



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9859

BY REPRESENTATIVES PUMAREN, GUINTU, TAMBUNTING, DUTERTE, YAP (ERIC), DIONISIO, VILLANUEVA, ATAYDE, VARGAS, TUTOR, NOGRALES (M.), ACHARON, GATO, PLEYTO, SALO, CASTRO (F.), BORDADO, ROMERO, RILLO, RIVERA, SOLON AND DALIPE

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO QUALIFIED INDIGENTS

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Professional
2 Examinations Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is declared the policy of the State to promote
4 full employment and to provide equal opportunities for employment for all.

5 Furthermore, it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order
6 that will free the people from poverty through policies and programs that provide adequate
7 social services, and improve the quality of life for all. In this regard, the State shall provide
8 the poor access to mechanisms that expand opportunities for better employment.

9 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

10 (a) *Professional Examinations* refer to the licensure examinations conducted by the
11 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) leading to the issuance of
12 professional licenses to successful examinees. It shall also include examinations
13 conducted by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) leading to eligibility for
14 employment in the government.

1 (b) *Qualified Indigents* refer to persons who have no visible means of income or
2 support, or whose income may not be sufficient for the subsistence or basic needs
3 of the family, as may be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and
4 Development (DSWD).

5 **SEC. 4. *Requirements for Availment.*** – For purposes of availing the benefits of
6 this Act, an examinee shall secure Certificate of Indigency from the DSWD. Such
7 certification shall be presented to the PRC and CSC, as the case may be, to be exempt
8 from the payment of examination fees.

9 No other fee shall be charged against the qualified indigents for purposes of taking
10 the professional examinations.

11 **SEC. 5. *Limitations on Availment.*** – Benefits of this Act may be availed of by a
12 qualified indigent only once a year.

13 **SEC. 6. *Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign.*** – The
14 DSWD, PRC, and CSC, in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is
15 hereby mandated to conduct an annual IEC campaign in order to inform the people of the
16 procedures and guidelines in availing the benefits of this Act.

17 **SEC. 7. *Reportorial Requirement.*** – For purposes of determining the
18 effectiveness and social impact of the provisions of this Act, the DSWD, PRC, and CSC
19 shall submit an annual report to both Houses of Congress indicating therein the number
20 of indigent examinees who benefited from this Act.

21 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
22 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
23 force and effect.

24 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
25 proclamations, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with
26 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

27 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,