



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8869

BY REPRESENTATIVES REVILLA (R.J.), MERCADO-REVILLA, REVILLA (B.), REMULLA, DUTERTE (O.V.), GUINTU, PUMAREN, GONZALES (R.), MARQUEZ, ROQUE, MACEDA, ATAYDE, ALMARIO (C.M.), VILLANUEVA, DY (F.), MARCOS, ANGELES, RIVERA, BENITEZ (J.M.), BAUTISTA-LIM, GATO, VERGARA, AYON, CALDERON, MACASAET, SINGSON (R.), TUPAS, VARGAS-ALFONSO, RODRIGUEZ (M.), LORIA, TY, SALCEDA, ESPARES, LEGAZPI, ARENAS, ALVAREZ (M.), ARBISON (M. JR.), SALVACION, DAZA, ORDANES, MANQUIZ, BELTRAN, MARAÑON, HOFER-HASIM, HERNANDEZ (D.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), LAGBAS, JAVIER, MATUGAS, ACIDRE, YATCO, KHONGHUN, SHIMURA, CARL, DALOG, KHO (W.), BERNOS (C.), VIOLAGO, BONDOC, ARBISON (M.), BULUT-BEGTANG, LUMAYAG, SUNTAY, TUAN, HERNANDEZ (R.), LOYOLA, VELOSO-TUAZON, KO, LAGDAMEO (M.Y.M.), ADVINCULA, KHO (E.), HORIBATA, TAN (R.M.), SAGARBARRIA, TAN (S.J.), ABALOS, BERNOS (J.), VELOSO, DEGAMO, ERICE, LAGON (S.), CAGAS, ORETA, PUNO, YAP (A.), SANTOS (M.A.S.), OLIVAREZ AND DAYANGHIRANG

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Professional
2 Examinations Act.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 No other fees shall be charged against the qualified indigents or members of
27 indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural communities for purposes of taking the
28 professional examinations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,