

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1256

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: 07 JUL 2016

TIME: 11:10 am

BY: AS

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BLAZON**

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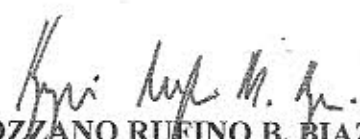
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987) and other laws provide for the general qualifications and limitations of the members of the Cabinet. The purpose of such requirements is to ensure that the appointees possess the necessary skills, expertise and integrity essential to the position.

General qualifications required of all department secretaries, in addition to those prescribed in their respective charters, are prescribed in the Administrative Code of 1987. However, in the case of the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, there is a compelling need to emphasize further the supremacy of civilian authority over the military.

By prohibiting a former military officer from being appointed as Secretary of National Defense (SND) within three (3) years after relief from active duty as a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the position of SND will be shielded from controversies arising from appointments, assignments, and other activities within the AFP. By having no prior personal and professional relationships with the officers, the SND would be more objective and impartial in policy formulation and determination. On the part of former military officers, the prohibition shall also afford them sufficient time to adapt to civilian life.

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

  
**ROZZANO RUFINO B. BLAZON**  
*Representative,*  
1st District, Muntinlupa City

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1256**

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BLAZON**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987 BY PROHIBITING A PERSON FROM BEING APPOINTED AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE (3) YEARS AFTER RELIEF, SEPARATION OR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)**

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

Section 1. Section 45 of Chapter 10, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 45. Qualifications of Secretaries. – The Secretaries shall be citizens of the Philippines and not less than twenty-five years of age.

**IN THE CASE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, NO PERSON MAY BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY THEREOF WITHIN THE NEXT THREE (3) YEARS AFTER RELIEF, SEPARATION OR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP).”**

Sec. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and memoranda inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 3. *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. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval:

Approved,