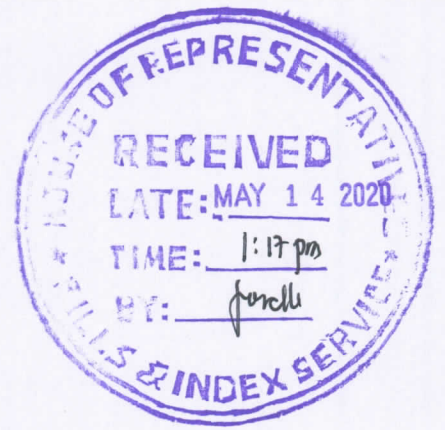


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6735



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Introduced by Representatives Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
and Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippine Marine Corps ("PMC") was created through the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") General Orders nr. 319 s. 1950 issued by then Secretary of Defense Ramon Magsaysay to respond to the security threat of the emerging *Hukbalahap* insurgency in the mountains and plains of Central Luzon up to the present ISIS-inspired revolution right in the heartland of Marawi, Mindanao.

Although the PMC has lived up to its mandate, its lack of Charter has caused institutional challenges, including but not limited to fiscal and organizational restrictions. Despite these, the PMC has provided seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains.

The men and women of the PMC have served and responded to the call of duty gallantly. During the 1960s, the PMC spearheaded the conduct of strategic maneuvers against the *Hukbalahap*. In the 80s, they were the force that upheld the stability of the country during EDSA people power. In the 90s, the lawlessness of terrorist groups down South was curtailed by the PMC. In the 2000s, they were one of the main players in the fall of Camp Abu Bakr. On the same decade, they were the force combating terrorists in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. During the 2010s, a decade known for natural disasters, the vigorous men and women of the PMC are everywhere to alleviate the impact of disasters to the Filipino people.

Much blood has been spilled, lessons learned and experience gained in the service of the Filipino people with the loss of 1,437 men since 1950. In the 2017 Battle of Marawi alone, 36 brave souls gave their lives for the motherland. These men and women might be few but they remain proud, always faithful in their sworn honored duty to country for the last 67 years.

This bill seeks to establish the PMC as a branch of service, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy under the AFP. This aims to

institutionalize PMC as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, and a maneuver force in readiness of AFP that includes seaborne, land, combat, and support services, among others.

The archipelagic nature of the Philippines necessitates the imperative need for an expanded, rapidly deployable amphibious maneuver force primarily mandated to conduct seaborne, sustained on-shore, multinational cooperation and engagements for the protection of its 7,461 islands and islets, the communities and the people therein, as well as respond to the needs of a nation prone to natural disasters.

This measure is a refiled bill from House Bill No. 7304, authored by former Representative Rodolfo C. Fariñas in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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



RIA CHRISTINA G. FARIÑAS



RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, 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. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Marine Corps Act*”.

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – In accordance with Section 3, Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that provides “the Armed Forces of the Philippines (“AFP”) shall be composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law”, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and order.

**Sec. 3. Establishment.** - The Philippine Marine Corps (“PMC”), is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character; distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, aviation component, and such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.



**Sec. 4. Powers and Functions.** – The PMC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle space and beyond under the AFP;
- (b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in developing various phases of amphibious operations, which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures with the necessary equipment employed by landing forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
- (c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and supervise the PMC Reserve Force ("PMCRF") for the purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its functions;
- (d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems, policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for operations peculiar to the Marines;
- (e) To develop its capabilities for seaborne maneuvers; sustain maneuver ashore; and multinational cooperation and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-role in nature, a seaborne arms force with on-shore defense capability possessing combined arms with supporting air components ensuring its capability and effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the island of the Philippine Archipelago;
- (f) To establish bases and facilities for the realization of its operational potential;
- (g) To utilize Information Technology, and technological innovations to advance the pursuit of its mandate;
- (h) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of operational commands;
- (i) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
- (j) To deploy forces in support to the law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;
- (k) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in the attainment of the objectives of this Act; and
- (l) To determine its requirements which shall be addressed by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the Department of National Defense ("DND")

**Sec. 5. *Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities.*** – To carry out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters, shall be established – one (1) in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and one (1) in Mindanao. The PMC Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National Headquarters of the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations where it can sustain its deployed forces given both spectrums of war condition. A Marine Division may be established to effectively respond to the needs of the operational commands based on its distinct characteristics and operating concept, as may deem necessary.

**Sec. 6. *PMC Commandant.*** – The Commandant shall head the PMC, and shall carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant shall be directly appointed by the President from among its Marine Corps General, upon the recommendation of the AFP Chief-of-Staff and the Secretary of the DND.

**Sec. 7. *Creation of the Marine Reserve Component.*** – The PMC shall maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a reserve force under the direct control and supervision of the PMC Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the conduct of efforts on force development as a whole.

**Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Commandant of the PMC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act, as well as the provisions of acts, decrees, and orders, related to the implementation of the PMC functions, to be approved by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, with the conformity of the Secretary of DND, and recommendation by the Chief-of-Staff of the AFP.

**Sec. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The PMC Commandant shall immediately prepare the necessary guidelines to cover the establishment of the PMC as a service branch of the AFP, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PMC and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 10. *Transitory Provisions.*** – The incumbent two-star officer, Major General, shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the appointment by the President. Likewise, the existing organizational structure of the PMC shall be followed until new rules and regulations have been promulgated, and approved by the President.

Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing benefits and privileges of the PMC personnel under existing laws, rules and regulations.

**Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid; such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*