

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 2764

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Code Commission of the Philippines to review and codify all existing laws.

Laws are important elements in the promotion and protection of the rights and interests of our people. However, while our country has sufficient laws, they are not fully implemented, and are often violated because many of our fellowmen are not aware of the existence of certain laws. The need for an orderly arrangement, convenience of ascertainment and publicity of these laws cannot be overemphasized. A perfect and complete compilation of all our laws should be institutionalized. Hence, this bill.

The Code Commission being proposed under this Act shall be tasked to codify all Philippine laws. It shall publish in systematic form the whole mass of existing laws according to topic or subject. The laws shall be made easily accessible to all, allowing everyone to consult the law any time.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
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AN ACT

CREATING THE CODE COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES TO REVIEW AND CODIFY
PHILIPPINE LAWS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "*Code Commission Act of the Philippines.*"

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the declared policy of the State to promote and protect the rights of the people. Towards this end, a code commission shall be created to review and codify all laws to make them easily accessible to everyone.

SEC. 3. **Objective.** - The main objective of this Act is to establish a systematic form of arranging, compiling and publishing the whole mass of existing laws that will enable everyone to consult the law easily and conveniently any time.

SEC. 4. **Creation.** - The Code of Commission of the Philippines is hereby created, hereinafter referred to as the Code Commission, to review and codify all Philippine laws.

SEC. 5. **Composition.** - The Code Commission shall be composed of the following:

- a) Chairman - representative of the Philippine Judicial Academy;
- b) Vice Chairman - representative of the Department of Justice;
- c) Members:
 - 1) One (1) representative from the University of the Philippines Law Center ;
 - 2) One (1) representative from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines;
 - 3) Two (2) representatives from the Association of Law Deans of the Philippines; and
 - 4) Seven (7) reputable practicing lawyers or professors with extensive knowledge, training or expertise, respectively, in Civil, Corporation, Criminal, Labor, Political, Remedial, and Tax Laws.

With the exception of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and representative from the University of the Philippines Law Center who shall be appointed by their respective agencies in their ex-officio capacity, the other members shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 6. **Functions.** - The Commission shall have the following functions:

- a) Compile all existing laws;
- b) Arrange the statutes relating to each subject in a logical sequence;
- c) Bring together statutes and parts of statutes which, because of similarity of subject matter, properly belong together;
- d) Recommend modification, amendment or repeal of a law when necessary;
- e) Codify the laws;

- f) Publish the laws in the most convenient and usable form, using such aids as numbering, cross referencing, tabling, indexing and sub-indexing consistently as will best facilitate locating the law on any subject;
- g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Term of Office.** - The Commission shall complete its work and shall submit the drafts of the codes with its recommendations to the Congress of the Philippines not later than five (5) years from its full organization.

SEC. 8. **Compensation.** - The Chairman shall received a compensation equal to that of a Department Secretary while the members shall receive a compensation equal to that of an official next in rank to a Department Secretary.

The Chairman and members of the Code Commission may receive per diem for every meeting actually attended at such amount to be fixed by the Commission but not to exceed Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) per meeting.

SEC. 9. **Office.** - The Code Commission shall have its office in Metro Manila and may hold meetings at such time and place within the Philippines, as the Chairman may order in writing.

SEC. 10. **Appointment of Officials, Employees, etc.** - The Chairman shall appoint the personnel and fix their salaries or compensation in accordance with existing laws, as he may deem necessary in the exercise and performance of his duties. The Chairman may contract consultants or local experts: *Provided*, That may consultant or local expert whose services was contracted by the Chairman to provide technical and necessary assistance or conduct seminar and trainings relative to codification of laws shall be entitled to reasonable emoluments for their services as may be determined by the Code Commission.

SEC. 11. **Other Bureaus, Offices or Agencies.** - The Code Commission is empowered to call on officials or employees of any bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government to assist or otherwise extend their cooperation to the Commission in connection with the performance of its functions to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. **Termination.** - Upon completion of its work and the submission of its report not later than five (5) years from the date of its organization, the Code Commission shall cease to exist and the services of the Chairman and the members of the same and all of the employees working under it shall terminate.

SEC. 13. **Records and Documents.** - All records and documents and proceedings of the Code Commission shall be delivered to the National Library for preservation or disposition by the latter. The other properties of the Code Commission shall be disposed of in accordance with existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

SEC. 14. **Appropriation.** - The sum of Ten Million (P10,000,000.00) Pesos is hereby appropriated for the initial organization and operation of the Commission. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,