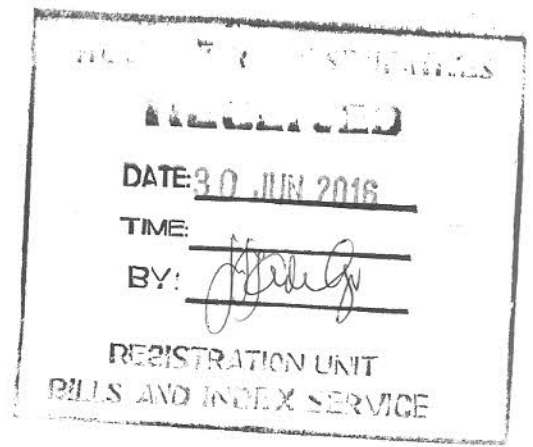


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 111



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Most nations have invested greatly in the safeguarding of their ports, waterways, and coastal security. These nations realized the immense responsibility in securing their territories, ports, and their economic interests. Ports in Romania have been equipped with state-of-the-art infrared motion detection device which provides employees with immediate awareness of specific security breaches in their ports. The Port of Manzanillo in Mexico on the other hand employ the use of 20-foot high portable guard towers which provides a cost-effective way of enhancing security in port facility.

While other countries are investing heavily in their ports and improving their coastal security, the capability of our PCG to secure our vast coastline and waterways lags behind.

With twelve (12) CG Districts, sixty-three (63) CG Stations and Two hundred thirty eight (238) CG Detachments strategically situated from Basco Batanes to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, the PCG continue to perform with limited resources.

In order to address PCG's concerns, there is a need for the State to modernize the PCG. The Modernization Program under this Act shall allow the PCG to perform under its different functional areas effectively and efficiently.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
(PCG) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the “PCG Modernization Act of 2016”.

2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to develop
4 the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), ensure the continued protection and defense of our maritime
5 border, economy, and environment. Toward this end, the Modernization Program under this Act
6 shall develop and enhance the capabilities of the PCG in order to effectively and efficiently
7 perform under the following functional areas:

- 8 a) Maritime Safety,
9 b) Maritime Search and Rescue;
10 c) Maritime Security;
11 d) Maritime Law Environment; and,
12 e) Maritime Environmental Protection.

13

14 As such, the PCG shall be able to perform its powers and discharge its functions as
15 enumerated in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9993 otherwise known as the “Philippine Coast
16 Guard Law of 2009”.

17

18 **SEC. 3. Objectives of the PCG Modernization Program.** – The PCG Modernization
19 Program shall be implemented in accordance with the following objectives:

- 20 a) To minimize if not totally eliminate accidents at sea;
21 b) To reduce the search effort and improve response times during search and rescue
22 operations;
23 c) To contribute substantially in securing maritime zones or areas from terrorism,
24 lawlessness, and other threats to national security and the national territory;

1 d) To effectively contribute in the enforcement of the Philippine criminal and other
2 special laws within the maritime zones/areas;

3 e) To minimize if not totally eliminate pollution on the maritime zones/areas and limit
4 response time to recover spilt pollutants to its minimum.

5
6 **SEC. 4. Components of the PCG Modernization Program.** – The PCG Modernization
7 Program shall consist of the following components.

8 a) **Organization Development**- shall pertain to the restricting and streamlining of
9 units and offices for economy and efficiency to avoid the overlapping of functions, simplify
10 procedures and improve response time;

11 b) **Human Resource** –shall pertain to the professionalization of its human resource
12 populated with educated, motivated, multi-tasking capable personnel and highly skilled in their
13 respective fields of specialization;

14 c) **Doctrine Development** –requires the rationalization of systems, standards and
15 procedures in the administration of PCG. Towards this end, the PCG shall be responsible for the
16 generation, evaluation, consolidation and formalization of doctrines, conduct of periodic review
17 and validation of doctrines through field application, testing and exercise, and the dissemination
18 of approved doctrines at all levels of command;

19 d) **Infrastructure Development** – shall refer to the basic system and support
20 systems required to ensure that service are rendered efficiently. The Modernization Program
21 shall include acquisition and upgrading of basic support facilities for administrative and
22 operational facilities. It shall also include, but not limited to, the acquisition and upgrading of
23 basic facilities such as aircraft command, control and communication platform which are range
24 and endurance capable to continuously monitor edge of the EEZ with night navigation capability,
25 including, but not limited to, remote controlled drones;

26 e) **Equipment and Facilities Acquisition and Modernization** – refers to the
27 acquisition and upgrading of contemporary, modern and state-of-the-art equipment and system to
28 enhance the capabilities of the PCG in the performance of its mandate; which shall include, but
29 not be limited to the following:

30 i. Upgrading of vessels to mission-specific level with a high degree of flexibility to
31 perform other functional area operations. They must be well maintained for full
32 operational status at least 300 days/year. The vessels should be interfaced with
33 latest cutting edge technology for ease of operation;

34 ii. Submersibles shall be remotely operated, for deep-sea search, retrieval and
35 monitoring operations;

36 iii. Weapons shall be of kind which are marine-environment resistant and designed
37 primarily to disable hostile personnel and equipment;

- 1 iv. K-9 units shall be capable of detecting bombs, drugs, toxic substance and limited
- 2 SAR, among others;
- 3 v. Uninterruptible PCG internal communications seamlessly interoperable with other
- 4 agencies as well as communications with commercial vessels operating within the
- 5 Philippine maritime zones;
- 6 vi. Training Equipment capable of stimulating foreseeable emergency or hostile
- 7 situations;
- 8 vii. Aids to navigation which are consistent with International Association of
- 9 Lighthouse Authorities Standards;
- 10 viii. Accurate and real time monitoring and detection systems; and
- 11 ix. Laboratories shall be updated with technologically current equipment.

12
13 **SEC. 5. *Period of Implementation.*** – The Modernization Program under this Act shall be
14 implemented over a period not exceeding fifteen (15) years after its effectivity: Provided,
15 however, that payments for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred
16 under this Act may extend beyond this period.

17
18 **SEC. 6. *Submission of the PCG Modernization Program.*** –Within ninety (90) days
19 from the effectivity of this Act, the Commandant of the PCG in coordination within the
20 Secretaries of Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and Department of
21 Budget and Management (DBM), shall submitted the PCG Modernization Program as provided
22 for in this Act to Congress, through the Congressional Oversight Committee created under
23 Section 16 hereof, for its consideration and approval thru a joint resolution of the House of
24 Representatives and the Senate. The program shall indicate or show inter alia:

- 25 a) The size and shape of the PCG in terms of personnel, equipment, and facilities during
- 26 the various phases of the modernization program;
- 27 b) The modernization project under each phase including the major weapon and non-
- 28 weapon equipment and technology acquisitions, infrastructure construction or
- 29 improvement to which such intended acquisition, construction, or improvements
- 30 belongs; and
- 31 c) The priorities, schedules as well as estimated average cost each modernization project
- 32 or upgrading to be undertaken.

33
34 In the event Congress approves the PCG modernization program, the joint resolution
35 shall be the basis for subsequent executive and legislative actions to implement the PCG
36 modernization program until its completion and full realization.

