

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6973



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Teachers play a central role in nation-building. As frontliners in human capital development, they shape values, competencies, and critical thinking, skills essential to sustaining national progress. Given the evolving demands placed upon the education system, it is imperative that the standards governing the teaching profession remain responsive, inclusive, and firmly grounded in quality and integrity.

Republic Act No. 7836, as amended by Republic Act No. 9293, otherwise known as the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994, was enacted to promote the professionalization of teachers and to regulate the practice of the teaching profession through licensure. While the law has provided an important regulatory framework, developments in teacher education, assessment practices, and institutional governance necessitate a review and updating of certain provisions to better reflect present realities.

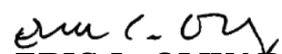
This measure seeks to strengthen the governance of the teaching profession by broadening the nomination base for the Board for Professional Teachers to include key education stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. It likewise introduces transparency and accountability mechanisms in the nomination and screening process, while mandating safeguards to prevent conflicts of interest in the conduct of licensure examinations.

The bill further updates the qualifications of Board members to ensure the necessary expertise in teacher education, assessment, and large-scale examination administration. It rationalizes the teacher licensure examination framework by recognizing diverse education pathways, adopting a component-based assessment approach, and requiring targeted refresher courses for examinees who repeatedly fail specific examination components. These reforms aim to ensure that licensure standards are fair, inclusive, and focused on competence rather than mere compliance.

Finally, the measure promotes greater transparency in licensure examination outcomes, while reinforcing the responsibility of regulatory authorities to uphold examination integrity and public trust.

This bill was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the Nineteenth Congress and transmitted to the Senate, but was not enacted into law due to lack of material time.

In view of its continued relevance and urgency, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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**“AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7836, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE “PHILIPPINE TEACHERS PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF
1994”, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9293”**

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

Section 1. Section of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

"Section 5. Creation and Composition of the Board. - There is hereby created under this Act a Board for Professional Teachers, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the general supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the recommendees chosen by the Commission. The recommendees shall be chosen from the list of nominees ~~{selected by}~~ **SUBMITTED BY THE TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (TEC), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), COORDINATING COUNCIL OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (COCOPEA), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ALCU), PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (PASUC), AN ACCREDITED ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS, AND AN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENTS** ~~and accredited association of teachers,~~] who duly possess all the qualifications prescribed in Section 8 of this Act.

THE FINAL LIST OF NOMINEES SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC. A SCREENING COMMITTEE SHALL BE FORMED TO EVALUATE THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED.

The chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Board shall be appointed from these five (5) 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."

Section 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 8. Qualifications of Board Members. - Each Board member must, at ~~[his or her]~~ **THE** time of **HIS OR HER** appointment:

- (a) Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity, and possessed of high moral values in personal as well as professional conduct and has not been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- (c) Be a holder of ~~{the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education and preferably a holder of a master's or doctorate degree in education, or their equivalents,}~~ **AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE, PREFERABLY HOLDING DOCTORATE DEGREE, IN EDUCATION, A OR ITS EQUIVALENT,** from a university, school, college, academy or institute duly constituted, recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- (d) Be a professional teacher with a valid certificate of registration and valid professional license, save those members who shall compose the first Board for Professional Teachers;
- (e) Has been a professional teacher in the active practice of the teaching profession for at least ten (10) years in the elementary and secondary level; and
- (f) Not be an official or member of the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in any university, college, school, or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in education or its equivalents ~~[for at least three (3) years prior to his appointment,]~~ and neither connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted.

PROVIDED, THAT THE PRC SHALL ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE RULES TO GOVERN THE PRACTICE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST SHALL ARISE IN THEIR FUNCTIONS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND THE RELEASE OF THE RESULTS.

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

PROVIDED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL ALSO HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE IN IMPLEMENTING TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT ARE MANDATED BY

**CHED, TEST DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS, AND LOGISTICS
IN IMPLEMENTING WIDE-SCALE ASSESSMENTS AND SYSTEM
ACCREDITATIONS."**

Section 3. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7836 is hereby amended as follows:

"SEC. 13. Examination, Registration and License Required. - ~~[Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as professional teachers shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given at least once a year in such places and dates as the Board may determine upon approval by the Commission, a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the Commission are required before any person is allowed to practice as a professional teacher in the Philippines, except as otherwise allowed under this Act.]~~

'APPLICANTS FOR REGISTRATION AS PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO: A WRITTEN EXAMINATION WHICH SHALL BE GIVEN AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR IN SUCH PLACES AND DATES AS THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE UPON APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION.

A WRITTEN EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR:

(A) GRADUATES OF EDUCATION COURSES, CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 4 OF THIS ACT;

(B) GRADUATES OF NON-EDUCATION COURSES WHO HAVE COMPLETED 18 UNITS OF CERTIFICATION IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE)."

Section 4. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7836, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

Section 15. Qualification Requirements of Applicant. - No applicant shall be admitted to take the examination unless, on the date of the filing of the application, ~~{he or she}~~ **THE APPLICANT** shall have complied with the following requirements:

(a) A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the teaching profession;

(b) At least eighteen (18) years of age;

(c) In good health and of good reputation with high moral values;

(d) Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court for an offense involving moral turpitude;

(e) A graduate of a school, college or university recognized by the

government and possesses the minimum educational qualifications IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT-MANDATED TEACHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM (INCLUDING THE VARIOUS SPECIALIZATIONS BY KEY STAGE/GRADE LEVEL, SUBJECT, OR OTHERS, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY); AND ~~[as follows:~~

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

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

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

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

(F) THE RESULTS OF THE EXAM SHALL BE GIVEN BY COMPONENT. IF AN APPLICANT HAS PREVIOUSLY FAILED TO PASS A COMPONENT/S OF THE EXAMINATION IN THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS, HE OR SHE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A REFRESHER COURSE FOR THE FAILED COMPONENT IN A CHED-RECOGNIZED TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE, BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO RETAKE THE EXAMINATION.'

Section 5. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Section 16. **RELEASE OF THE QUESTIONS AND** Report of the Results of the Examination. - **THE BOARD SHALL, NOT LATER THAN FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS AFTER THE EXXAM ADMINISTRATION, RELEASE THE QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION ON THE MAKERS OF THE EXAM TO THE PUBLIC. THE BOARD SHALL FORM A TESTING BOARD EVERY YEAR, TO CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS ACCREDITED TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. THE EXAM SHALL BE VALIDATED THROUGH A THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT BEFORE AND AFTER ADMINISTRATION. ITEM ANALYSIS IS RECOMMENDED TO BE DONE AFTER EXAM ADMINISTRATION. ADDITIONALLY,** the Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate by exam component to the **PROFESSIONAL REGULATION Commission for approval and appropriate action. THE BOARD SHALL ALSO MAKE PUBLIC THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS WITH A TEN (10) YEAR TRACK RECORD ANALYSIS. CREDIT FOR PASSING FOR THOSE WHO TOOK THE CPE SHALL GO TO THE INSTITUTION WHERE THE CPE PROGRAM WAS COMPLETED.**

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Act, the Professional Regulation Commission shall update its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary for the full and effective implementation of this Act.

Section 7. Transitory Provision. - The Professional Regulation Commission and the Board of Professional Teachers shall update its existing policies and issuances relevant to this Act and ensure its alignment with the same within a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act and report the same to Congress on the first year of its implementation.

Section 8. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act or the application of such section or provision is declared unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision of this Act shall be affected thereby.

Section. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, circulars, administrative orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,