

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL No. 10377

Introduced by REP. RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ

**AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE RENEWAL PERIODS OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES
AND ENHANCING ACCESS TO CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)
PROGRAMS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Professionals play a vital role in national development, social progress, and innovation, as recognized under the 1987 Constitution. To maintain high standards of practice, the State implements regulatory mechanisms, including license renewals and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements. However, the current rigid framework, which imposes a uniform three-year renewal cycle across all regulated fields, fails to account for the varying paces of innovation, technological change, and regulatory updates unique to different industries.

For many practitioners, the current process places a heavy administrative and financial burden on lifelong learning, often turning a well-intentioned policy into a compliance hurdle rather than an opportunity for professional growth.

This bill, otherwise known as the "**Professional License Rationalization and CPD Access Act**," seeks to establish a dynamic, responsive, and fair regulatory system by differentiating renewal periods based on the nature of each profession and expanding access to affordable professional education.

The proposed measure introduces the following key structural reforms:

- **Differentiated Professional Classification:** Rationalizing the renewal system by reclassifying regulated fields into two distinct tiers:
 - *Category A (Dynamic Professions):* Fast-evolving fields, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, and IT professionals, will transition to a **five-year** renewal period.

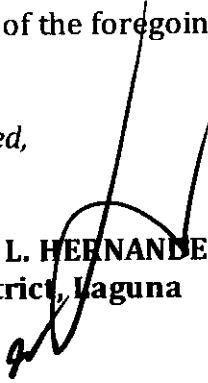
- *Category B (Established Professions)*: Fields with steady foundational standards, such as licensed teachers, criminologists, librarians, and guidance counselors, will transition to a **ten-year** renewal period.
- **Establishment of a High-Level Oversight Body**: Creating an inter-agency oversight body with representatives from the PRC, CHED, DOLE, NEDA, CSC, and academic experts to exercise quasi-legislative powers over the objective, criteria-based periodic reclassification of professions.
- **Mandatory Ethical Reviews**: Ensuring that public welfare and consumer safety are protected by subjecting all licensees to a regular ethical review every five years, verifying that no pending or unresolved administrative or ethical cases compromise their standing.
- **Affordable and Free CPD Pathways**: Broadening access to continuing education by empowering Local Government Units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and national government agencies to offer accredited CPD programs. Furthermore, the bill mandates that CPD programs be provided free of charge or fully subsidized for public sector professionals whose roles are in the direct interest of the State, such as public school teachers and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

By modernizing our regulatory frameworks, we can alleviate the repetitive logistical strains on our workforce while effectively lowering out-of-pocket costs for professional upkeep, ultimately allowing Filipino practitioners to focus on global competence and exceptional local service.

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

Approved,

RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ
2nd District, Laguna



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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 “**Professional License Rationalization and CPD Access Act.**”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of professionals in national development, as enshrined in Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution, which mandates the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and accelerate social progress. It is therefore the policy of the State to ensure that professional regulation is dynamic, responsive to technological change, and mindful of the varying pace of innovation across professions. It also recognizes the burden of compliance with regulatory requirements and commits to making lifelong professional education accessible and affordable for all.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);
- b) *Dynamic Profession* refers to a profession characterized by rapid, frequent, or significant changes in standards of practice, scientific or technological advancement, or statutory or regulatory framework;
- c) *Established Profession* refers to a profession characterized by slow-changing standards of practice, and relatively lower impact from new technologies, regulations, or scientific developments;
- d) *Professional Regulatory Board (PRB)* refers to the specific regulatory board under the PRC governing a particular profession;

- e) *Continuing Professional Development (CPD)* refers to the inculcation of advanced knowledge, skills, and ethical values in a post-licensure context, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10912.

Section 4. Classification of Professions. – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the relevant Professional Regulatory Boards and stakeholders, shall issue a Resolution reclassifying all regulated professions into:

- a) *Category A (Dynamic Professions)* – subject to a license renewal period of every five (5) years. These include, but are not limited to: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, information technology professionals, and licensed electronics engineers.
- b) *Category B (Established Professions)* – subject to a license renewal period of every ten (10) years. These include, but are not limited to: licensed teachers, criminologists, librarians, guidance counselors, and real estate service professionals.

To ensure the integrity, objectivity, and long-term sustainability of this classification system, a high-level oversight body shall be created, composed of representatives from the Commission, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and at least two academic experts in regulatory policy or professional ethics. This body shall exercise quasi-legislative powers over the periodic reclassification of regulated professions, including but not limited to the issuance of rules, conduct of technical hearings, and adoption of sectoral advisories.

The classification shall be guided by the following criteria:

- 1) Frequency and magnitude of changes in professional knowledge, technology, and applicable laws;
- 2) Degree of risk to public health, safety, or welfare in case of practitioner obsolescence;
- 3) International licensing and continuing education trends; and
- 4) Impact on national development priorities and innovation sensitivity.

Section 5. Renewal Periods. – All professional licenses issued by the Commission shall conform to the following schedules:

- a) Professionals classified under Category A (Dynamic Professions) shall renew their licenses every five (5) years.
- b) Professionals classified under Category B (Established Professions) shall renew their licenses every ten (10) years: *Provided*, that all licensees shall continue to comply with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements as may be determined by their respective PRBs in accordance with Republic Act No. 10912 and other applicable laws.

In addition to CPD compliance, all licensees shall undergo a regular ethical review every five (5) years, regardless of classification. This review shall include verification of any pending or unresolved administrative or ethical cases, and shall be conducted by the Commission in coordination with the relevant Professional Regulatory Boards. The findings of this review shall be considered in the approval of license renewals.

Section 6. *Access to Affordable and Inclusive CPD.* – The State shall endeavor to promote affordable and inclusive access to Continuing Professional Development. To this end:

- a) Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be encouraged and accredited by the Commission to provide CPD programs relevant to local needs;
- b) National government agencies shall be directed to offer CPD programs for their professional employees, including in-house trainings that may be credited toward CPD compliance;
- c) Government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and other public institutions shall be empowered to deliver CPD programs aligned with their institutional mandates;
- d) The Commission shall maintain a publicly accessible and regularly updated list of free or low-cost CPD offerings, including online modules, open-access lectures, and agency-led training; and
- e) Where Continuing Professional Development is deemed to be in the direct interest of the State – such as for members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd), and other similarly situated public sector professionals – CPD programs shall be provided free of charge by government agencies, or subsidized if conducted by accredited private providers.

The Commission shall issue implementing rules to facilitate these measures in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and other relevant agencies.

Section 7. *Adjustment Mechanism.* – The Commission may reclassify a profession from Category B to Category A, or vice versa, upon the recommendation of the respective Professional Regulatory Board and after due public consultation. Such reclassification shall take effect no earlier than one (1) year after publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation and posting on the official website of the Commission.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Commission. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – The following laws, rules, and regulations are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly:

- a) Section 7 of Republic Act No. 8981 (PRC Modernization Act of 2000), insofar as it provides for a uniform license validity period of three (3) years for all professions;
- b) Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8981, insofar as it prescribes the renewal and registration schedule inconsistent with differentiated validity periods based on profession type;
- c) Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10912 (Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016), insofar as it implies uniformity in the validity period for professional licenses;
- d) Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10912, insofar as it defines the CPD compliance framework tied to a triennial license renewal cycle;
- e) Rule II, Section 3 of the 2019 Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10912, insofar as it references a fixed three-year license validity;
- f) PRC Resolution No. 2016-990, Series of 2016, particularly provisions inconsistent with the differentiated renewal periods provided in this Act;
- g) Any subsequent PRC administrative orders, resolutions, or circulars prescribing uniform license durations for all professionals;
- h) All other laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative rules, or regulations inconsistent with this Act.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,