

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8116



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF PRISON AND JAIL
MANAGEMENT BY HARMONIZING AND UPGRADING THE QUALIFICATION
STANDARDS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR KEY CORRECTIONS
POSITIONS IN THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL
MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Safe, humane, and well-run prisons and jails depend on the quality of their leaders. Wardens, superintendents, and other key officials make daily decisions that affect security, discipline, rehabilitation, and respect for human rights. Our laws already recognize this by requiring education, rank, and training for top officials in the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). However, these standards are not always applied consistently, updated regularly, or supported by enough training opportunities.

This bill strengthens and harmonizes existing laws by making sure that all key prison and jail leadership positions meet clear and uniform minimum qualifications. It sets a firm baseline so standards can never be lowered, requires continuing education and periodic re-certification, and ensures that leaders stay competent, fit, and ethical throughout their service. The measure also gives current officials reasonable time to meet new requirements and directs government agencies to make training accessible, so compliance is fair and realistic.

By professionalizing prison and jail management, this measure helps prevent abuse, improves safety inside facilities, and supports rehabilitation rather than mere

punishment. It builds on existing laws, protects the public interest, and ensures that those entrusted with managing persons deprived of liberty are properly trained and accountable. For these reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “*Professionalization of Prison and Jail Management Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to ensure a professional, competent, and accountable corrections system. Key corrections positions shall be occupied only by qualified personnel with appropriate education, training, and integrity, consistent with existing laws professionalizing the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to key prison management positions in the BuCor and key jail management positions in the BJMP, without prejudice to the minimum appointment qualifications for uniformed personnel under existing laws.

SECTION 4. Definition of Key Positions. — For purposes of this Act, “key positions” shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) for BuCor: Sub-Colony Supervisor, Colony Assistant Superintendent, Colony Superintendent, and Regional Superintendent; and
- (b) for BJMP: Municipal Jail Warden, City Jail Warden, District Jail Warden, Provincial Jail Administrator, Regional Director, and other positions as may be provided by law.

SECTION 5. Minimum Qualification Standards (Floor). — The minimum qualification standards for designation/assignment to key positions in the BuCor and BJMP shall, at all times, be not lower than those provided in existing laws, including Republic Act No. 10575 and Republic Act No. 9263.

SECTION 6. Updated Education and Training Requirements. —

- (a) BuCor Key Positions. — No person shall be designated to a key position in the BuCor unless the person meets the qualification standards for the specific position, including educational requirements and completion of necessary training or career courses, consistent with Republic Act No. 10575.
- (b) BJMP Key Positions. — No person shall be designated to a key position in the BJMP unless the person meets the qualification standards for the specific position, including educational requirements and completion of necessary training or career courses, consistent with Republic Act No. 9263.
- (c) Continuing Professional Education. — The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the BuCor, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), through the BJMP, shall establish continuing professional education programs on corrections administration, custodial management, human rights standards, crisis management, and rehabilitation and reintegration programs, including periodic re-certification as may be provided in the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. Integrity, Fitness, and Continuing Qualifications. — In addition to education and training, no person shall be designated or continue to serve in a key position if the person has been convicted by final judgment of an offense involving moral turpitude, or has been dismissed from the service for cause, consistent with existing professionalization requirements for corrections personnel.

SECTION 8. Transitional Compliance Period. — Any incumbent who is currently occupying a key position but lacks any of the statutory qualifications shall be given

the compliance period provided under existing law for the relevant bureau; otherwise, the incumbent shall be relieved from the position.

SECTION 9. Funding and Implementation. — The amounts necessary to carry out this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The DOJ and DILG shall ensure that bureau training institutions and career courses necessary for compliance are accessible to affected personnel.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, the DOJ and the DILG, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the concerned bureaus, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,