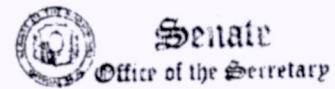


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session)



19 SEP -2 P2 :31

SENATE
S. No. 994

RECEIVED BY J

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNS' RIGHTS
AND WELFARE**

Interns are more than just students seeking hands-on training experience: they also contribute greatly to the productivity of the company or organization hosting them. It is then to the country's best interest that the interns have their rights protected and their service recognized through just compensation.

Internship programs are mutually beneficial for all the parties involved. For the Higher Education Institutions, the industry exposure of their students elevates their learning from one that is heavily theoretical to one that is translated into technical know-how. For industries, interns in their workplaces could provide unique insights for improvement; new talent that can invigorate their operations and overall performance; and fresh perspective for solving issues in their organizations. For the students, internships have numerous benefits. It provides an avenue to apply and test theoretical knowledge from the classroom to the real-world, prepare them for the realities of the workplace, and help them in developing essential skills.

It is then in the interest of everybody that our interns are developed to be competent workers who know their rights and responsibilities. In relation to this, the Interns' Rights and Welfare Bill is written with the end in view of protecting interns' rights and providing measures that will secure their welfare during the whole duration of their internships. The bill also seeks to protect the interns from exploitative practices while simultaneously ensuring that their safety is the foremost concern of the parties involved.

Moreover, this bill underlines the importance of a proper and relevant learning experience for our interns and acknowledges the economic contribution that the interns are injecting into our economy and the workforce.

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

Risa Hontiveros
RISA HONTIVEROS

Senator

SENATE
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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNS' RIGHTS
AND WELFARE**

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

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the '*Interns' Rights and Welfare Act
2 of 2019*'.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Principles.** - The State recognizes its vital responsibility to
5 enable the youth to fulfill its vital role and responsibility in nation building. It is the
6 government principle of this Act that the youth be accorded opportunities for growth
7 and employment.

8
9 Towards this end, the goals and objectives of this Act are to:

- 10
11 1. Maintain quality training and education through enhanced internship programs
12 with optimized capacity-building for all technical, vocational and professional
13 fields of study;
- 14 2. Consistently monitor the NGAs/implementing bodies, higher education
15 institutions (HEIs), host training establishments (HTEs) in guiding the interns and
16 assessing their performances during the internship, with strong grievance
17 mechanism to protect the integrity of each institution and promote transparency
18 among all;
- 19 3. Recognize the interns as part of the labor force, therefore in their chosen
20 workplaces they should receive fair treatment and just compensation;
- 21 4. Strengthen the rights of the interns to avoid any form of abuse or violation from
22 the implementing bodies; and
- 23 5. Ensure the safety and welfare of the interns throughout the internship.

24
25 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions
26 shall apply:

27

- 1 a. Internship refers to a period of work experience for a limited amount of time
2 taken up by students and graduates looking to gain relevant skills and
3 experience in a particular field. It is the practical application of classroom
4 learning to an actual regular work environment. It is also synonymous to
5 practicum, field practice, or On-The-Job Training. It is not synonymous to
6 apprenticeship and learnership.
- 7 b. Intern refers to a student or graduate undergoing an internship at a Host
8 Training Establishment (HTE) as partial fulfillment of their academic
9 requirements as prescribed by their respective Higher Education Institutions
10 (HEIs), Certified Training Institutions (CTIs), or as a requisite for board
11 examinations.
- 12 c. Internship Contract refers to a formal agreement concurred by all the parties
13 which shall be accompanied with the agreed upon Internship Plan.
- 14 d. Internship Plan refers to the outlined goals and objectives, knowledge, skills and
15 competencies that the student intern should acquire in each training area. This
16 will include a schedule of activities and assignments along with a clear set of
17 duties to be fulfilled by the intern, and this Internship Plan will be formulated and
18 approved by both the HEI, CTI, and HTE.
- 19 e. Higher Education Institution (HEI) refers pertain to public and private schools
20 and universities that require students to undergo internships as part of their
21 official curriculum.
- 22 f. Certified Training Institutions (CTI) refers to certificate issuing and TESDA
23 accredited training institutions that require students to undergo internships as
24 part of their official curriculum.
- 25 g. Local universities and colleges (LUCs) refer to CHED-accredited public HEIs
26 established by local government units (LGUs) through an enabling ordinance,
27 financially supported by the LGU concerned, and complaint with the policies,
28 standards and guidelines of the CHED;
- 29 h. State universities and colleges (SUCs) refers to public HEIs established by
30 national government and are governed by their respective independent boards of
31 trustees or regents; and
- 32 i. Host Training Establishment (HTE) refers to a duly authorized and registered
33 entity, institution, or establishment in the Philippines by the Security Exchange
34 Commission (SEC) or the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and with
35 established systems of training.

46 **SEC. 4. Rights of Interns.** - Interns shall enjoy, on an equal and non-discriminatory
47 basis, all rights guaranteed by the Constitution as well as those recognized under the

1 EO no. 139, s. 1993, CMO no. 104, s. 2017, and all other relevant international and
2 regional human rights conventions and declarations.

3

4 As such, interns have the right to:

- 5
- 6 1. Have the freedom to select their own HTEs;
- 7 2. Reasonable work hours;
- 8 3. Protected leaves (personal leave, medical leave, leave for internship-related
9 illness and injury);
- 10 4. Just compensation for hours of services rendered;
- 11 5. Receive allowances for travel, food, and any other expenses that may be agreed
12 upon by the HTE and intern;
- 13 6. Acquire medical, dental and mental health services;
- 14 7. Access basic services in their chosen workplaces;
- 15 8. Access information of fees and performance records from HEIs, CTIs and HTEs;
- 16 9. Opt-out in paying miscellaneous fees upon enrollment of internship;
- 17 10. Be protected against discriminatory practices based on sexual orientation, gender
18 identity and expression, age, ethnicity, religion, and disability;
- 19 11. Be protected against sexual harassment and other derogatory or exploitative
20 activities at any point during their internship;
- 21 12. Be informed of clearly outlined duties during the internship; and
- 22 13. Due process prior to termination with HTE for any committed violation or
23 insufficient requirements with HEIs or CTIs in the entire internship.

24

25 **Sec. 5. Guidelines on Internship Programs.** – The following shall be the guidelines
26 for the implementation of internship programs:

27

28 1. Government Internship Programs

- 29
- 30 a. All government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned-
31 and-controlled corporations are hereby obliged to create a Government
32 Internship Program for their respective offices.

- 33
- 34 b. The Government Internship Program shall prescribe standard Internship
35 Plans for applying interns to ensure that their duties are confined to official
36 tasks only.

37

38 2. Industry-Based Internships

- 39
- 40 a. TEs, HEIs, and CTIs shall, in conjunction, develop an Internship Plan
41 outlining the scope and limitations of the interns' duties for the duration of
42 the internship. Interns shall not be obligated to do work outside of this
43 internship plan.

- 44
- 45 b. HTEs shall provide interns with compensation for hours of service rendered.

46

47 3. School and Internship Fees

- a. HEIs and CTIs shall not charge interns with school fees that is beyond the administrative cost corresponding with units of the internship subject.
- b. Interns shall have the opt-out option in paying miscellaneous fees especially if their internship is conducted outside of the HEIs' premises.
- c. In an event of extension of the internship program, no additional extension fee shall be collected either by the HEI/CTI or the HTE.
- d. HTEs shall not be allowed to charge fees from their interns, with the exception of fees that are directly related to conducted training sessions and affiliation fees for health-allied internship programs. *Provided*, that the affiliation fees to be collected shall comprise no more than 1% of the tuition fee of the internship subject.
- e. Collection of all internship-related fees shall be centralized in the HEIs in order to avoid redundant payments or exploitative practices.
- f. All information regarding the school fees collected by the HEI and internship fees collected by the HTE shall be accessible to the public and the students if and when they request for it. The composition of the fees collected shall be indicated to promote transparency.

4. Additional Guidelines

- a. HTEs, HEIs, and CTIs shall create an Internship Contract that will be an official and binding document stating the duties and responsibilities of all parties, the duties prescribed in the internship plans, and the agreed upon remuneration agreements between the HTE and the intern.
- b. HEIs and CTIs shall not constrain their student interns to apply to a specific office, establishment, or training institution. The interns shall be allowed to undertake an internship in any office, establishment, or training institution as long as the said establishments comply with the requirements for HTEs.
- c. HTEs shall conduct trainings, seminars, and other developmental interventions for the interns including, but not limited to: mentoring, coaching, and performance evaluation.
- d. Social protection shall be provided to the interns and are encouraged for consideration by the institutions such as accident insurance, as they may be applicable.
- e. Interns that contracted and illness and/or injury during their internship or as a result of it shall be excused during the duration of their illness and/or injury. HEIs, CTIs, and HTEs shall jointly claim responsibility for the intern.

- 1 f. Interns in the health-allied professions and other highly technical fields shall
2 be given the necessary materials, equipment, and safety gears necessary to
3 carry out their tasks. These shall be given at no cost to the interns.
- 4 g. Interns shall be given at least 96 hours of advance notice of their internship
5 schedule.
- 6 h. HEIs and CTIs shall assist their student-interns in meeting their health
7 requirements as prescribed by the HTEs, through HEI and CTI funded
8 vaccination or check-up programs.
- 9 i. Interns are not required and cannot be obliged to report to their HTEs after
10 the prescribed number of internship hours are completed.
- 11
- 12 j. In cases where the internship contract is abruptly terminated, the hours of
13 services rendered by the intern based on the daily time record shall be
14 credited as hours completed for the internship program.
- 15
- 16 k. Students who applied in internship programs abroad shall be provided with
17 assistance from the relevant government agencies before and during the
18 duration of their internship programs, if and when necessary. HEIs and CTIs
19 where these student interns are enrolled are obliged to strictly monitor the
20 status of their students' welfare during the duration of the internship to
21 ensure that standard protections for interns are upheld. Student interns
22 should not be required to pay for the flight, food, accommodation and other
23 expenses of the HEI's faculty or staff, should the HEI or CTI require a
24 chaperon abroad.
- 25

26 **Sec 6. Mechanics of Internships.** – The following process must be followed in the
27 hiring of interns:

28 1. Qualifications of Interns

29 Applicants to internship programs shall:

- 30 a. be currently enrolled in a TESDA certificate course or a tertiary-level
31 internship subject
32 b. be between 18 to 30 years old from the start of the internship period

33 2. Duration

34 a. Government Internship Programs

35 The duration of the Government Internship Program shall not exceed 300
36 hours and not last for more than 6 months.

1 b. Industry-Based Internships

2

3 Internship programs that are not highly technical in nature shall be
4 allowed to have a maximum of twenty-four (24) units of internship
5 subjects for the duration of their baccalaureate; *Provided*, that one (1)
6 unit of internship subject correspond to one (1) hour of
7 internship/laboratory/practicum/OJT work per week. *Provided further*, that
8 the internship period should not exceed twelve (12) months.

9

10 Highly technical internship programs conducted by HTEs that may need
11 additional hours of training, like those in the fields of health, engineering,
12 and architecture, shall be allowed to have a maximum of thirty (30) units
13 of internship subjects for the duration of their baccalaureate; *Provided*,
14 that one (1) unit of internship subject correspond to two (2) hours of
15 internship/laboratory/practicum/OJT work per week. *Provided further*, that
16 the internship period should not exceed twelve (12) months.

17

18 Interns shall have an 8-hour rest period between their internship shifts. In
19 addition, they are only obliged to work during work days and within office
20 hours. If interns are tasked to work on weekends of holidays or hours
21 beyond the normal operating hours of the establishment, they should be
22 subjected to special or additional remuneration.

23

24 In the event of tardiness and absences, whether excused or unexcused,
25 make-up hours shall only be equivalent to the number of internship hours
26 missed. HEIs and HTEs shall not accept and expect payment from
27 students to offset their tardiness and/or absences.

28

29 HEIs shall have the jurisdiction on how the maximum allotted number of
30 units shall be distributed in their respective curricula. Only the curricula
31 with internship/laboratory/practicum/OJT credits shall be allowed to have
32 required internship programs. HEIs with curricula that does not have
33 internship/laboratory/ practicum/OJT credits cannot require their students
34 to undergo an internship program but could encourage their students to
35 have internships on a voluntary basis.

36

37 3. Scope of work

38

39 The Government Internship Program and industry-led workplace internships shall
40 cover all technical, vocational, and professional fields of study and shall cater to
41 all students from CHED and TESDA recognized universities or degree and
42 certificate awarding institutions.

43

44 The purpose of the internship is for the intern to learn and gain practical
45 experience in their choice of employment. As such, interns are hired for official
46 purposes only and are prohibited from taking tasks that go beyond official duties.

47

1 4. Termination of Contract

2
3 Any of the following, in respect to the Labor Code of the Philippines, shall be a
4 valid cause to terminate the internship contract with due process, where notice
5 should be given, both oral and written for proper documentation:

6
7 By the institution:

- 8
9 a. Habitual absenteeism of the intern;
10 b. Willful disobedience by the intern of the institution's rules, or persistent
11 insubordination of the lawful orders of a supervisor;
12 c. Theft or malicious destruction of the institution's property by the intern;
13 d. Engaging in violence and/or other forms of misconduct during the
14 internship and/or inside the institution's premises by the intern; and
15 e. Persistent poor performance for a prolonged period despite warning duly
16 given to the intern.

17
18 By the intern:

- 19
20 a. Substandard and/or harmful working conditions within the institution's
21 premises;
22 b. Violation of any or all of the guidelines prescribed in Section 5 of this Act;
23 c. Harassment by any and all members of the institution whether it occurred
24 in or outside of the premises of the HTE;
25 d. Cruel and inhumane treatment; and
26 e. Prolonged or continuing illness of the intern.

27
28 **Sec. 7. Internship Contract and Plan.** - The HEIs and CTIs, together with the
29 HTEs, shall draft and produce an Internship Contract that will be used by their student-
30 interns. The HEIs and CTIs shall ensure that these documents are legally binding to
31 ensure the protection of the interns' interest and well-being and assist the students in
32 the process of notarizing the said document. The contract shall properly indicate the
33 educational objectives of the internship, the rights and obligations of all the parties, the
34 duration of the internship, and the agreed upon remuneration.

35
36 The Internship Contract shall be accompanied with an Internship Plan drafted and
37 approved together with the selected HTEs to ensure that the internship program
38 adheres to the quality of learning that is expected from the contract. The Internship
39 Plan shall include the following: identification of skills to be acquired, job scope and
40 specifications, guidelines on the supervision and mentoring of the interns, monitoring of
41 the interns' progress, timeline of the internship and the respective performance
42 indicators to be achieved, among others.

43
44 **Sec. 8 Remuneration.** - Interns who are subscribed to the Government Internship
45 Program shall be provided with a stipend accounting to seventy-five (75%) of the
46 existing salary rate of Step 1, Salary Grade 1 of the current government salary
47 standardization law and shall be non-taxable. The amount of the stipend shall be based

1 on the intern's actual attendance, absences and/or tardiness incurred. It shall be paid in
2 accordance with existing labor laws and civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

3

4 Interns in private HTEs shall be provided with a stipend accounting to 75% of the
5 existing minimum wage in their respective regions and shall be non-taxable.

6

7 **Sec 9. Grievance Mechanism.** – A grievance committee shall be created in
8 participating government agencies and their instrumentalities as well as the HTEs and
9 CTIs that have internship programs. They have the initial responsibility for settling
10 differences in case of any violation or transgression of the internship contract or upon
11 the filing of a complaint by an aggrieved party.

12

13 The grievance committee shall be composed of a representative from the Head Office of
14 the HEI, CTI, and HTE, the Human Resource Office of the HEI, CTI, HTE and/or
15 government agency, the Student Government of the HEI, CTI, and the legal office of
16 the HEI, CTI, and HTE.

17

18 The committee shall render a decision after affording the concerned party due
19 process of law. In case of failure by the grievance committee to settle the issue, render
20 a decision, or in case the complaint is against the grievance committee or any of its
21 members, the case shall be referred to the National Task Force.

22

23 **Sec. 10. Reportorial Requirements.** – All HEIs, CTIs, HTEs, government agencies
24 and its instrumentalities that have established internship programs shall submit an
25 annual report to the Task Force assessing the program. The report shall review and
26 assess the implementation of their program, suggest improvements if there are any,
27 include a database of all past and present interns, and monitor the faithfulness of the
28 internship plan versus its actual implementation, among other things.

29

30 **Sec 11. Responsibilities of HEIs, CTIs, and HTEs.** - Higher Education Institutions
31 and Certified Training Institutions with internship courses must have an official
32 government recognition for private Higher Education Institutions, a Board Resolution for
33 State Universities, and a Local Government Ordinance for local universities.

34

35 Their responsibilities in relation to their student-interns include:

- 36 1. Assuming full responsibility over students;
- 37 2. Creating and notarizing an Internship Contract with selected HTEs to
38 safeguard the interest and well-being of the interns;
- 39 3. Ensure that the students' interest is well-represented during the drafting
40 of the Internship Contract;
- 41 4. Formulating local school internship policies (regarding selection,
42 placement, monitoring, and assessment);
- 43 5. Prepare a roster of accredited HTEs with internship programs for student-
44 interns to choose from;
- 45 6. Facilitate the entry of interns to their HTEs of choice;
- 46 7. Developing an Internship Plan specifying objectives and scope in
47 collaboration with the HTEs;

- 1 8. Ensuring intern will acquire the relevant competencies in each learning
- 2 area through the drafting of relevant internship plans to be a part of the
- 3 contract signed by the intern, the HEI or CTI, and the HTE;
- 4 9. Providing free medical and dental services and certification by medical
- 5 doctor and dentist to interns;
- 6 10. Providing appropriate insurance coverage, including travel and medical, to
- 7 interns within the duration of the internship;
- 8 11. Conducting pre-internship orientation as prerequisite to deployment.
- 9 Orientation should be on work environment issues (such as work ethics
- 10 and laws against sexual harassment);
- 11 12. Taking appropriate action on complaints against student intern;
- 12 13. Conducting inspection of the HTE to ensure safety;
- 13 14. Monitoring performance of intern together with HTE;
- 14 15. Ensuring that the intern's basic needs are met at the HTE (such as food,
- 15 water, access to clean restrooms, etc.) in coordination with HTE, CHED,
- 16 TESDA, etc.;
- 17 16. Conducting post-training evaluations of the program;
- 18 17. Evaluating related prior training experience and provide credits for
- 19 internship;
- 20 18. Issuing a final grade to the intern upon completion of requirements, in
- 21 accordance with assessment of HTE, and;
- 22 19. Submitting relevant documents to CHED and TESDA (i.e. annual report
- 23 per SY on implementation of program, copy of notarized internship
- 24 agreement, list of partner HTEs, and interns certified by school officials to
- 25 have completed internship).

27 Host Training Establishments that will receive and train interns must be
28 authorized by the appropriate government entities and are capable of providing
29 appropriate internship programs. These establishments must also have the
30 capacity to provide technical training and to mentor interns applying to them.

31 Their responsibilities in relation to their student-interns include:

- 32 1. Implementing the agreed-upon Internship Contract and Internship Plan in
- 33 coordination with the HEI and CTI;
- 34 2. Assigning a point person for implementation of all internship phases;
- 35 3. Orienting intern on rules of the establishment before the signing of the
- 36 contract;
- 37 4. Entering into a legal contract with the intern;
- 38 5. Providing work experience in accordance with plan;
- 39 6. Providing basic allowances, such as for travel or food;
- 40 7. Providing the necessary equipment, materials, and safety gears needed by
- 41 the interns in order to perform their tasks and duties at no cost to the
- 42 interns;
- 43 8. Provide readily accessible wash rooms, showers, changing rooms, resting
- 44 rooms or lounges, particularly for interns who will be on duty for extended
- 45 periods of time, particularly during night shifts;
- 46 9. Ensuring interns do not perform tasks of regular position in HTEs;

- 1 10. Developing feedback mechanism with the intern;
- 2 11. Developing feedback mechanism with the HEI and CTI on implementation
- 3 and student performance;
- 4 12. Providing evaluation reports on intern's performance;
- 5 13. Notifying at least 30 working days prior written notice to HEI or CTI of
- 6 intern's breach of contract, and;
- 7 14. Issuing certificate of completion for interns not later than 2 weeks after
- 8 completion.

9
10 **Sec 12. Implementation Structure.** – An Interns' Rights and Welfare Task Force
11 shall be formed and be composed of the following:

- 13 a. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary for
14 Regional Operations and Special Concerns cluster as the Chairperson;
- 15 b. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chair as Co-Chairperson;
- 16 c. Senior officials (at least Assistant Secretary Level) of the Technical Education
17 and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and
18 Industry (DTI), and Civil Service Commission (CSC) as ex-officio members;
- 19 d. Five representatives of University Student Councils and Student Associations
20 from various fields of study, provided that there are representatives from
21 Medical and Allied Health Professions, Hospitality and Restaurant
22 Management, and Tourism fields.

23
24 At the National level, the Task Force members shall have the following duties and
25 functions in accordance to their mandates and in relation to the implementation
26 of this Act:

- 28 1. The DOLE shall:
 - 29 a. Strictly monitor and ensure compliance of the HTEs in the implementation
30 of this Act;
 - 31 b. Prepare and publish quarterly and annual report of internship program
32 accomplishments, including issues and challenges, and provide further,
33 analysis and recommendation on the improvement of program
34 implementation; and
 - 35 c. Maintain updated list of HTEs in coordination with government agencies;
 - 36 d. Decide on cases involving interns with their assigned HTEs.
- 38 2. The CHED and TESDA shall:
 - 39 a. Conduct orientation to HEIs and CTIs regarding the proper guidelines
40 regarding internship programs and check the legality of any and all
41 contracts between HTEs, HEIs, CTIs, and the interns;
 - 42 b. Ensure the safety of interns;
 - 43 c. Establish linkages between government agencies and their
44 instrumentalities and HTEs for the successful implementation of internship
45 programs;
 - 46 d. Ensure that all HEIs, CTIs, and partner HTEs comply with the guidelines
47 for the protection of interns; and

1 e. Provide feedback mechanisms to HEIs, CTIs, and HTEs.

2

3 3. The DTI shall:

- 4 a. Ensure that all the partner HTEs of the HEIs and the CTIs are officially
5 accredited business with proper safety and occupational health standards
6 and
7 b. Formulate a possible incentive scheme for HTEs to encourage them to
8 take more interns.

9

10 4. The CSC shall:

- 11 a. Ensure that grievance committees are properly established in government
12 agencies and their instrumentalities.

13

14 **Sec. 13. Liabilities and Sanctions.** – The following liabilities and sanctions shall
15 apply in cases of breach of the internship contract:

16

17 a. HEIs and CTIs:

- 18 1. Written reprimand, with warning that repeated violations may result in
19 downgrading of government recognition;
20 2. Downgrading of government recognition to permit status or grant of
21 Autonomous to Deregulated status, Center of Excellence to Center of
22 Development status;
23 3. Revoke program recognition; and
24 4. Filing of administrative and criminal case as appropriate.

25

26 b. HTE

- 27 1. Written reprimand with warning that a repeat of a violation shall result to the
28 blacklisting of HTE. Provided, that the agreed upon compensation and
29 credited hours of the intern shall still be followed upon the basis of the hours
30 of service rendered by the latter.
31 2. Filing of administrative and criminal case as appropriate.

32

33 c. Intern

- 34 1. Subject to sanctions in accordance with HEI's and CTI's rules and
35 regulations.

36

37

38 **Sec. 14. Appropriations.** – All concerned government agencies shall include in their
39 annual budgets the necessary funds that will be contributory to the implementation of
40 this Act.

41

42 Further, at least one percent (1%) shall be appropriated under the maintenance and
43 Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) of the agencies for the implementation of the GIP in
44 their respective jurisdictions and shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

1 **Sec 15. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
2 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions thereof not affected
3 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5 **Sec 16. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules
6 and regulations, and other issuances or part or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent
7 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8

9 **Sec. 17. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
10 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11

12 Approved.