14 control over its administrative and technical personnel.

15
16 The Director General shall be a Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) and shall be
17 appointed by the President of the Philippines with the rank of an Undersecretary of a
18 Department. The Director General shall automatically be the Vice Chairman of the
19 MARINA Board.

20
21 The Director General shall be assisted by six (6) Deputy Director Generals to be
22 appointed by the Director General, with the approval of the Board, to be assigned to
23 handle the following offices:

- 24 1.) Administration, Finance, and Support Service
- 25 2.) Seafarers and Maritime Sector
- 26 3.) Operations
- 27 4.) Shipping, Shipbuilding, and Ship Repair
- 28 5.) ICT, Policy Planning and Research
- 29 6.) Legal and Maritime Enforcement

30
31 The Deputy Director Generals shall be appointed in accordance with Civil Service laws
32 and their salaries and benefits shall be consistent with the Compensation and Position
33 Classification System II and Pay Grades for Government Owned or Controlled
34 Corporations under Executive Order No. 95, Series of 2025.

35
36 The Deputy Director Generals shall be natural born citizens of the Philippines, holders of
37 Masteral Degrees, at least thirty-five years old, with at a minimum of five (5) years of
38 relevant experience in the fields of law, accounting, finance, economics, statistics,
39 maritime operations, public utility management,
40 information technology, research and technology development, and such other fields.

41
42 The MARINA shall establish Regional Offices to be headed by a Regional Director and
43 Service Units to be headed by a Director to perform specific functions of the Authority.

44
45 SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the Director General.* – The Director General shall have
46 the following powers and functions:

- 47 a. Act as implementor of the policies, programs, standards, protocols, decisions,
48 rules and regulations issued by the Board and national government agencies
49 pursuant to this Act;
- 50 b. Leads in policy development and maritime industry planning which includes
51 fleet modernization, shipbuilding and ship repair promotions;
- 52 c. Plays a lead role in engaging with IMO and ASEAN maritime bodies;
- 53 d. Strongly supports policies for sustainable shipping and maritime law reforms;
- 54 e. Compile and codify all maritime laws, orders, rules and regulations relative to
55 the Maritime Industry and posted in the MARINA website;

- 1 f. Recommend policies for the regulation of the importation into and exportation
- 2 from the Philippines of vessels, their equipment and spare parts;
- 3 g. Oversees regulation of vessel safety and standards;
- 4 h. Administer the Philippine Registry under Philippine laws and issue the
- 5 Certificate of Philippine Registry for all vessels above three (3) gross tonnage
- 6 whether being used and in operation in Philippine waters or outside the
- 7 Philippine waters, except transient foreign-flagged vessels, vessels owned and
- 8 operated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, vessels by foreign
- 9 government for military purposes, and bancas, sailboats and other watercrafts
- 10 which are not motorized, or less than three (3) gross tons subject to such
- 11 regulations as the MARINA may prescribe as long as these vessels meet the
- 12 registration requirements provided by existing laws and applicable international
- 13 agreements;
- 14 i. Issue temporary certificates for transient civilian vessels of foreign registry
- 15 subject to compliance to existing domestic and international laws;
- 16 j. Approve the sale, lease, or transfer of management of vessels;
- 17 k. Record approved loan mortgages to the registry of the vessels and its
- 18 cancellation, when full payment of the loan has been made with submission of
- 19 proof of loan settlement;
- 20 l. Investigate marine casualties or accidents in coordination with appropriate
- 21 government agencies and tap experts from the private sector, when necessary;
- 22 m. Prescribe and monitor compliance of rules and regulations for the prevention
- 23 of marine pollution, including vessel-source pollution, in bays, harbors and
- 24 other navigable waters in the Philippines, in coordination with government
- 25 authorities;
- 26 n. Undertakes seafarer certification and training standards compliant with
- 27 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, and strengthen
- 28 protection of maritime professionals and seafarers' employment benefits;
- 29 o. Coordinate with national agencies to strengthen and upgrade maritime schools,
- 30 elevate quality standards of education and relevant skills for maritime
- 31 professionals and seafarers to maintain high standard of competence and
- 32 availability of skills workers;
- 33 p. Facilitates investment promotion and industry support including financial and
- 34 technological assistance to shipping enterprises;
- 35 q. Establish strong linkages for public-private investments for shipyard
- 36 development and fleet modernization and expansion;
- 37 r. Promote digital innovations and continuing research and development of
- 38 technical processes to improve global competitiveness and resiliency;
- 39 s. Establish innovation hubs in specific major maritime areas in the country;
- 40 t. Develop maritime strategies to achieve connectivity of products, people and
- 41 services through the Nautical Highway system with close collaboration with
- 42 local government units and national government agencies;
- 43 u. Require any public water transport utility or Philippine flag vessels to provide
- 44 shipping services to any coastal area in the Philippines to improve accessibility
- 45 and affordability of water transportation service to these areas and also, require
- 46 their services during emergency and disaster-related situations;
- 47 v. Establish and maintain a digital system of monitoring vessel registration,
- 48 marine traffic flows, compliance to marine insurance and relevant maritime
- 49 information for efficiency and real time accessibility;
- 50 w. Determine the personnel requirements of the Authority in the Central and
- 51 Regional Offices and such other offices under its jurisdiction;
- 52 x. Manages the daily operations of MARINA and supervises the employees of
- 53 MARINA;

- y. Delegate authority to subordinate personnel and employees, except the specific powers which may only be delegated to a Deputy Director General through a written directive;
- z. Impose, fix and collect fees for various services imposed by the Authority;
- aa. Perform such other powers and duties as may be assigned by the Board, and necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Powers and Functions of the Authority.* – The Authority shall exercise general jurisdiction, control, supervision, and regulation of all natural persons and juridical entities in the maritime industry of the Philippines, in accordance with this Act, and in compliance with existing guidelines, laws, rules and regulations. Pursuant to this, it shall exercise the following powers and functions:

1. Develop and formulate plans, policies, programs, projects, standards, protocols, specifications, regulations and guidelines for the development and promotion of the maritime industry as well as bolster competition and propel the growth of the shipping industry, ship building and ship repair industry;
2. Provide comprehensive policy guidance for the promotion and development of the maritime industry and prepare and periodically update, a comprehensive Ten-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan;
3. Establish, prescribe and regulate routes, zones and areas of operation, and entry to the maritime waters of the Philippines;
4. Register vessels, including non-transient foreign vessels in Philippine waters, as well as issue certificates, licenses or documents necessary or incident thereto, including temporary certificates of registry as provided under existing laws, rules and regulations;
5. Issue the Certificates of Philippine Registry to all ships registered under the Philippine Flag, whether documented for domestic or overseas trade;
6. Cancel the Certificates of Philippine Registry issued to particular ships under the Philippine Flag after due process has been complied with;
7. Issue Certificates of Public Convenience to ships for domestic operations upon compliance with existing and prescribed protocols and submission of pertinent documents;
8. Cancel the Certificates of Public Convenience issued to these domestic ships after due process has been complied with;
9. Accredite marine surveyors, classification societies, and maritime enterprises engaged in shipbuilding, ship maintenance and repair, ship breaking, domestic and overseas shipping ship management and agency;
10. Undertake the safety regulatory functions pertaining to vessel construction and operation including the determination of manning levels and issuance of certificates of competency to seafarers;
11. Inspect and audit all shipping companies and vessels to ensure and enforce compliance with safety standards, applicable laws, rules and regulations;
12. Establish and support a system of maintaining and developing a reservoir of trained manpower to meet the current and future needs of the industry, as provided by relevant policies, regulations and laws;
13. Undertake the issuance of licenses to qualified seafarers and harbor, bay and river pilots;
14. Issue and register the continuous discharge book of Filipino seafarers;
15. Accredite or issue special permits for security companies and individual security provider that are contracted by vessel owners or charterers to provide security or onboard Philippine-registered vessels as well as foreign-flagged vessels licensed to carry out surveys and other maritime or riparian activities in Philippine waters;

16. Enforce laws, prescribe and enforce rules and regulations, including penalties for violations thereof, governing water transportation and the Philippine merchant fleet marine;
17. Exercise police power over the Philippine Maritime industry to ensure compliance with safety, security and regulation of all maritime activities within its jurisdiction;
18. Exercise investigative powers to determine compliance with this Act, existing laws, rules and regulations in connection with its mandate;
19. Issue subpoena duces tecum and summon witnesses to appear in the proceedings of the Authority and in appropriate case, order the examination, search and seizure of all documents, files and records including digital ones, tax returns, books of accounts of any natural or juridical persons under investigation as may be necessary for the proper disposition of cases under its jurisdiction, subject to existing policies, laws, rules and regulations;
20. Suspend, cancel or revoke, after proper notice and hearing, the franchise or certificate of registration of entities within the jurisdiction of the Authority;
21. Exercise visitorial powers subject to existing policies, laws, rules and regulations;
22. Refer appropriate cases to the Office of the Prosecutor;
23. Deputize the Philippine Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies to effectively discharge its functions, and enlist the aid and support of other agencies of the national and local government as well as the private sector, in the implementation of this Act;
24. Call, collaborate and coordinate with appropriate government agencies such as the Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police, local government agencies and national government agencies for the implementation and compliance of this Act;
25. Enforce international commitments and conventions related to its mandate and pertaining to rights and privileges of the Philippines as a Flag State unless said responsibility is expressly vested in another agency;
26. Strengthen collaboration and coordination with foreign maritime authorities and participate in common undertakings consistent with existing laws and commitments;
27. Establish qualification standards of the Authority's staff and other personnel, streamline its processes and structures for the effective and efficient performance of the Authority's functions and exercise of its power consistent with the provisions of this Act, existing policies, laws, rules and regulations;
28. Provide regular reports to the Board and recommend corrective policy measures to implement well the provisions of this Act;
29. Create such ad hoc offices or committees necessary for the attainment of its mandate;
30. Adopt a common seal for the Authority;
31. Enter into contracts, memorandum of Agreements and such other agreements consistent with the provisions of this Act;
32. Prescribe and enforce rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act;
33. Exercise such other power in compliance with the provisions of this Act, existing laws, rules and regulations.

Sec. 11. *Collection of Fees and Charges.* – The Authority may collect such rates, charges and fees, with the Approval of the Board, for the use of its facilities and services, subject to applicable policies and existing laws.

1 It shall determine the fees and charges for the issuance or renewal of any license or
2 permit by the Authority including collection of arrears or penalty due to late application or
3 renewal of such license or permit.

4 The schedule of fees and charges will be posted regularly in the Authority's website and
5 all their offices for the information of the public.

6 The Board shall hold regular public hearings or consultations with industry stakeholders
7 on these fees and charges. The fees and charges will be reviewed every three (3) years
8 and updated to meet inflation rates and such other factors.

9 SEC. 12. *Establishment of a Maritime Industry and Development Trust Fund.* – A Maritime
10 Industry and Development Trust Fund is hereby created sourced from fifty percent (50%)
11 of the annual net earnings after deducting the dividend requirement under the Republic
12 Act No. 7656, "*An Act Requiring Government-Owned Or Controlled Corporations To*
13 *Declare Dividends Under Certain Conditions To The National Government, And For Other*
14 *Purpose*".

15 The Fund shall be managed by the Board in accordance with existing government
16 budgetary and auditing rules and regulations, and shall be exclusively used for the
17 following:

- 18 1. 50% - For the modernization of equipment, facilities and offices used by the
19 employees of the Administration, including capital outlay for the establishment of
20 new buildings and field offices for the effective implementation of this Act;
- 21 2. 30% - For the payment of employee benefits provided in this Act, and as may be
22 approved by the Board through a Resolution subject to limitations in the
23 implementing guidelines of this Act;
- 24 3. 20% - For the further professionalization of the employees of the Administration to
25 include special trainings, short technical courses and other career advancement
26 programs subject to limitations by the implementing guidelines of this Act.

27 All interest income, dividends, and earnings from the Fund shall also form part of the
28 Fund. No portion of the Fund shall revert to the general fund of the national government,
29 except when the Fund is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was
30 established. The Director General shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis the status
31 of the Fund to determine the proper management and utilization of this Fund.

32 33 **TITLE III. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND REGULATIONS**

34 SEC. 13. *International Organizations and International Agreements.* – The Authority shall
35 ensure that all maritime educational institutions, curricula, and programs are compliant
36 with international standards as prescribed under the 1978 International Convention on
37 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention),
38 and carry out an effective regulatory framework conducive to the efficiency, transparency
39 and competitiveness of the Philippine seafaring industry.

40 In close coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, it shall enforce all
41 international conventions and agreements relating to existing commitments, duties, rights
42 and privileges of the Philippines as a flag State except when it is expressly stated that
43 compliance with these undertakings fall within the ambit of a particular agency or
44 institution.

45 SEC. 14. *Grant of Special Permits and Licenses.* – The Authority may issue a permit or
46 license to foreign-registered vessel, or to any vessel owned by a foreign government or
47 entity when public interest requires. Provided, that there is no existing Philippine-

1 registered vessel owned by any person or juridical entity that may perform the necessary
2 task or undertaking.

3 No permit or license shall be issued to a foreign-registered vessel or foreign government
4 owned vessel or foreign entity whose purpose is to undertake maritime or riparian
5 activities. However, the Authority may issue a special permit or license for the
6 maintenance and repair of undersea cables without the need of landfall within the
7 Philippine territorial water. The issuance of a permit or license shall be subject to
8 reasonable regulations and conditions for the protection of our national territory and
9 consistent with our national security policies.

11 **TITLE IV. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS**

12 SEC. 15. *Innovative Technology Systems*. – The Authority shall adapt and implement
13 innovative technology systems in its operations and various processes to ensure that it
14 will be at par with international standards. It shall provide adequate equipment, tools and
15 digital technology that can expedite registration processes, effective monitoring and
16 response in real time of data needs, statistical reports, and appropriate quick response
17 action during emergencies, among others.

18 SEC. 16. *Capability Building*. – The Authority shall provide adequate training and capacity
19 building exposures to their officers and personnel to ensure alignment with the Agency's
20 vision and mandate. It shall also require continuing education and training of its vital
21 personnel. The exposure may include out of the country short term courses, trainings and
22 educational opportunities relevant to their work subject to civil service laws and rules and
23 regulations on appropriate residency, return service, and other conditions.

24 SEC. 17. *Research and Development*. – The Authority shall undertake continuing
25 research on technological, economic, maritime and other related subjects that will ensure
26 the development and promotion of the Philippine maritime industry. A Strategic
27 Management and Research Division under the Policy and Planning Service of the
28 Authority will be tasked to undertake these activities.

29 The Authority is authorized to enter into contracts, memorandum of agreement, and other
30 arrangements with domestic, foreign, and intergovernmental research institutions to
31 strengthen the Authority's capability to undertake research activities and procurement of
32 essential equipment or tools subject to existing budgetary guidelines and protocols with
33 foreign counterparts.

34 SEC. 18. *Maritime Training Institute*. – A Maritime Training Institute (MARTI) is hereby
35 established under the authority which shall serve as the central institution for capacity
36 building and other related maritime training of the Authority's personnel. It shall be under
37 the office of the Deputy Director General for Administration, Finance and Support Service.

38 SEC. 19. *Hiring of Qualified Consultants and Temporary Personnel*. – The Authority may
39 engage the services of qualified marine practitioners such as engineers, inspectors,
40 lawyers, examiners, and juridical entities which offers appropriate services that will be
41 required by the Authority for specific performance of work for a limited duration and when
42 the need arises, subject to applicable laws and guidelines.

43 SEC. 20. *Conflict of Interest*. – No member of the Board, or its Authority's officers and
44 personnel shall have any policy or transactions which may have the potential of being
45 deemed as Conflict of Interest. All decisions of Board, the Authority's officers and
46 personnel must be based on the best interest of the government and the Authority. It

1 must not be motivated by personal considerations and other relationships that can
2 interfere with their independent judgment.

3 In case the official action constituting a conflict-of-interest situation cannot be avoided or
4 where a particular official action has the potential of being categorized as a conflict-of-
5 interest official action, the Director, official, employee or Consultant concerned shall make
6 a full written disclosure of such official action and his or his Affiliate's private interest in
7 the official action.

8 The Director, official, employee or Consultant shall likewise inhibit himself from any direct
9 or indirect participation or involvement at any stage of the transactional or official action
10 process flow and cannot sign any paper or document related to the action or transaction.

11 Approvals or disapprovals shall be in writing and in accordance with this policy and any
12 applicable implementing guidelines. Further, the Authority upon the request of the relevant
13 approving authorities, may recommend appropriate actions or interpret provisions of this
14 policy to specific apparent or potential conflict situations.

15 Any Director, official, employee or Consultant found to have violated this policy shall, in
16 addition to any penalties that may be provided under existing guidelines, applicable laws
17 and regulations, be liable to the extent of the damage/loss suffered by the government,
18 and may be subject to penalties and sanctions as may be determined by the appropriate
19 authorities, whether or not damage/loss is actually suffered by the government.

20 SEC. 21. *Benefits to Essential Personnel.* - The Authority shall provide the following
21 benefits, subject to existing guidelines and applicable laws, to essential personnel but not
22 limited to technical and field personnel, enforcement personnel and those with office
23 orders to undertake high risk assignments, endure physical hardships, or to perform
24 hazardous duties in the course of the performance of duties:

- 25 a. Hazard Pay
- 26 b. Accident Insurance
- 27 c. Personal Protective Equipment
- 28 d. Legal Assistance and Indemnification

29 Funding for this purpose will be provided under Section 9, No. 2 of this Act.

31 TITLE V. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

32 SEC. 22. *Interim Period.* – The incumbent Administrator and Deputy Administrators, if
33 qualified under this Act, shall continue to discharge the functions of their positions unless
34 otherwise removed by the President. All personnel of the MARINA shall continue to
35 discharge the functions of their positions pending the reorganization consistent with this
36 Act.

37 SEC. 23. *Reorganization of MARINA.* – Upon approval of this Act, all employees of the
38 Maritime Industry Authority covered by civil service rules and regulations shall continue
39 to hold their present positions pending the reorganization of the Bureau in accordance
40 with the new staffing pattern. Provided, That the salaries, wages, allowances and other
41 benefits of the new MARINA will be subject to Executive Order No. 95. Series of 2025,
42 entitled "Approving The Compensation And Position Classification System II And Pay
43 Grades For Government-Owned Or Controlled Corporations, Repealing Executive Order
44 No. 150 (S. 2021), And For Other Purposes.

45 Provided, Further, That employees who have been dismissed for cause shall no longer
46 be eligible for any position or employment in MARINA.

1 SEC. 24. *Inventory and Transfer of Properties, Accounts, Assets, Liabilities and*
2 *Obligations.* – An inventory of all assets, properties, accounts, liabilities, obligations and
3 existing contracts shall be made and submitted to the Board through the Director General.

4
5 It shall be taken up by the Board on its first Board meeting for proper assessment and
6 appropriate action.

7
8 SEC. 25. *Pending Cases.* All pending cases shall be automatically be transferred to the
9 Deputy Director General for Legal and Maritime Enforcement after due inventory with
10 appropriate status and shall be appropriately assigned for proper handling and disposition
11 of these cases.

12
13 A report on these cases shall be submitted to the Board through the Director General and
14 shall be taken up by the Board on its first Board meeting.

15 16 **TITLE VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

17 SEC. 26. *Appropriations.* – The necessary funding for the effective implementation of this
18 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 SEC. 27. *Reportorial Requirement.* – The Authority shall submit to the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives, to the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation,
21 and the Senate President and the Senate Committee on Transportation a detailed report
22 within six months on the implementation of this Act and each year thereafter to determine
23 compliance, institutional gaps, financial performance, stakeholder engagement and
24 international commitments.

25 SEC. 28. *Implementing rules and Regulations.* – Within two (2) months from the effectivity,
26 the DOTR, as lead agency and MARINA with PCG and pertinent industry stakeholders
27 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of
28 this Act.

29 SEC. 29. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
30 the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in force and effect.

31 SEC. 30. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of
32 instruction, proclamations, administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the
33 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

34 SEC. 31. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication
35 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

36
37 Approved.