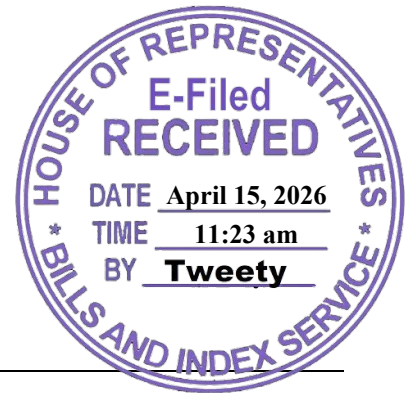


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **240**

Submitted by the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, on
April 15, 2026

Re: House Bill No. **8869**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 82, 220, 453, 1810, 1914, 2488, 2892, 3832, 4067, 4491, 4504, and 5731

Sponsors: Reps. Laarni Lavin Roque, Giselle Mary L. Maceda, and Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, to which were referred House Bill No. **82**, introduced by Representatives Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lani Mercado-Revilla, and Bryan B. Revilla, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING QUALIFIED INDIGENT FILIPINOS FROM PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **220**, introduced by Rep. Crispin Diego D. Remulla, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING QUALIFIED INDIGENT FILIPINOS FROM PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **453**, introduced by Rep. Omar Vincent Sangkola Duterte, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES (IP/ICCS)”

House Bill No. **1810**, introduced by Rep. Howard A. Guinto, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **1914**, introduced by Rep. Franz S. Pumaren, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **2488**, introduced by Rep. Roy M. Gonzales, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **2892**, introduced by Rep. Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **3832**, introduced by Rep. Laarni Lavin Roque, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **4067**, introduced by Rep. Giselle Mary L. Maceda, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

House Bill No. **4491**, introduced by Rep. Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING QUALIFIED INDIGENT FILIPINOS FROM PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. **4504**, introduced by Rep. Cheeno Miguel D. Almario, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS”

and House Bill No. **5731**, introduced by Rep. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING QUALIFIED INDIGENTS FROM THE PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

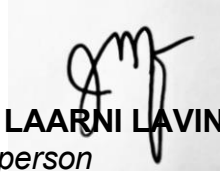
has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **8869**, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 82, 220, 453, 1810, 1914, 2488, 2892, 3832, 4067, 4491, 4504, and 5731 with Representatives Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Omar Vincent Sangkola Durerte, Howard A. Guintu, Franz S. Pumaren, Roy M. Gonzales, Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, Laarni Lavin Roque, Giselle Mary L. Maceda, Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, Cheeno Miguel D. F, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Julius Cesar “Jay” V. Vergara, Arlyn P. Ayon, Patricia C. Calderon, Rolando Ledesma Macasaet, Richelle Singson, Binky April M. Tupas, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Carlos Andes Loria, Allan U. Ty, Adrian E. Salceda, Felimon M. Espares, Franz Vincent F. Legaspi, Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Mercedes K. Alvarez, MNSA, Munir N. Arbison Jr., Reynaldo P. Salvacion, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Doris E. Maniquiz, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Alfred D. Marañon III, Marlesa “Doc Marly” Hofer-Hasim, Dennis “Tom” L. Hernandez, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Jennifer A. Lagbas, Lolita T. Javier, Francisco “Lalo” T. Matugas, Jude A. Acidre, Florabel C. Yatco, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Sun Judal Shimura, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Ching B. Bernos, Mark Cholo I. Violago, Anna York P. Bondoc MD, Munir M. Arbison, Eleanor C. Bulut- Begtang, Isidro D. Lumayag, Jesus Manuel “Bong” C.

Suntay, Dibu S. Tuan, Ramil Laurel Hernandez, Roy M. Loyola, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Manuel “ManMan” O. Ko, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Stephen James T. Tan, JC M. Abalos, JB Bernos, Girlie E. Veloso, Janice Degamo, Edgar R. Erice, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, and John Tracy F. Cagas as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
Chairperson

Committee on Civil Service and Professional
Regulation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8869

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 82, 220, 453, 1810, 1914, 2488, 2892,
3832, 4067, 4491, 4504, and 5731)

Introduced by Representatives Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Omar Vincent Sangkola Durerte, Howard A. Guintu, Franz S. Pumaren, Roy M. Gonzales, Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, Laarni Lavin Roque, Giselle Mary L. Maceda, Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, Cheeno Miguel D. F, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Julius Cesar “Jay” V. Vergara, Arlyn P. Ayon, Patricia C. Calderon, Rolando Ledesma Macasaet, Richelle Singson, Binky April M. Tupas, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Carlos Andes Loria, Allan U. Ty, Adrian E. Salceda, Felimon M. Espares, Franz Vincent F. Legaspi, Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Mercedes K. Alvarez, MNSA, Munir N. Arbison Jr., Reynaldo P. Salvacion, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Doris E. Maniquiz, Ferdinand “B1” L Beltran, Alfred D. Marañon III, Marlesa “Doc Marly” Hofer-Hasim, Dennis “Tom” L. Hernandez, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Jennifer A. Lagbas, Lolita T. Javier, Francisco “Lalo” T. Matugas, Jude A. Acidre, Florabel C. Yatco, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Sun Judal Shimura, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Ching B. Bernos, Mark Cholo I. Violago, Anna York P. Bondoc MD, Munir M. Arbison, Eleanor C. Bulut- Begtang Isidro D. Lumayag, Jesus Manuel “Bong” C. Suntay, Dibu S. Tuan, Ramil Laurel Hernandez, Roy M. Loyola, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Manuel “ManMan” O. Ko, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Stephen James T. Tan, JC M. Abalos, JB Bernos, Girlie E. Veloso, Janice Degamo, Edgar R. Erice, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, and John Tracy F. Cagas

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED
INDIGENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND INDIGENOUS
CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

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

3
4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Free Professional

1 Examinations Act.”

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
3 promote full employment and ensure equal opportunities for all. The State further upholds
4 a just and dynamic social order that seeks to liberate the people from poverty through
5 programs and policies that deliver adequate social services and improve the quality of life
6 for all. In this regard, the State shall ensure that the poor are provided with access to
7 mechanisms that expand opportunities for gainful and productive employment

8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

- 9 a. *Professional examinations* refer to the licensure examinations conducted by the
10 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) leading to the issuance of
11 professional licenses to successful examinees. It shall also include examinations
12 conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) leading to eligibility for
13 employment in the government.
- 14 b. *Qualified indigents* refer to people who have no visible means of income or
15 support, or whose income may not be sufficient for the subsistence or basic needs
16 of the family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and
17 Development (DSWD).
- 18 c. *Qualified member of the indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities*
19 refers to a member of the Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities,
20 as may be verified by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

21 **SEC. 4. Requirements for Availment.** For purposes of availing the benefits of
22 this Act, an examinee shall secure a Certificate of Indigency, issued free of charge by the
23 barangay or the local social welfare and development office of the municipality, city, or
24 province where the applicant resides.

25 Members of the indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities may, in
26 lieu of a certificate of indigency, present a certification issued by the NCIP attesting to
27 their membership in said communities and confirming their qualification as indigent
28 individuals.

29 The required certification shall be submitted to the PRC or the CSC to qualify the
30 examinee for exemption from the payment of written examination fees, excluding practical
31 examination fees and other miscellaneous charges, which shall continue to be collected
32 as may be applicable.

1 No other fees shall be charged against the qualified indigents or members of
2 indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities for purposes of taking the
3 professional examinations.

4 **SEC. 5. *Limitations on Availment.*** Benefits of this Act may be availed of by a
5 qualified indigent and members of indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities
6 only once a year.

7 **SEC. 6. *Information, Education, and Communication Campaign.*** The DSWD,
8 PRC, CSC and NCIP, in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency, are hereby
9 mandated to conduct an annual information, education, and communication campaign in
10 order to inform the people of the procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this
11 Act.

12 **SEC. 7. *Reportorial Requirement.*** For purposes of determining the effectiveness
13 and social impact of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, CSC, and NCIP shall
14 submit an annual report to Congress indicating therein the number of indigent examinees
15 who benefited from this Act.

16 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
17 or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
18 and effect.

19 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
20 proclamations, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with
21 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
23 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

24
25 *Approved,*

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 8869

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 82, 220, 453, 1810, 1914, 2488, 2892, 3832, 4067, 4491, 4504, and 5731)

(Approved by the Committee on November 19, 2025)

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES”

Introduced by Representatives RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III, LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, BRYAN B. REVILLA, CRISPIN DIEGO D. REMULLA, OMAR VINCENT SANGKOLA DURERTE, HOWARD A. GUINTU, FRANZ S. PUMAREN, ROY M. GONZALES, JESUS “JESS” R. MARQUEZ, LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE, GISELLE MARY L. MACEDA, JUAN CARLOS “ARJO” C. ATAYDE, CHEENO MIGUEL D. F, EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA, MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES, NOEL “BONG” N. RIVERA, JAVIER MIGUEL LOPEZ BENITEZ, CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM, CIRIACO B. GATO JR., MD, FPSO-HNS, JULIUS CESAR “JAY” V. VERGARA, ARLYN P. AYON, PATRICIA C. CALDERON, ROLANDO LEDESMA MACASAET, RICHELLE SINGSON, BINKY APRIL M. TUPAS, BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO, MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR., CARLOS ANDES LORIA, ALLAN U. TY, ADRIAN E. SALCEDA, FELIMON M. ESPARES, FRANZ VINCENT F. LEGASPI, MARIA RACHEL J. ARENAS, MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, MNSA, MUNIR N. ARBISON JR., REYNALDO P. SALVACION, NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA, RODOLFO “OMPONG” M. ORDANES, DORIS E. MANQUIZ, FERDINAND “B1” L. BELTRAN, ALFRED D. MARAÑON III, MARLESA “DOC MARLY” HOFER-HASIM, DENNIS “TOM” L. HERNANDEZ, SITTIE AMINAH Q. DIMAPORO, JENNIFER A. LAGBAS, LOLITA T. JAVIER, FRANCISCO “LALO” T. MATUGAS, JUDE A. ACIDRE, FLORABEL C. YATCO, JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN, SUN JUDAL SHIMURA, CARL NICOLAS C. CARI, MAXIMO Y. DALOG JR., WILTON “TONTON” T. KHO, CHING B. BERNOS, MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO, ANNA YORK P. BONDOC MD, MUNIR M. ARBISON, ELEANOR C. BULUT- BEGTANG, ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG, JESUS MANUEL “BONG” C. SUNTAY, DIBU S. TUAN, RAMIL LAUREL HERNANDEZ, ROY M. LOYOLA, ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON, MANUEL “MANMAN” O. KO, MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO, ADRIAN JAY C. ADVINCULA, ELISA “OLGA” T. KHO, TSUYOSHI ANTHONY “HORI” G. HORIBATA, REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN, MA. ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA, STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN, JC M. ABALOS, JB BERNOS, GIRLIE E. VELOSO, JANICE DEGAMO, EDGAR R. ERICE, SONNY “SL” L. LAGON, AND JOHN TRACY F. CAGAS

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Committee Chairperson: HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE

OBJECTIVE:

- To remove financial barriers preventing indigent individuals and members of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Cultural Communities from taking professional or civil service examinations.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Provides free professional examination to qualified indigents and members of the indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities;
- Mandates the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to conduct an annual information, education, and communication campaign to inform the people of the procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act; and
- Mandates DSWD, PRC, CSC, and NCIP to submit an annual report to Congress indicating therein the number of indigent examinees who benefited from this Act.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 10931 or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”
- Educational Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation program of DSWD