



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. 10167

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes education as a fundamental instrument for national development and mandates the State to promote quality education, advance science and technology, and ensure that institutions of higher learning remain centers of excellence, innovation, and public service. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability of Philippine higher education institutions to attract and retain globally competitive Filipino scholars has become essential to strengthening the country's academic and research capabilities.

Republic Act No. 9225, otherwise known as the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003, allows natural-born Filipinos who have reacquired Philippine citizenship to enjoy full civil and political rights. However, Section 5(3) of the law requires dual citizens appointed to public office to renounce their oath of allegiance to a foreign state before assuming office. While this requirement is appropriate for positions involving the exercise of sovereign governmental powers, its application to faculty members, researchers, and academic administrators in public higher education institutions has inadvertently discouraged many highly qualified Filipino professionals abroad from serving in the country's state universities and colleges.

Philippine public higher education institutions increasingly compete for world-class educators, scientists, researchers, and academic leaders whose expertise has been developed through international education, research, and professional experience. Many of these individuals have acquired foreign citizenship while maintaining strong ties to the Philippines and have subsequently reacquired their Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225. Requiring them to renounce their foreign allegiance as a condition for academic service often creates legal, professional, and personal barriers that discourage their return, resulting in the loss of valuable expertise that could otherwise strengthen the country's research, innovation, and human capital development.

This measure seeks to amend Section 5(3) of Republic Act No. 9225 by exempting faculty members, researchers, and administrators of public higher education institutions from the requirement of renouncing their foreign oath of

allegiance. The proposed amendment recognizes that these positions primarily advance education, research, and knowledge generation rather than the exercise of sovereign political authority. At the same time, these individuals remain bound by their oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, the Constitution, and all applicable laws governing public service.

By removing an unnecessary barrier to academic engagement, this measure will encourage more highly qualified Filipino scholars, scientists, innovators, and academic leaders abroad to contribute their knowledge and experience to Philippine higher education. Their participation will strengthen research collaboration, improve instructional quality, expand international partnerships, enhance technology transfer, and ultimately contribute to the country's scientific, economic, and social development.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 5(3) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE “CITIZEN RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003”

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 5(3) of Republic Act No. 9225 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3
4 "SEC. 5. Civil and Political Rights and Liabilities. - Those who retain or re-
5 acquire Philippine citizenship under this Act shall enjoy full civil and political rights
6 and be subject to all attendant liabilities and responsibilities under existing laws
7 of the Philippines and the following conditions:

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9 xxx

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11 (3) Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and swear to
12 an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly
13 constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office: Provided,
14 That they renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they
15 took that oath[.]: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE**
16 **APPOINTED AS FACULTY, RESEARCHERS, OR**
17 **ADMINISTRATORS OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION**
18 **INSTITUTIONS NEED NOT RENOUNCE SUCH OATH OF**
19 **ALLEGIANCE;**

20
21 xxx"

22
23 **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decrees, executive orders,
24 letters of instruction, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent
25 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

1 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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4 *Approved,*