

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4161

Introduced by
HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

and
HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Since the inception of the Coast Guard service, its main source of its personnel particularly its Officers, has been the Philippine Military Academy, the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and the Coast Guard Officers' Course, administered by the Coast Guard Officer School, in the Coast Guard Education and Training Command.

These institutions however, for various reasons do not fully inculcate the ethos of Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration to its graduates, hence more time and resources are being spent in order to equip its officers with the technical skills and know-how in order to fulfill their duties as Coast Guard Officers.

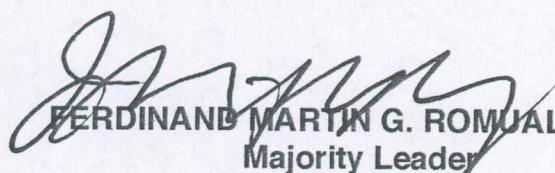
Given the various tasks given to the Philippine Coast Guard under Republic Act No. 9993 and with the peculiarities of its being the premier maritime law enforcement agency in the country, it is imperative that there must be a dedicated educational institution that would specifically cater to the needs of the Philippine Coast Guard and maritime law enforcement in general.

In order for the proposed Philippine Coast Guard Academy to be accessible to all qualified Filipinos from all over the Philippines, the Academy should be established in the ten (10) hectare land granted to the Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, located in Brgy. Cabalawan, Tacloban City, Leyte. The location is ideal considering its proximity to the National Maritime Polytechnic, and thus take advantage of its world-class facilities and its faculty of experts in the field of maritime education. Furthermore, it is likewise located near the newly built Eastern Visayas Medical Center. It will also generate more employment and livelihood opportunities for the residents of the Northern Barangays, many of

whom are victims of typhoon Yolanda, who availed of the relocation and housing programs of the National Government.

The creation of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy serves this purpose and will ensure that the Philippine Coast Guard shall have a well-trained and well-equipped pool of officers that are specifically honed to fulfill the Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration functions of the PCG.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Majority Leader



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Tingog Sinirangan Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

4161

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

and

HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ACADEMY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Academy Law of 2019.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to promote the welfare and modernization of the PCG geared towards the enhancement of the Service by ensuring adequate and professional Officers that will perform the multifarious tasks and functions of the PCG.

The State needs to create the appropriate institutional arrangement in order to establish an effective and well - trained PCG Officers Corps, comparable with that of the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy, sufficient to carry out the mandated tasks of the PCG under Republic Act No. 9993 (PCG Law of 2009) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as well as, to competently carry out missions as may

be given by the Department of Transportation or Department of National Defense during national emergencies or in times of war, respectively.

Section 3. *The PCG Academy* - There shall be established a PCG training school in the city of Tacloban to be named as the PCG Academy for the training of selected candidates for permanent commission as officers in the PCG Corps of Officers.

The PCG Academy shall be autonomous from the Coast Guard Education and Training Command; however, both shall work hand in hand in developing the doctrinal programs and values applicable to both taking into consideration the customs and traditions of the PCG.

Section 4. *The Superintendent* - The PCG Academy shall be headed by the Superintendent. He or she shall be appointed by the Commandant, PCG from among the active PCG Officer. The powers and duties of the Superintendent, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the president of a college or a university.

The position of the Superintendent shall carry the rank of Vice Admiral in the PCG Table of Organization. Provided that, the Superintendent shall have a maximum tenure in position of three (3) years.

Section 5. *The PCG Academy Board* - The government of the Academy is hereby vested in the PCG Academy Board which shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) The Deputy Commandant for Administration which shall be the Chairman of the Board;
- (b) the Superintendent, which shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Board;
- (c) the Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Education and Training Command;

- (d) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services Command;
- (e) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection Command;
- (f) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Security Command;
- (g) Dean of the PCG Corps of Professors; and
- (h) Dean of Civilian Faculty.

Members of the PCG Academy Board shall, in addition to their pay, allowances, and collateral entitlement under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, receive a reasonable per diem for each attendance in the regular and special meetings of the Board and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred for the aforementioned purposes as may be authorized by a resolution of the Board in accordance with existing accounting rules and regulations.

Section 6. Duties and Powers of the PCG Academy Board - The PCG Academy Board shall have the following duties and powers in addition to its general powers of administration:

- (a) To confer such degree as may be determined by the Academic Council to successful candidates for graduation;
- (b) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, civilian instructors, professors and other employees of the Academy. To fix their compensation, hours of service, and other duties as may be deemed proper under the Civil Service laws. To grant to them leaves of absence under existing laws and regulations and to remove them from office for cause after an investigation and hearing by the appropriate Discipline Board;

- (c) To approve the curricula, rules of discipline, and creation of the different departments drawn up by the Academic Council as herein under provided;
- (d) To provide academic fellowship and scholarship for members of the Corps of Professors and Faculty Members;
- (e) To provide rules for the administration of the Academy such general ordinances and regulations consistent with the herein provisions;
- (f) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the Academy or for the aid of the cadets, in accordance with the directions and instructions of the donor, and, in default thereof, in such manner as the Academy Board may, in its discretion, determine;
- (g) To receive and appropriate such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the Academy;
- (h) To manage and utilize such income as maybe generated by the Academy for the maintenance, support, and improvement of the same; and
- (i) To authorize the Superintendent to enter into Contract, Memorandum of Understanding / Agreement, and such other instrument, to the extent as may be allowed by law, relative to the performance of his / her powers and functions and for the effective implementation of the herein provisions.

Section 7. Progress Report - Within thirty (30) days after the close of the Academic Year, the PCG Academy Board shall file with the Commandant, PCG a detailed report setting forth the progress, condition, and needs of the Academy.

Section 8. *The Academic Council* - There shall be an Academic Council consisting of the Superintendent and the Directors of all the departments of the Academy. The Academic Council shall have the power: to determine the applicable tuition fees and academic charges; prescribe the curricula; rules of discipline; and creation of various departments as it may be necessary, subject to the approval of the PCG Academy Board.

It shall fix the requirements for admission to the Academy as well as for graduation and the conferment of a degree. The Academic Council alone shall have the power to recommend students or others to be recipients of degrees.

Section 9. *Corps of Professors* - There shall be a Corps of Professor which shall form part of the Faculty of the Academy. It shall be composed of PCG Uniformed Personnel who are permanently assigned with the Academy. The qualifications for admission to the Corps of Professor shall be determined by the PCG Academy Council. The same shall be headed by a Dean who shall be selected by the PCG Academic Council from among the members of the Corps of Professors.

A separate career pattern shall be promulgated by the PCG Organization for the professional advancement and promotion of the members of the Corps of Professor within three (3) months from the effective of this Law.

Section 10. *The Faculty* – The body of Civilian Professors and Instructors of the Academy shall constitute the Faculty of the Academy. It shall be headed by a Dean who shall be appointed by the Superintendent upon recommendation by the members of the Faculty. In the appointment of Professors and Instructors of the Academy, neither religious test shall be applied nor shall the religious opinions or affiliations of the faculty of the Academy be made a matter of examination or inquiry. Provided, however, that no Professor or Instructor in the Academy shall inculcate sectarian tenets in any of their teachings or attempt either directly or indirectly, under penalty of

dismissal by the PCG Academy Board, to influence students of the Academy for or against any particular church or religious sect.

Section 11. *Relevant Civil Service and Licensure Examinations* -

The Civilian Professors and Instructors in the Academy must have passed the relevant civil service or licensure examinations as a requisite to their appointment.

The PCG Academic Council may require from both the members of the Corps of Professors and Faculty additional educational training, schooling, and Masters and Doctorate degrees to raise the academic standards of the Academy. The same will be adopted in the career pattern of the members of the Corps of Professors. Similarly, it may also be used as basis for the promotion and career advancement of the members of the Faculty.

Section 12. *The Registrar* - There shall be a Registrar of the Academy appointed by the PCG Academy Board. He or she shall sit as the Secretariat of the PCG Academy Board and shall be the custodian of all the records of the same. He or she shall also fulfill such other duties and responsibilities as the Superintendent may direct.

Section 13. *PCG Cadets* - PCG Cadets shall be admitted to the PCG Academy upon the approval of the Commandant, PCG. Provided that they meet the qualifications and entry requirements prescribed herein.

Their years of Government Service shall start on the date of their admission in the PCG Academy for purposes of computation of PCG Active Service and entitlement to long pay benefits.

Section 14. *Exchange Program* – The Academy may admit students from the counterparts of the PCG from foreign Coast Guard / Naval / Maritime Police Organizations, especially those from members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Cadets / Cadettes. This is to foster

regional cooperation and facilitate the coordination among the aforementioned Organizations. Similarly, the Academy may send Cadets to the appropriate Academy of the aforementioned Organizations.

Students from the foreign Coast Guard / Naval / Maritime Police Organizations, which provide scholarship and sponsorship from their own academy to Cadets sent by the Academy, shall also receive corresponding privileges from the Academy. Otherwise, they shall be required to pay such fees and charges as may be determined by the Academic Council. Upon graduation, they shall then return to their respective Organizations.

Section 15. *The PCG Academy Cadet Corps* - The PCG Academy Cadet Corps shall be the Student Body of the PCG Academy. It shall be composed of PCG Cadets, and Foreign Cadets. Provided that, the Foreign Cadets shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total student population of the Academy.

Section 16. *Qualifications and Entry Requirements* – All Cadets shall be selected from among the candidates by the Academic Council. The minimum qualifications for admission to the PCG Academy are as follows:

- (a) Must be natural born Filipino citizen (applicable only to candidates for PCG Cadets);
- (b) Single with no parental obligations;
- (c) Must be in good physical condition;
- (d) Must neither be less than seventeen (17) nor more than twenty - two (22) years of age on the first of day of the Academic Year; and
- (e) At least Secondary Level Graduate (Senior High School or its Equivalent).

The Academic Council may determine such other requirements for admission to the PCG Academy, as may be necessary, that are applicable either separately for the PCG Cadets, Foreign Cadets only or common to all of them.

Section 17. Discipline and Justice System - Within three (3) months from effectivity of this Law, the PCG Academy Board will prepare the discipline and justice system applicable to all Cadets of the Academy for approval of the Commandant, PCG.

Section 18. Commissionship to the Active PCG Service. - Upon satisfactory completion of the course of instruction at the PCG Academy, PCG Cadets shall be commissioned as Ensigns in the active PCG Service with relative seniority in order of their final general academic standings.

PCG Cadets who shall suffer, before graduation, permanent and total disability by reason of injury or sickness while in the Academy shall be retired with the rank of Cadet and shall be entitled to the retirement benefits of an Ensign in the PCG.

Section 19. Conferment of the Degree. - Graduates of the PCG Academy shall be conferred upon graduation of a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree. The PCG Academic Council shall develop such curricula that will cater to the primary functions of the PCG under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR and responsive to the needs of the maritime stakeholders and the maritime interest of the Country for approval of the PCG Academy Board. The said curricula will then be endorsed to the Commission on Higher Education for accreditation and approval.

Section 20. Masters and Doctorate Degrees. – The PCG Academy may also offer Masters and Doctorate Degrees for qualified PCG Personnel who desire to obtain advance knowledge on relevant maritime concerns and enhance their professional capabilities.

The said Masters and Doctorate Degrees may be offered to other students outside of the PCG, both local and foreign, subject to corresponding fees that may be approved by the PCG Academy Board.

Section 21. Pay, Allowances, and Collateral Entitlements. –

Members of the PCG Corps of Professors and other PCG Uniformed Personnel assigned at the PCG Academy shall receive such pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements corresponding to their ranks as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR.

Members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel appointed as such in the PCG Academy shall receive the pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements enjoyed by their counterparts in the Philippine National Police Academy or Philippine Military Academy, whichever is higher, subject to applicable rules and regulations.

PCG Cadets shall receive pay and allowances as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its IRR reckoned from admission in the Academy.

Section 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within three (3) months from the effectiveness of this Law, the PCG shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the same for the approval of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

Similarly, the Table of Organization and Equipment, including the Plantilla Positions of members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel, of the Academy will be established by the PCG Academy Board for approval by the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

Section 23. Appropriations. – For carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act, the sum of one billion five hundred million pesos (Php 1,500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the purpose of the establishment of the PCG Academy. It shall be treated as a separate and distinct budget item from the regular appropriations for the PCG. It shall be implemented in a staggered basis, with five hundred million pesos (Php 500,000,000.00) will be released by the Department of Budget and Management annually for the two

(2) succeeding years. An additional eight hundred million pesos (Php 800,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the purpose of acquiring a modern training ship for the PCG Academy to supplement classroom instructions.

Thereafter the amount of sixty million pesos (Php 60,000,000.00) shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act for the maintenance and operation of the PCG Academy.

Section 24. *Separability Clause* - Should any of the provisions of this law be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the same shall remain valid and subsisting and of full force and effect.

Section 25. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 26. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or from any newspaper of general circulation.