

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 808

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by HON. RODEL M. BATOCABE, HON. ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr. and  
HON. CHRISTOPHER S. CO

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

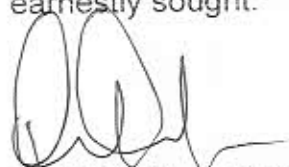
The passage of this bill seeks to amend the RA 8981 or the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Modernization Act of 2000, by increasing the powers of the PRC to regulate the establishment and operation of licensure examination review centers and similar entities.

The State has the mandate to protect the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all (Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution). Pursuant to this provision, the State has the obligation to ensure and promote quality education through the proper supervision and regulation of the licensure examinations given through the various Boards of Examiners under the Professional Regulation Commission.

At present, there exists no regulatory framework or mechanism that oversees and administers the establishment and operation of review centers and similar entities. The recent cases of cheating, fraud, and estafa involving review centers have led to unfavorable effects to the various professions, students, professionals, and the public interest and welfare, in general.

There is a prevailing need to protect the public against substandard review centers and unethical practices committed by some review centers. This can only be achieved through a regulatory framework by the PRC, which is best equipped in enforcing the establishment and operation of review centers and similar entities.

The bill was filed in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress but for lack of time, its progress was halted at the committee level. In light of all these circumstances, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RODEL M. BATOCABE



ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr.



CHRISTOPHER S. CO

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1 AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8981, OTHERWISE  
2 KNOWN AS THE PRC MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2000, PROVIDING FOR THE  
3 INCLUSION IN THE PRC POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES THE  
4 REGULATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LICENSURE  
5 EXAMINATION REVIEW CENTERS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 7 of the Republic Act No. 8981 is hereby amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 "Sec. 7. Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of the Commission. – The  
11 powers, functions, and responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

12 xxx

13 (q) TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGULATION OF REVIEW  
14 CENTERS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES, WHICH CONDUCT REVIEW COURSES ON  
15 LICENSING OF THE VARIOUS PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS UNDER  
16 PRC JURISDICTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FORMULATION  
17 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND RULES FOR THE  
18 ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF REVIEW CENTERS AND SIMILAR  
19 ENTITIES;

20 (r) TO ISSUE ACCREDITATION TO APPLICANT REVIEW CENTERS AND  
21 SIMILAR ENTITIES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS; NO REVIEW CENTER  
22 OR SIMILAR ENTITIES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AND/OR OPERATE REVIEW  
23 CLASSES WITHOUT THE ISSUANCE OF THE NECESSARY PERMITS OR  
24 AUTHORIZATIONS TO CONDUCT REVIEW CLASSES;

25 (s) TO SUPERVISE, MONITOR, AND EVALUATE THE COMPETENCE,  
26 TRANSPARENCY, PERFORMANCE, AND ETHICAL PRACTICES OF THE  
27 OPERATIONS OF REVIEW CENTERS AND SIMILAR ENTITIES;

28 [(q)] (t) To implement the program for the full computerization of all licensure  
29 examinations given by the various professional regulatory boards including the  
30 registration of professionals not later than the year 2003 and other operations of the  
31 Commission;

1           **[(r)] (u)** To investigate and decide administrative matters involving officers  
2 and employees under the jurisdiction of the Commission;

3           **[(s)] (v)** To investigate motu proprio or upon the filing of a verified complaint,  
4 any member of the Professional Regulatory Boards for neglect of duty,  
5 incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonourable conduct,  
6 commission of irregularities in the licensure examinations which taint or impugn the  
7 integrity and authenticity of the results of the said examinations and, if found guilty,  
8 to revoke or suspend their certificates of registration and professional  
9 licenses/identification cards and to recommend to the President of the Philippines  
10 their suspension or removal from office as the case may be;

11           **[(t)] (w)** To issue summons, subpoena and subpoena duces tecum in  
12 connection with the investigation of cases against officials and employees of the  
13 Commission and the members of the Professional Regulatory Boards;

14           **[(u)] (x)** To hold in contempt in erring party or person only upon application  
15 with a court of competent jurisdiction;

16           **[(v)] (y)** To call upon or request any department, instrumentality, office,  
17 bureau, institution or agency of the government including local government units to  
18 render such assistance as it may require, or to coordinate or cooperate in order to  
19 carry out, enforce or implement the professional regulatory policies of the  
20 government or any program or activity it may undertake pursuant to the provisions of  
21 this Act;

22           **[(w)] (z)** To initiate an investigation, upon complaint under oath by an  
23 aggrieved party, of any person, whether a private individual or professional, local or  
24 foreign, who practices the regulated profession or occupation without being  
25 authorized by law, or without being registered with and licensed by the concerned  
26 regulatory board and issued the corresponding license/professional identification  
27 card or temporary or special permit, or who commits any of the prohibited acts  
28 provided in the regulatory laws of the various professions, which acts are criminal in  
29 nature, and if the evidence so warrants, to forward the records of the case to the  
30 office of the city or provincial prosecutor for the filing of the corresponding  
31 information in court by the lawyers of the legal services of the Commission who may  
32 prosecute said case/s upon being deputized by the Secretary of Justice;

33           **[(x)] (aa)** To prepare an annual report of accomplishments on the programs,  
34 projects and activities of the Commission during the year for submission to Congress  
35 after the close of its calendar year and make appropriate recommendations on  
36 issues and/or problems affecting the Commission, the Professional Regulatory  
37 Board, and the various professions under its jurisdiction; and

38  
39           **[(y)] (bb)** To perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary to  
40 carry out the provisions of this Act, the various professional regulatory laws,  
41 decrees, executive orders and other administrative issuance.

42 SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days after the  
43 approval of this amendment, the PRC shall prepare and promulgate the necessary rules  
44 and regulations needed to implement the amendatory provisions.

1 SECTION 3. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
2 publication in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

3

4 *Approved.*