

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3186**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to introduce amendment to Republic Act No. 7836, a.k.a. "An Act to Strengthen the Regulation and Supervision of the Practice of Teaching in the Philippines and Prescribing a Licensure Examination for Teachers and For Other Purposes" by deleting the whole of Section 24 on Registration by Reciprocity.

The rationale thought of by this proposed amendment is to the effect that, the intent and spirit of subject RA 7836 is precisely to strengthen the following aspects of teaching in the Philippines, namely: 1) regulation and 2) supervision.

The principle of reciprocity as read in the present law might mean that the Philippine government may have to accord professional teachers from foreign countries some latitude or leeway especially on the matter of laying down the penalties stipulated under Section 28 on Penal Provisions, if and when, there will be infractions or violations in the practice of teaching by foreign nationals than by its own citizens.

In the present Constitution, it is said that 'the control and administration of educational institutions shall be vested in citizens of the Philippines.'

While this proposed bill does not imagine possible intrusion by foreign professional teachers in the administration of educational institutions, nonetheless, other rights or privileges provided under RA 7836 may imply that these be extended to teachers from other foreign countries as well. Their own foreign governments might likewise extend the same rights or privileges to Filipino teachers abroad beyond the requirement of mere registration by reciprocity. If this is so, it puts the role of the Professional Regulation Commission through the appropriate Professional Regulatory Board for Professional Teachers in a bind.

What is given more policy focus here is the inherent difficulty of bringing in the whole weight of Article IV of the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994 and other such related provisions under said law to bear upon foreign professional teachers on the matter of the penalties and/or grounds for revocation of license that would have to apply equally to them in cases of violations. For one, our own Code of Ethics for Professional Teachers lays down other duties and responsibilities that only a Filipino teacher may have the full commitment to actualize.

This author is of the belief that subject Section 24 is tantamount to under pressure applied to the smooth and effective implementation of the provisions set forth under RA 7836 and such strain should thus be relaxed by this proposed measure.

The proposed amendment therefore seeks the strong endorsement of our colleagues in the House of Representatives with the end in view of truly strengthening our regulation and supervision of the practice of teaching in this country, hence this endorsement.



**WINNIE CASTELO**

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**AN ACT**

**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7836, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE TEACHERS PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 1994' BY REMOVAL OF SECTION 24 ON REGISTRATION BY RECIPROCITY AMOUNTING TO ITS ENTIRE REPEAL OR MODIFICATION**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Filipino Teachers Professional Act of 2016."

SEC. 2. It is the declared policy of the State to promote the concept that the control and administration of educational institutions shall be vested in citizens of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. Under this Act, only Filipino professional teachers shall have full enjoyment of the rights and privileges of Republic Act No. 7836 and the existing penal provisions in cases of violations or related infractions thereof apply to them exclusively.

SEC. 4. Upon effectivity of this Act, pertinent Section 24 of RA 7836 stated hereunder is hereby removed:

"Sec. 24. Registration by Reciprocity. – No teacher of a foreign nationality shall be admitted to the examination, or be given a certificate of registration or be entitled to any of the rights and privileges provided for under this Act, unless the country or state of which is subject permits Filipino professional teachers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as subjects of citizens of said country or state; *Provided*, that the requirements of certification of teachers with said foreign state or country are substantially the same as those required and contemplated under this Act; *Provided*, further, that the laws of such state or country grant the same privilege to Filipino professional teachers on the same basis as the subject or citizens of such foreign country or state."

Further, its pertinent repeal or modification is hereby made as if such section had not been enacted.

SEC. 5. The Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission as well as the Secretary of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days upon its effectivity.

SEC. 6. All laws, issuances, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three newspapers of general circulation thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Approved,