

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9764



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

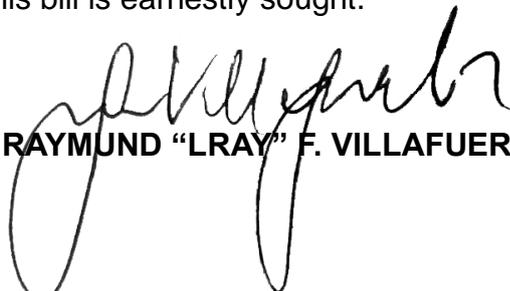
AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY (PCGA),
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9993,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD LAW OF 2009, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This bill seeks to institutionalize the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA). The PCGA is a service-oriented, uniformed, voluntary organization. It is a non-government, non-political organization whose membership adhere to the Philippine Coast Guard's (PCG) customs and traditions.

Its primary functions include providing support and assistance to PCG in the promotion of safety of life and property at sea, the preservation of the marine environment and its resources, the conduct of maritime search and rescue, the maintenance of aids to navigation, recreational safety and such other activities that enhance maritime community relations which include civic action, participation under the National Service Training Program, youth development, and other related activities.

"The PCGA has been our force multiplier. I have been saying that the PCGA is our secret weapon and we have proven that many times, especially in this time of pandemic," Admiral George V. Ursabia said in an oath-taking ceremony of new PCGA members in Western Visayas in January. PCGA has proven important for supporting the timely delivery of essential goods and services during national emergencies, such as the declaration of nationwide community quarantine and strong typhoons that affected thousands of Filipino families last year.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

ARTICLE I
PCGA ESTABLISHMENT AND ATTRIBUTES

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ACT (PCGA)"

SEC. 2. *Establishment.* – The Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, hereinafter referred to as the PCGA, is hereby established as a force multiplier and uniformed service attached to the Philippine Coast Guard, hereinafter referred to as the PCG, under the Department of Transportation (DOTr): Provided, that in times of war, as declared by Congress, the PCGA under PCG or parts thereof, shall be attached to the Department of National Defense.

SEC. 3. *The Security, Maritime, Environmental and Socioeconomic Development of the State.* – The PCGA shall be provided maximum opportunity to participate in safeguarding the coastline security of the State and in assisting in maritime, environmental and socio-economic development.

SEC. 4. *Readiness.* – PCGA shall be so organized, trained, developed and maintained as to ensure their readiness to immediately respond to the call to service.

ARTICLE II
MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

SEC. 5. *Mission.* – The PCGA shall be ready to be immediately respond to the call to service and to assist the PCG in the promotion of safety of life and property at sea, in

the preservation of the maritime environment and its resources, the conduct of maritime search and rescue, engage in maritime safety activities, such as, monitoring of aids to navigation equipment and such other activities that enhance maritime community relations which include civic action, participation under the NSTP, youth development, recreational safety and other related activities.

SEC. 6. *Organization of Auxiliary Components.* – The PCGA is organized into four (4) unit levels, namely: National Auxiliary Main Office (NAMO), Auxiliary District, Auxiliary Squadron and Auxiliary Division. Supporting their activities are the Auxiliary Support Groups directly under the National Director and the two Deputies. The Auxiliary Support Groups may give recommendations to the ND on program formulation and likewise participate in District, Squadron and Division activities based on their special concerns.

Auxiliary leaders responsible for unit administration and supervision are elected at each level except those of the Auxiliary Support Group who shall be recommended for the designation by the National Auxiliary Board chaired by the Deputy National Director for Operations and subject to the approval of the Commandant.

The Auxiliary leaders in turn appoint appropriate staff officers to carry out the various Auxiliary missions and programs approved by the National Auxiliary Main Office (NAMO) under the supervision of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

SEC. 7. *Auxiliary Members.* – The auxiliary members, alternately referred to as auxiliarists, who compose the Auxiliary Force are those incorporated into the Auxiliary Force in accordance with the organization, structure, manning and equipment of the Philippine Coast Guard.

SEC. 8. *National Headquarters.* – The PCGA shall have a national headquarters with appropriation for the implementation of the auxiliary's mission and organization.

ARTICLE III MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 9. *Manpower Development* –

(a) *Membership and Advancement.* The National Auxiliary Main Office (NAMO) shall prescribe the circumstances and qualifications under which members of the Auxiliary are recruited and advanced, in accordance with existing guidelines of PCG as approved by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation

(b) *Training and Assignment.* The Commandant, in accordance with existing guidelines from the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, will prescribe the type of training and qualifications required before a member of the Auxiliary shall be deemed qualified to perform certain duties and also will prescribe the circumstances and manner in which certain members of the Auxiliary shall be authorized to perform regular and emergency duties.

SEC. 10. *Auxiliary Training* –

(a) *Basic Auxiliary Training.* – applicants finally selected for auxiliary training pursuant

to Section 8 hereof shall undergo training based on the auxiliarist's entry level, leadership and management and core competency. The PCG shall prescribe the course of instruction. The course of instruction shall include, among others, subjects on PCG and PCGA Roles and functions, moral virtues, patriotism, discipline, support for and adherence to the Constitution, and respect for the rights of civilians.

(b) *Training Center.* – There shall be established in every auxiliary district at least one (1) training center for the conduct of PCGA training. These training centers shall form part of the PCG organization and shall be referred to as PCGA Training Centers to be managed by the District Auxiliary Directors under the supervision of the PCG District.

(c) *Incorporation into Training.* — Upon reporting to their assigned training centers, the selected registrants shall be physically examined and if found fit for the service shall be inducted into service. Where a change of training center is necessary to provide the requisite training, the commanding officer of the training center shall be authorized to issue the necessary orders covering his transportation and provide the funds for the purpose: *Provided*, That no registrant shall be transferred to a training center outside his province or designated training center.

SEC. 11. Auxiliary Training – Elected officials and presidential appointees may be enlisted in the Auxiliary Force subject to the existing PCGA rules and regulations, under the supervision of PCG. Honorary Auxiliary Members (Honorary Auxiliary Commodore) may also be provided.

ARTICLE IV MAINTENANCE, TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AUXILIARY FORCE

SEC. 12. Organization for Maintenance and Administration of the Auxiliarists. – The PCG and PCGA, shall be responsible for the administration, training, equipage and maintenance of their respective Auxiliarist components subject to the regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Department of Transportation.

SEC. 13. Accounting of Auxiliarists – All auxiliarists, shall be accounted for, their records and status updated and present whereabouts ascertained in order to ensure their readiness to the call to duty. As far as practicable, the services of the national and local auxiliarists will be tapped to assist in the accounting of auxiliarists.

SEC. 14. Training of Individual Auxiliarists and Auxiliary Units. – Maximum opportunity shall be afforded the auxiliarists to update their skills through compulsory or voluntary training. Such training shall have for its principal purpose the enhancement of the readiness of the individual auxiliarists and auxiliarists units to respond to the call to service.

SEC. 15. Auxiliarist Officers' Non-resident Instruction. – PCG shall conduct on a continuing basis non-resident instruction for the purpose of maintaining and updating the proficiency of its auxiliarist officers, particularly key officers of the Auxiliary units. Such instruction shall prepare these auxiliary officers to assume duties up to commodore command and staff or equivalent. The Auxiliarist Officers undertaking such course shall be given priority for call to annual duty training or service with their units or with other PCG units. Successful completion of the non-resident course will be equivalent to having undertaken one (1) annual active duty training tour.

SEC. 16. Active Duty Tour for Training of Auxiliary Officers. – In order to improve their professional competence and leadership qualities auxiliary officers in the inactive status shall be called to active duty for a period not exceeding two (2) years without extension: Provided, That the quota for such active duty tour shall as far as practicable be proportionately distributed to the provinces and cities based on their auxiliary officer population and size of the auxiliary units. An auxiliary officer who has served his tour shall not be called again to active duty until after five (5) years, except in case of mobilization.

ARTICLE V UTILIZATION OF THE AUXILIARY FORCE

SEC. 17. Mobilization. – The utilization of the Auxiliary in times of emergency to meet threats to national security shall be through mobilization as maybe determined by the Department of National Defense in accordance with existing laws.

SEC. 18. Auxiliary Service. – For the purpose of helping maintain local peace and order, meeting local insurgency threat, assisting in rescue and relief operations during disasters and calamities, health welfare activities and participating in local socioeconomic development projects, the President may call upon the auxiliarists in the affected or concerned localities to volunteer their services. The Secretary of National Defense shall prescribe the rules and regulations to implement this section in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

SEC. 19. Status of Auxiliarists on Auxiliary Service. – An auxiliary performing auxiliary service shall not receive pay but shall be entitled to receive allowances, medical, health and burial benefits and military honors, as provided by law. With his consent, an auxiliarist on auxiliary service, may continue to render such service without receiving the allowances due him.

ARTICLE VI APPROPRIATION

SEC. 20. Appropriation. – All appropriations previously earmarked for the administration, development and training of the PCGA through the PCG and hereafter appropriated for the purpose shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Act.

To sustain the establishment of a PCGA National Headquarters and PCGA District Training Centers, the efficient and effective administration, organization, training, maintenance and utilization of the PCGA units and to keep them appropriately and adequately equipped and in a state of readiness, as well as to provide for the adequate training of auxiliarists, adequate funds for this purpose, as may be requested or recommended by the PCGA under the supervision of PCG through the Department of Transportation, shall be appropriated and made available on a continuing basis.

The President shall utilize a portion of the Military Assistance Fund available from any

source to augment the appropriation for the Auxiliary Force.

ARTICLE VII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 21. *Continuation and Retention of the existing PCGA Rank and Command.*

– Existing PCGA four (4) unit levels, namely: National Auxiliary Main Office (NAMO), Auxiliary District, Auxiliary Squadron and Auxiliary Division, directly under the National Director, the two Deputies and its support officers, in accordance with the PCGA Manual shall continue to operate, in rank and command, until the adoption of the Internal Rules and Regulation by the PCGA under the supervision of PCG, subject to guidelines set by Secretary of the Department of transportation.

ARTICLE VIII RESCISSION AND EFFECTIVITY

SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations other issuances which are inconsistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended.

SEC. 23. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,