For the Philippine National Police (PNP) to fulfill its duties and responsibilities to our nation, it must be fully capacitiated with qualified personnel. At present, Section 33 of Republic Act 6975 limits lateral entry for line officers from the Police Non-Commissioned Officer (PNCO) to graduates of BS Criminology.

However recently, the PNP has experienced a scarcity in qualified personnel to fill in vacancies due to fewer yearly graduates from the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and fewer promotions of Police Executive Master Sergeant to Police Lieutenant. To alleviate this situation, this bill seeks to expand eligibility to PNCOs with Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) licenses or with second level Civil Service eligibility or its equivalent eligibility in other different courses.

This bill would provide a wider pool of applicants, and therefore, help improve the human resource capacity and quality of the PNP.

Lucy Torres-Gomez
"AN ACT AMENDING SEC 33 OF REPUBLIC ACT 6975, OR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" TO INCLUDE OTHER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES TO THE LATERAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR LINE OFFICERS"

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Amended Provision of the Lateral Entry Program for Line Officers (Sec 33 of RA 6975) to the Rank of Police Lieutenant.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to establish a highly efficient, effective and competent police force, which is national in scope, civilian in character, and administered and controlled by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

SEC. 3. Objective. The lateral entry for line officers from the Police Non-Commissioned Officer (PNCO) is limited to those who are criminologists by eligibility, to fill up vacancies for the rank of Police Lieutenant under the provision of Sec 33 of RA 6975. This hinders the appointment of other PNCOs who are not graduates of BS Criminology to Police Commissioned Officers for line units. The expansion of eligibility is seen to fill vacancies resulting from fewer yearly graduates of Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and the promotion of Police Executive Master Sergeant to Police Lieutenant. This Act, therefore, seeks to expand eligibility to PNCOs with Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) license or with second level Civil Service eligibility or its equivalent eligibility in other different courses.
SEC. 4. Section 33 of Republic Act No. 6975 is amended to read as follows:

“Section 33. Lateral Entry of Officers into the PNP. In general, all original appointments of commissioned officers in the PNP shall commence with the rank of Police Lieutenant, to include all those with highly technical qualifications applying for the PNP technical services, such as dentist, optometrists, nurses, engineers, and graduates of forensic sciences. Doctors of medicine, regular members of the Bar, and chaplains shall be appointed to the rank of Police Captain in their particular technical service. Graduates of the PNPA shall be automatically appointed to the initial rank of Police Lieutenant. Licensed criminologists and other professionals who have licenses issued by the Professional Regulation Commission or who are Civil Service Professionals or its equivalent eligibility, maybe appointed to the rank of Police Lieutenant to fill up any vacancy after promotions from the ranks are completed.”

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. All other provisions of Republic Act 6975, as amended by Republic Act 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998,” and all other laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon approval.