

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4880**



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Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY, DEFINING ITS POWERS**  
**AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Congressional Secretariat is vital to the lawmaking process. They ensure that the legislative process proceeds with utmost speed and efficiency, by providing the necessary technical support that keeps the Congress running—from archival services, to committee support, the scheduling of plenary affairs, to the indexing of legislative documents.

Considering their significant role in an efficient legislative process, there is a need to strengthen and professionalize the legislative secretariat to ensure that lawmakers have competent and efficient individuals to assist them with their legislative needs. This measure proposes the establishment of the Philippine Legislative Academy which shall provide continued education to these employees and strengthen and sharpen their skills through a specialized curriculum, plus seminars, workshops, and training programs that will all enhance their understanding of and expertise in the legislative process.

Through the Academy, Congress will have in its service a pool of professionals that will provide invaluable assistance in the lawmaking process.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to ensure an efficient and credible Career Service of the Legislature (CSL). Toward this end, it is imperative to provide members of the CSL with continuing appropriate education and training.

The CSL shall include the offices and employees of Congress composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Commission on Appointments, and the Senate and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunals. It shall also include the career officers and employees of the Philippine Legislative Academy established under this Act.

**SEC. 2. Objectives.** – It is the purpose of this Act to professionalize, upgrade and strengthen the workforce of Congress in order:

- a) To enable its officers and employees to efficiently and effectively provide the necessary legislative and administrative support services to Congress and its Members;
- b) To create a pool of competent and development-oriented career legislative service officers and employees; and
- c) To provide a system of training and continuing education for personnel to ensure that only competent and qualified persons are recruited into the career legislative service.

**SEC. 3. Philippine Legislative Academy.** – To carry out the policy and objectives enunciated in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, there is hereby established a Philippine Legislative Academy, herein referred to as the Academy. The Academy shall be a unit of both Houses of Congress and shall operate under its administration, supervision, and control. It shall be located at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

**SEC. 4. Functions.** – The Academy shall serve as a training school for legislative officers and employees for positions in the CSL. For this purpose, it shall provide and implement a curriculum for legislative education as well as conduct seminars, workshops, and other training programs to

upgrade legislative support services, capabilities, and efficiency, and shall perform such other functions as may be necessary for carrying out its mandate.

**SEC. 5. Governing Board.** – The Academy shall have, as its governing body, a Board of Trustees composed of the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, as ex officio members; and an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate chosen by the Senate President, and an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives chosen by the Speaker, both of whom shall have served in such positions for at least five (5) years, as designated members. The ex officio members of the Board of Trustees shall serve as such for the duration of their incumbency in their respective offices.

All members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to a reasonable honoraria/allowance for the performance of their duties.

**SEC. 6. Executive Board.** – The Executive Board of the Academy shall be designated by the Board of Trustees and shall be composed of a Chancellor, two (2) Vice Chancellors, and an Executive Secretary. The Executive Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years without prejudice to subsequent reappointments.

In case of a vacancy in any Executive Board position, the Board of Trustees shall designate a replacement who shall serve in such position for the remainder of the unfinished term.

The Chancellor shall have the requisite qualifications for meritorious service as an incumbent Deputy Secretary of the Senate or an incumbent Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

A Vice-Chancellor shall be chosen from each House. A Vice-Chancellor shall have as requisite qualifications meritorious service as an incumbent Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director of the Senate or the House of Representatives, who shall have served as such for at least three (3) years and belongs to the ranks of the Career Executive Service.

If no such person meets the abovementioned requirements for any position, the Board of Trustees shall designate a such official with the closest qualifications.

The Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reasonable honoraria/allowance for the performance of their designated duties as determined by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

The members of the Executive Board shall not engage in the private practice of any profession.

**SEC. 7. Academy Staff.** – The Academy shall be staffed by a corps of professional lecturers. A lecturer shall be nominated by any of the members of the Executive Board of the Academy; and, such nomination shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Lecturers whose nominations are approved by the Board of Trustees shall be included in the list of lectures and shall be entitled to reasonable honoraria/allowance as deemed fit by the Board of Trustees or as provided by law.

**SEC. 8. Academic Courses.** – The academic courses and the publication of a legislative service journal and such other documents shall be determined by the Executive Board and shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

**SEC. 9. Criteria for Selection and Admission to the Academy.** – The criteria for the selection and admission to the Academy shall be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

**SEC. 10. Appointment and Promotion.** – Legislative officers and employees who have completed the programs prescribed by the Academy and have satisfactorily complied with all the requirements incident thereto shall be given priority for an appointment, selection, or promotion to any position or vacancy in the CSL.

**SEC. 11. Consortium Agreements.** – The Academy may enter into a consortium and similar or related agreements with educational and training institutions for the development and implementation of programs for capacity building, career development, and legislative orientation.

**SEC. 12. Tax Exemptions.** – The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- a) All revenues and assets of the Academy used, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- b) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to the Academy shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, by the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended;
- c) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, and cultural books, supplies, equipment, machinery, and other materials, including scientific and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from custom duties and taxes; and
- d) Educational services rendered by the Academy shall be exempt from value-added tax.

**SEC. 13. Legislative Academy Fund.** – All legacies, gifts, and donations to the Academy established under this law shall constitute a special fund to be known as the Legislative Academy exclusively for this Act.

**SEC. 14. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act, including the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Academy shall be charged against the General Appropriations Act of 2018 and every year thereafter under the programs of the Congress of the Philippines.

**SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision under this Act be deemed invalid, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** – All laws and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 17. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**SEC. 18. Separability Clause.** – Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 19. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect to after fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper or general circulation.

*Approved,*