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

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO: 7197

Introduced by: Representatives Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta and Franz “Chicoy” E. Alvarez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the Constitution provides that “The State shall give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.” This policy is anchored on the State’s recognition of the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare as essential for the enjoyment of the people of the blessings of democracy.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Coast Guard Academy to serve as the overall administrative and operational educational institution in the field of Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration in the country.

The Philippine Military Academy, the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and the Coast Guard Officer’s Course administered by the Coast Guard Officer School are among the institutions which at present are the main sources of Coast Guard Officers. However, these institutions could no longer provide the proper training because of inadequate facilities and logistical support.

Considering 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.

The Academy shall be established in a two hundred (200) hectare land granted to the Coast Guard District Palawan by the Local Government, located in Brgy. Apurawan, Aborlan, Palawan. The location is ideal considering its different terrains consisting of sea, land and mountain.

Thus, in order to promote to the highest degree possible the enhancement and development of maritime law enforcement and administration, research and training in the country, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

GIL “Kabarangay Jr.” A. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan

FRANZ “Chicoy” E. ALVAREZ
Representative
1st District of Palawan
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Introduced by: Representatives Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta and Franz
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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
ACADEMY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
Coast Guard Academy Act of 2020.”

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

SEC. 3. Establishment of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy. - In
furtherance of the policy enunciated in Section 2 of this Act, an educational
institution known as the Philippine Coast Guard Academy (PCGA) shall be
established at Apurawan, Abarlan, Palawan for the training of selected
candidates for permanent commission as officers in the Philippine Coast Guard
Corps of Officers.

SEC. 4. Objectives. - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be
established to serve as the overall administrative and operational educational
institution in the field of Maritime Law Enforcement and Administration in the
country. It shall aim to promote to the highest degree possible, the enhancement
and development of maritime law enforcement and administration, research and
training in the country.

SEC. 5. Organization and Administration. - The Philippine Coast
Guard 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 Philippine Coast Guard.

The Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be headed by the
superintendent who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon
the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation from
among the Flag Officers in the Coast Guard service. The Superintendent shall
have a maximum term of three (3) years.

SEC. 6. The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. - The
Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall have a Board to be composed of the
following:

(a) The Deputy Commandant for Administration as Chairman of the
Board;
(b) The Superintendent as the Vice-Chairman of the Board;
(c) The Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Education and Training
Command as member;
(d) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services
Command as member;
(e) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection
Command as member;
(f) Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Security command as
member;
(g) Dean of the Philippine Coast Guard Corps of Professors as member;
and
(h) Dean of Civilian Faculty as member.

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall, in
addition to their pay, allowances, and collateral entitlement under Republic Act
No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, be entitled to per diem
for every board meeting actually attended and reimbursement of actual and
necessary expenses incurred. The Board shall fix the amount of per diem its
members may be entitled to, subject to the pertinent budgetary laws, rules, and
regulations on compensation, honoraria and allowances.
SEC. 7. Duties and Powers of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. - The Philippine Coast Guard 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 and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other employees; to determine their hours of service, and such other terms and conditions as it may deem proper; and to remove them for causes as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;
(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 Member;
(e) To provide rules for the administration of the Academy such as general ordinances and regulations consistent with the provisions herein;
(f) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary 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 all 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 provisions herein.

SEC. 8. Progress Report. - Within thirty (30) days after the close of the Academic Year, the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall file with the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard a detailed report setting forth the progress, condition, and needs of the Academy.
SEC. 9. - 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, promulgate rules of discipline; and propose for the creation of various departments as it may be necessary, subject to the approval of the Philippine Coast Guard 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.

SEC. 10. - Corps of Professors. - The Corps of Professors shall form part of the Faculty of the Academy. It shall be composed of the Philippine Coast Guard Uniformed Personnel who are permanently assigned with the Academy. The qualifications for admission to the Corps of Professors shall be determined by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Council. The same shall be headed by a Dean who shall be selected by the Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council from among the members of the Corps of Professors.

A separate career pattern shall be promulgated by the Philippine Coast Guard Organization for the professional advancement and promotion of the members of the Corps of Professors within three (3) months from the effectivity of this act.

SEC. 11. - 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 or dismissal by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board, to influence students of the Academy for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 12. - 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 for appointment.

The Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council may require from both 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.

SEC. 13. - The Registrar. - There shall be a Register of the Academy appointed by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. He or she shall sit as the Secretariat of the Philippine Coast Guard 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.

SEC. 14. - Philippine Coast Guard Cadets. - Cadets shall be admitted to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy upon the approval of the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard. Provided that they meet the qualifications and entry requirements prescribed herein.

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

SEC. 15. - Exchange Program. - The Academy may admit students from the counterparts of the Philippine Coast Guard from foreign Coast Guard / Naval / Maritime Police Organizations, especially those from members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Cadets. 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.

SEC 16. The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Cadet Corps. - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy Cadet Corps shall be the Student Body of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy. It shall be composed of Philippine Coast Guard Cadets, and Foreign Cadets. Provided, that the Foreign Cadets shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total student population of the Academy.

SEC. 17. Qualifications and Entry Requirements. - All Cadets shall be selected from among the candidates by the Academic Council. The minimum
qualifications for admission to the Philippine Coast Guard Academy are as follows:

(a) Must be natural born Filipino citizen (applicable only to candidates for Philippine Coast Guard 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 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 Philippine Coast Guard Academy, as may be necessary, that are applicable either separately for the Philippine Coast Guard Cadets or for Foreign Cadets only or applicable for both Filipino and Foreign Cadets.

SEC. 18. Discipline and Justice System. - Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board shall prepare the discipline and justice system applicable to all cadets of the Academy, subject to the approval of the Philippine Coast Guard Commandant.

SEC. 19. Commission to the Active Philippine Coast Guard Service. - Upon satisfactory completion of the course of instruction at the Philippine Coast Guard Academy, Cadets shall be commissioned as Ensigns in the active Philippine Coast Guard Service with relative seniority in the order of their final general academic standings.

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

SEC. 20. Conferment of the Degree. - Graduates of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall be conferred the Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree. The Philippine Coast Guard Academic Council shall develop such curricula that will cater to the primary functions of the Philippine Coast Guard under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, responsive to the needs of the maritime stakeholders and the maritime interest of the Country, subject to the approval of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board. The said curricula will then be endorsed to the Commission on Higher Education for accreditation and approval.
SEC. 21. Masters and Doctorate Degree. - The Philippine Coast Guard Academy may also offer Masters and Doctorate Degrees for qualified Philippine Coast Guard 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, both local and foreign who are non-Philippine Coast Guard personnel, subject to corresponding fees that may be approved by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board.

SEC. 22. Pay, Allowances, and Collateral Entitlements. - Members of the Philippine Coast Guard Corps of Professors and other Philippine Coast Guard Uniformed Personnel assigned at the Philippine Coast Guard Academy shall receive such pay, allowances, and collateral entitlements corresponding to their ranks as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Members of the Faculty and other civilian personnel appointed as such in the Philippine Coast Guard 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.

Philippine Coast Guard Cadets shall receive pay and allowances as provided under Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations reckoned from admission in the Academy.

SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard shall formulate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations and prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the same for approval by the Secretary of the 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 shall be prepared by the Philippine Coast Guard Academy Board for approval by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 24. Appropriations. - For carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act, the sum of one billion eight hundred million pesos (Php 1,800,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the purposes of the establishment of the Philippine Coast Guard Academy. It shall be treated as a separate and distinct budget item from the regular appropriations of the Philippine Coast
Guard. It shall be implemented in a staggered basis. 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 Philippine Coast Guard Academy to supplement classroom instructions.

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

SEC. 25. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 26. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 27. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,