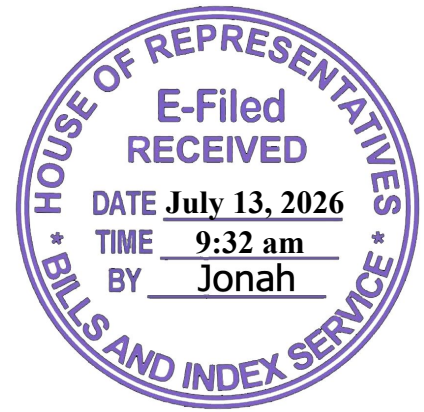


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10047



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains an undisputed global superpower in the maritime labor market, supplying approximately one-quarter of all seafaring professionals worldwide. Our Filipino seafarers endure months of rigorous duty at sea, navigating complex maritime terrains, braving harsh environmental hazards, and managing high-stakes technological and logistical networks.

Through their immense economic contributions, which amount to billions of dollars in annual foreign remittances, they serve as a primary pillar of our national economic resilience. They are, without question, modern-day heroes.

However, despite their world-class discipline, high technical competence, and proven operational resilience, their professional expertise remains structurally underutilized within our own domestic governance and state defense frameworks. Upon returning to civilian life or choosing to work shoreside, many seafarers face systemic bureaucratic obstacles to entering public service due to a lack of formal civil service eligibility tailored to their specialized experience.

Furthermore, our country's complex geopolitical reality and vulnerability to maritime security challenges and natural disasters necessitate a highly robust, capable, and readily deployable military reserve force. Our seafarers possess invaluable, pre-existing expertise in maritime domain awareness, navigation, marine engineering, communications, and emergency response—skills that would take years and massive state capital to train from scratch.

This bill seeks to bridge this gap through a dual-benefit approach. First, it grants automatic Civil Service Eligibility to Filipino seafarers who have successfully completed at least two (2) years of accredited sea service. This integration empowers them to seamlessly transition into crucial civilian administrative, management, and technical positions within the government, particularly in maritime-related regulatory bodies like the Maritime Industry Authority

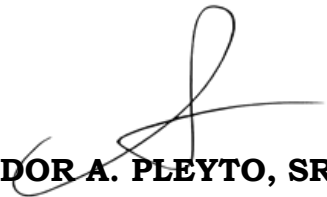
(MARINA), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).

Second, this measure mandates the automatic incorporation of these qualified seafarers into the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as reserve officers or enlisted personnel, subject to standard orientation and background checks.

This dramatically fortifies our national defense posture, strategic maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) capabilities by integrating an active, disciplined elite corps of ocean-tested mariners.

By passing this measure, the state structurally honors the sacrifices of our seafarers, enhances their career trajectories, and strategically harnesses their exceptional talent for national development and territorial defense.

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



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10047

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY AND MILITARY
RESERVIST STATUS TO QUALIFIED FILIPINO SEAFARERS WITH
TWO YEARS OF COMPLETED MARITIME EXPERIENCE, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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 "Seafarers' National Service and Career Integration Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize the invaluable contributions of Filipino seafarers to national development, economic stability, and international prestige. Concomitantly, the State recognizes its constitutional mandate to defend national sovereignty, protect its maritime domain, and maintain a highly capable military reserve force for national defense and disaster response. Towards this end, the State shall actively harness the world-class expertise, discipline, and technical proficiency of Filipino seafarers by integrating them into the civil service and national defense architectures.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) Filipino Seafarer refers to any Filipino citizen who is employed, engaged, or works in any capacity on board a ship or vessel navigating international waters or domestic coastal routes, duly registered and certified under prevailing Philippine laws.
- (b) Full Maritime Experience refers to the cumulative or continuous period of actual sea service onboard commercial ships, passenger vessels, support vessels, or specialized maritime platforms, totaling at least

twenty-four (24) months, as verified by the Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) and official agency logs.

- (c) Civil Service Eligibility refers to the legal status granted to an individual making them eligible for permanent appointment to positions in the career service of the government.

Sec. 4. *Grant of Civil Service Eligibility.* - Any Filipino seafarer who has successfully completed a minimum of two (2) years of full maritime experience, and who possesses a valid professional license or certification from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) or the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), shall automatically be granted a Civil Service Eligibility.

This eligibility shall be considered equivalent to a Second-Level Civil Service Eligibility (Professional) administered by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and shall qualify the holder for permanent appointment to technical, administrative, operational, and managerial positions within the government, specifically prioritizing agencies concerned with maritime affairs, transportation, border security, and migrant worker welfare.

Sec. 5. *Incorporation into the AFP Reserve Force.* - All Filipino seafarers covered under Section 4 of this Act shall be automatically conferred reservist status within the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), specifically under the Philippine Navy Reserve Command or the Philippine Air Force Reserve Command, as may be applicable to their specialized experience.

The rank to be conferred upon entry into the Reserve Force shall correspond to their shipboard rank, certifications, and educational attainment, in accordance with the leveling standards to be established under the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7077 (Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act).

Sec. 6. *Exemption and Orientation.*— Seafarers granted reservist status under this Act shall be exempt from standard basic military training requirements in recognition of their rigorous shipboard discipline and safety certifications (such as STCW standards). *Provided*, however, that they shall undergo a mandatory condensed orientation course on military justice, national security doctrine, and chain of command, to be designed and implemented by the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP.

Sec. 7. *Preferred Deployment and Utilization.* - Qualified seafarer-reservists shall be primarily utilized for maritime domain awareness, coastal defense operations, naval logistics, communications, search and rescue (SAR) missions, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) activities.

Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Department of National Defense (DND), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,