

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
9894



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

**AN ACT AMENDING SEC 33 OF REPUBLIC ACT 6975, OR "THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF
1990" TO INCLUDE OTHER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES TO THE
LATERAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR LINE AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For decades, our traditional image of a police officer has always been the beat cop on the pavement, the detective chasing leads, the tactical unit breaching a door. However, the frontline of public safety has already shifted. Today, the greatest threats to our nation do not just walk the streets; they lurk in cyberspace, hide behind sophisticated financial fraud networks, and mask themselves in complex chemical compounds.

Crime has evolved. It has become smarter, faster, and highly technical. And if our law enforcement does not evolve with it, we are leaving our citizens defenseless.

That is why expanding the Lateral Entry Program for Line and Technical Officers is not just an administrative upgrade; it is necessary evolutionary leap for the Philippine National Police (PNP).

To defeat a modern crisis, we need modern tools. We cannot expect traditional police training alone to stop a multi-million dollar cyber-extortion ring or decode a synthetic drug formula. We need specialists.

This bill breaks down the archaic walls of recruitment, ensuring that the PNP is not just filling empty chairs, but infusing its leadership with the sharpest, most diverse problem-solving minds in the country. For example, a world-class cybersecurity analyst or a top-tier forensic expert will never join the police force if they are forced to start at the absolute bottom, undergo basic infantry-style training, and wait decades just to have their voices heard.

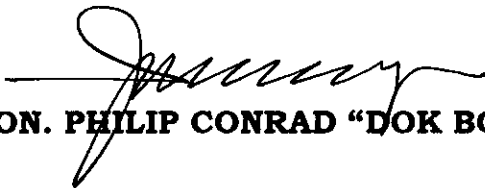
This legislation fixes that broken system. By allowing licensed, elite professionals to enter directly as commissioned officers, we can finally

compete with the private sector. We can instantly put the right minds in charge of the right battles.

This advocacy is about more than just fighting crime; it is about dignity, justice, and human potential. By professionalizing the ranks, this bill proudly aligns the Philippines with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, as regards SDG 16 (True Justice), the bill seeks to upgrade an institution that citizens can actually trust, one capable of protecting them from modern, invisible predators. As regards SDG 8 (Real Opportunity), the bill honors the thousands of dedicated officers and civilian staff already in the ranks who have gone back to school, passed board exams, and upskilled themselves, giving them a much-deserved merit-based pathway to rise to leadership.

We cannot fight tomorrow's wars with yesterday's strategies. Passing this bill means refusing to let our public safety and justice system fall behind. It means honoring our dedicated personnel, welcoming the country's brightest minds, and building a safer, more resilient Philippines.

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



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Amended
Provision of the Lateral Entry Program for Line and Technical Officers (Sec
33 of RA 6975) to the Rank of Police Lieutenant."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to establish a
highly efficient, effective and competent police force, which is national in
scope, civilian in character, and administered and controlled by the
Philippine National Police (PNP).

SEC. 3. *Objective.* - This amendment of Section 33 of Republic Act 6975
intends to include other baccalaureate degrees in the lateral entry program
of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for technical and line officers to fill up
vacancies and to expand the opportunities to Police Non-Commissioned
Officers (PNCOs) and Non-Uniformed Personnel (NUP) who are already in the
service and are qualified to the position of Police Lieutenants based on their
eligibility as Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) licensed
professionals and CSC Career Service Professional (CSP).

SEC. 4. *Lateral Entry of Officers into the PNP.*

Section 33 of Republic Act No. 6975 is amended to read as follows:

"Section 33. *Lateral Entry of Officers into the PNP.* - In general, all original
appointments of commissioned officers in the PNP shall commence with the
rank of Police Lieutenant, subject to the following provisions:

(A) Lateral Entry for Technical Officers.

All those with highly technical qualifications applying for the PNP technical services shall be accommodated to fill vacancies in any of the PNP offices/units for technical services, provided they possess an appropriate *Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) license or Career Service Professional (CSP) eligibility*. These technical professions include, but are not limited to:

Aeronautical Engineers	Naval Architects
Computer Engineers	Nuclear Physicists
Chemical Engineers	Nurses
Chemists	Nutritionists and Dieticians
Civil Engineers	Optometrists
Criminologists	Physical Therapists
Dentists	Psychologists
Electrical Engineers	Psychometricians
Electronics Engineers	Sports Medicine
Guidance and Counseling	Social Workers
Mechanical Engineers	Veterinary Medicines
Medical Technologists	Graduates of Forensic Sciences
Metallurgical Engineers	Information Technology Professionals
Molecular Biologists	Other Technical Professions

Doctors of Medicine, Members of the Bar, Priests/Pastors/Imams, and Licensed Aircraft Pilots shall be appointed to the rank of Police Captain in their particular technical service.

Police Commissioned Officers recruited via the Lateral Entry Technical Officers Program shall exclusively serve the office/unit where they were accepted and must acquire or pursue training related to their field of expertise in pursuit of excellence.

(B) Lateral Entry for Line Officers.

Graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) shall be automatically appointed to the initial rank of Police Lieutenant.

In addition, licensed criminologists, other professionals who have licenses issued by the PRC, and those who are Career Service Professionals may be appointed to the rank of Police Lieutenant to fill up vacancies in the PNP Line Units, subject to the following qualifications and conditions:

1. Applicants must already be members of the PNP with a rank of at least Police Staff Sergeant for Uniformed Personnel, or at least Salary Grade 14 for Non-Uniformed Personnel (NUP);
2. Applicants must have served the organization for at least five (5) years; and

3. These Police Lieutenants in the line services shall serve at least five (5) years in the line offices/units they opted to join before they can seek reassignment to other line offices/units.”

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All other provisions of Republic Act 6975, as amended by Republic Act 8551, otherwise known as “Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998,” and all other laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,