

S. No. 2455

H. No. 9713

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand twenty-four.



[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12024]

AN ACT REVITALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE PROGRAM AND PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY PURSUANT THERETO AND PROVIDING 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 “Self-Reliant Defense Posture Revitalization Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to serve and protect its people and sovereignty at all times. The State also recognizes the important role of a self-reliant defense posture in national defense. Thus, it is imperative to revitalize the country’s self-reliant defense posture program and to fully harness the potential of the defense industry at a time when security threats are imminent and continue to evolve.

Toward this end, the State shall undertake to develop the defense industry and its capability to locally produce advanced weaponry and equipment for its armed forces through technology transfer, partnerships with, and incentives to, the private sector.

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

(a) *Acquisition* refers to the process of procuring technologies, programs, and product support that are necessary for national defense and security, in order to support the armed forces of the country. It shall include the acquisition of raw materials, critical components, and materiel;

(b) *Allied Industries* refer to various industries which are part of the supply chain in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel;

(c) *Countertrade* refers to a form of international trade whereby the supplier commits to introduce investments, technology transfer, training or skills upgrade, donations or related activities, including in-country production, all of which will assist in the establishment or development of local industries or technical facilities or expansion of technological and industrial capabilities of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Philippines;

(d) *Critical Components* refer to components, systems, subsystems, and related special tooling and test equipment essential to the production, repair, maintenance, or operation of weapon systems or other items of equipment identified as being essential to the execution of any national defense and national security strategy;

(e) *In-country Enterprise* refers to: (1) a Filipino-owned enterprise engaged in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel in the Philippines or (2) a joint venture by a Filipino enterprise with a foreign-owned enterprise engaged in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing

or operation of materiel, where at least sixty percent (60%) of the venture is owned by Filipinos: *Provided*, That in-country enterprises shall locate in the Philippines a substantial portion of their development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel to be determined in the rules and regulations implementing this Act by the DND, in consultation with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Board of Investments (BOI);

(f) *Integrated Logistics Support* refers to an integrated and iterative process for developing a materiel and support strategy that optimizes functional support, leverages existing resources, and guides the system engineering process to quantify and lower life cycle cost and decrease logistics footprint, making the system easier to support, and ensuring that defense materiel, personnel, goods, and services are at the appropriate place and time;

(g) *Materiel* refers to military technology, weapon systems, arms, ammunition, combat clothing, armor, vehicles, and other similar military equipment and materials;

(h) *Minimum Local Content* refers to the minimum percentage of intermediate goods used in the manufacturing processes to be sourced from in-country enterprises;

(i) *Operation* refers to the process of functioning or operation of materiel or facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto which are necessary for the manufacturing, servicing, or operation of the materiel or its components;

(j) *Servicing* refers to the process of maintaining, repairing, or overhauling materiel; and

(k) *Strategic Investments Priorities Plan (SIPP)* refers to the government's list of priority areas and preferred activities that are entitled to tax incentives under law.

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Office of the Undersecretary for Defense Technology Research and Industry Development.* – The Office of the Undersecretary for Defense Technology Research and Industry Development (DTRID) shall be created within the DND. It shall be headed by an officer with the rank of Undersecretary, assisted by an Assistant Secretary, both to be appointed by the President.

Existing offices and units of the DND with similar functions and responsibilities as the DTRID shall be subsumed and merged under this office.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID.* – The Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Manage and administer a databank for analysis;
- (b) Adopt a defense policy to establish defense stockpiles to sustain defense operations during a state of emergency as declared by the Commander-in-Chief until the delivery of sufficient and reliable inventory;
- (c) Conduct research and development, on its own or in collaboration with appropriate government agencies, to foster innovation and facilitate technological advancement in support of national defense objectives;
- (d) Facilitate technology transfer;
- (e) Promote the development of the defense industry;
- (f) Establish public-private partnerships;
- (g) Set up domestic and foreign collaborations; and
- (h) Recommend to and advise the Secretary of National Defense on policies, rules, and regulations for the development of the National Defense Industry and the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *National Defense Industry.* – The National Defense Industry shall be developed in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The foreign support for defense requirements shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and the policies approved by the President.

(b) To develop the defense capability of the country, the State shall:

(1) Rely primarily on and give preference to in-country enterprises, allocate substantial resources and manpower to defense research and development, technology development and innovation, and provide relevant technical and financial assistance to the private sector;

(2) Utilize, in a sustainable manner, the country's natural resources as the source of the country's defense needs, and rely on materiel readily available, produced, manufactured, or otherwise created locally; and

(3) Use materiel from foreign sources only when such materiel cannot be locally produced, manufactured, or created: *Provided*, That importation from such foreign sources shall be for the ultimate objective of acquiring technology for the production of unavailable materiel.

(c) To support the economic and employment generation thrusts of the country, all manpower needs of the industry requiring the engagement or hiring of civilian labor shall be sourced locally and, as far as practicable, be Filipino.

SEC. 7. *Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) Program.* – The DND, through the Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID, shall formulate and implement the SRDP program to revitalize the defense industry, vigorously develop and strengthen allied industries, and address the short, medium, and long-term needs for defense materiel. The following shall be the guiding principles in formulating the program:

(a) It shall be designed to be advantageous to in-country enterprises, generate and prioritize local employment, and contribute to foreign currency exchange savings, in accordance with Section 12, Article XII of the Philippine Constitution;

(b) It shall promote technology transfer;

(c) It shall endeavor to secure the country's sufficient access to resilient supply chains of materiel or critical components that are vital to national security;

(d) It shall drive proactive research and development efforts and the adoption of innovative technologies to enhance the existing inventory of equipment and weapons systems;

(e) It shall promote active participation of local innovative councils, invention societies, universities, and other higher learning institutions in advancing science-based industrialization and provide research grants and development subsidies to program participants;

(f) It shall complement the Philippine Development Plan, and align with the National Security Policy and Republic Act No. 10349 or the "Revised AFP Modernization Program," with emphasis on the modernization of the government arsenal, naval shipyards, military bases, and camps;

(g) It shall assess the current state of the country and define developmental goals to allow the private industry time to acquire the necessary expertise and technology for future government request for products;

(h) It shall align with the objectives of Republic Act No. 11293 or the "Philippine Innovation Act," particularly by fostering partnerships among various stakeholders from the public and private sector, academe, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), research and development institutions, and communities towards promoting inclusive growth and improving the quality of life through innovation;

(i) It shall enumerate a comprehensive range of defense materiel covered by the program, while specifying materiel to be produced by the Government or government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), those that will be co-developed with private entities, and those that will be wholly outsourced to private industry;

(j) It shall promote the export of locally made materiel and the in-country enterprises to other countries; and

(k) It shall prioritize the purchase of locally made materiel by national agencies, local government units, and other law enforcement agencies from in-country enterprises.

SEC. 8. Projects under the SRDP Program. – Formulation of projects under the SRDP Program shall adhere to the policies set by the Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID. All projects formulated shall be subject to the approval of the President.

(a) For projects conducted solely by the Government, the lead agency or GOCC entity shall be primarily responsible for implementing and completing the project;

(b) For projects conducted jointly by a government agency or entity and private enterprises, both shall be equally responsible for the implementation and completion of the same; and

(c) For projects conducted solely by private entities, the implementation and completion of the same shall be the responsibility of said private entities.

The Undersecretary shall exercise supervision and monitoring over the project in all instances.

If the materiel is one which is developed, produced, assembled, serviced, or operated with private entities or one whose development, production, assembly, servicing, or operation will be wholly sourced out to the private sector, the Undersecretary shall publish, in two (2) newspapers of general

circulation and on its website, the criteria and qualifications for participants of the project, the details and mechanics of the SRDP project in question, and the terms and conditions for participation in the project: *Provided*, That participants must obtain and maintain ISO 9001 certification and other applicable quality certifications corresponding to particular products and services such as, but not limited to, AS9100 for aerospace: *Provided, further*, That the Undersecretary shall not publish details, specifications, and such other information that must be kept confidential by reason of national security.

SEC. 9. *Development of Technology and Systems to Counter Unconventional Threats.* – The SRDP Program shall include materiel, capital equipment, spare parts and accessories essential to and designed to effectively counter and address chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and cyberattacks or incidents.

The DND, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and all other government agencies involved in responding to such attacks or incidents shall enhance the capacity and capabilities of its special units tasked with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear emergency response and risk mitigation by promoting technology transfer, and locally sourcing labor and production of materiel, capital equipment, spare parts, or accessories.

SEC. 10. *Emerging and Evolving Technologies.* – The DND shall develop programs and projects on emerging and evolving technologies necessary for national defense and security wherever located which shall include, but not be limited to, artificial intelligence, advanced defense equipment, military robotics and autonomous systems, internet of military things, cyber warfare, immersive technologies, additive manufacturing, big data and analytics, independent military 5G connectivity, and blockchain.

SEC. 11. *Intellectual Property Office Special Lane.* – The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) shall establish a special lane to handle applications for patents, industrial designs, copyrights, and similar applications

involving sensitive military and defense technologies, inventions, processes, and softwares in order to fast-track the evaluation and approval process and to ensure that confidential information pertaining to such applications are properly safeguarded.

SEC. 12. *Cooperation of Government Agencies.* – The Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID shall coordinate, collaborate, and work with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Transportation (DOTr), NEDA, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), BOI, Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), and other government agencies in implementing this Act.

The abovementioned agencies are mandated to support the provisions of this Act.

The DBM and the GPPB are mandated to strengthen the systems and procedures for the acquisition of materiel under this Act.

SEC. 13. *Incentives.* –

(a) Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, in-country enterprises engaged or proposing to engage in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel for the Government may be registered with the BOI or with Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and may avail of the incentives under Republic Act No. 11534 or the “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act.”

In the interest of national security, the BOI shall adopt a special procedure in the processing of applications for the registration of enterprises that desire to participate in the industry and offer goods or services to the Government under the SRDP.

The development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel shall be included by operation of law in the SIPP every year after the effectivity of this Act until otherwise removed by the BOI or the President: *Provided*, That such removal shall not be interpreted as a bar or restriction on the BOI from later including the same;

(b) Government financial institutions are highly encouraged to support the defense and allied industries by formulating and extending financial products that would benefit its hastened development;

(c) In addition to the incentives under existing laws, in-country enterprises engaged in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel registered with the BOI and IPAs shall be exempt from national internal revenue taxes, value-added tax, and customs duties on the importation of capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts, or accessories to be used in the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel, only in cases when the same are not locally available; and

(d) As provided under existing laws, rules, and regulations, the DOST, IPOPHL, NEDA through the National Innovation Council (NIC), and other relevant government agencies and institutions are hereby directed to provide technical and financial assistance, incentives, and mechanisms for defense innovations particularly to Filipino inventors, investors, scientists, engineers, and innovators.

SEC. 14. *Permits, Licenses, and Certifications.* – Issuance of permits, licenses, and certifications from national and local government agencies shall strictly adhere to the period provided for under Republic Act No. 11032 or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”. In addition to this, government agencies and offices in charge of the issuance of permits, licenses, and certifications to manufacture, produce, process, assemble, service, repair, and develop materiel, ordnance, ammunition and explosives, capital

equipment, spare parts, and accessories, are prohibited from ordering to change, renovate, or modify a newly built manufacturing facility, or a portion thereof, if the construction of such manufacturing facility had strictly followed the building and construction plan submitted to and approved by the concerned government agency. Such changes shall be made prior to the issuance of the building permit and the actual construction of the facility: *Provided*, That the concerned government agency shall review the locational, building, and construction plan of the facility.

SEC. 15. *Rationalization of Defense Acquisition.* –

(a) Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Secretary of National Defense is hereby authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the government, under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, with any natural or juridical person, with or without public bidding, for the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto necessary for national defense in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 415 titled “Authorizing the Secretary of National Defense to Enter into Defense Contracts to Implement Projects under the Self-Reliant Defense Programs and for Other Purposes”: *Provided*, That in the exercise of such authority, the Secretary of National Defense shall comply with the reportorial requirements under Section 22 of this Act.

(b) Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, contracts for the procurement of services of local providers and for the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto which are necessary for national defense and which are determined by the Secretary of National Defense as not requiring public bidding, shall only be awarded to in-country enterprises: *Provided*, That such materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto can be locally produced, manufactured, or otherwise created.

(c) In-country enterprises participating in the acquisition of materiel by the DND and its bureaus, and other government agencies covered under this Act shall be exempt from the Single Largest Completed Contract (SLCC) requirement and the requirement for a product to be used by at least two (2) foreign militaries.

(d) In cases where the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto essential to national defense cannot be made locally and several bidders participate in the public bidding, the bid submitted by foreign enterprises and in-country enterprises shall be evaluated based on the criteria set by existing laws, further abiding by the standard set under Republic Act No. 12009 or the "New Government Procurement Act" or any similar law that may exist thereafter.

(e) The procuring entity shall issue a letter of credit in favor of the contract counterparty: *Provided*, That no payment on the letter of credit shall be made until delivery and acceptance of the goods as certified to by the procuring entity in accordance with the delivery schedule provided for in the contract have been concluded.

(f) In cases where the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto essential to national defense cannot be made locally, and only foreign enterprises participate, the ultimate objective of the DND shall be technology transfer and the acquisition of knowledge for eventual local production: *Provided*, That foreign enterprises participating pursuant to this subsection shall formulate and undertake an understudy program to facilitate the technology transfer and train Filipino workers towards the achievement of this objective.

(g) The DND, in consultation with other government agencies and representatives of in-country enterprises, shall issue regulations on the minimum local content for all defense-related acquisitions.

(h) Integrated Logistics Support must be incorporated in all contracts concerning defense-related acquisitions.

(i) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit or restrict lawful government-to-government transactions for the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities, and appurtenances thereto, which are necessary for national defense.

SEC. 16. *Multi-Year Contracts.* – Notwithstanding existing laws to the contrary, and subject to Section 15 of this Act, the DND and its bureaus shall be authorized to enter into multi-year contracts for the purpose of acquiring materiel: *Provided*, That corresponding appropriation for the ensuing fiscal years shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) upon the issuance of a multi-year obligation authority by the DBM: *Provided, further*, That the DND, in consultation with the DBM, shall issue implementing guidelines to ensure that contracts are consistent with the Revised AFP Modernization Program and this Act: *Provided, finally*, That the DND and its bureaus shall coordinate and conduct acquisition planning for the implementation of multi-year contracts.

SEC. 17. *Contracting Loans, Credits or Indebtedness Including Supplier's Credit, Deferred Payment Arrangements for SRDP Program Projects.* – The President and Commander-in-Chief in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines is hereby authorized to contract such loans, credits or indebtedness including supplier's credit, deferred payment arrangements for SRDP Program Projects upon such terms and conditions as maybe agreed upon with any local or foreign source or lender and at terms of payment of not less than ten (10) years and to enter into and conclude bilateral agreements involving other forms of official assistance such as grants and commodity credit arrangement or indebtedness as may be necessary with Government of foreign countries with whom the Philippines has diplomatic or trade relations or which are members of the United Nations, their agencies, instrumentalities or financial institutions or with reputable international organizations or non-governmental national or international lending institutions

or firms extending supplier's credit or deferred payment arrangements: *Provided*, That such loan, credit or indebtedness shall be incurred only after the plans for such project have been prepared by the DND and approved by the President, and only when the Secretary of Budget and Management has certified that for the fiscal year in question, funds are appropriated and programmed to service the external debt of the public sector, including the loan, credit or indebtedness proposed to be contracted, and that the counterpart peso funding requirements of the projects for which such loans, credits or indebtedness are being contracted have been programmed and shall be available as and when needed for the completion of the project.

SEC. 18. *Applicability of This Act to Uniformed Services, Other Law Enforcement Agencies, and GOCCs.* – This Act shall be applicable to uniformed services, other law enforcement agencies and GOCCs procuring materiel, capital equipment, spare parts, and accessories such as, but not limited to, guns and their accessories, ammunition, bullet-proof vests or similar protective gears, armored personnel carriers (APCs), tanks, boats, ships, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), aircraft and communication equipment and software, in the exercise of their functions. These agencies are the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) under the DILG, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) under the DOTr, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR), and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) under the Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under the DOF, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and other similar law enforcement agencies and GOCCs, including but not limited to the Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation (PADC). The head of the agency concerned shall approve the procurement of materiel, capital equipment, spare parts, and accessories under this Act if the total amount of the approved budget for the contract (ABC) does not exceed Two billion five hundred million pesos (P2,500,000,000). If the ABC exceeds

Two billion five hundred million pesos (P2,500,000,000), the approval of the President shall be required: *Provided*, That the threshold amounts shall be increased upon adoption by the DBM of higher threshold amounts. Procurement of products, supplies, projects, and services not falling under this Act shall be covered by the regular process of procurement under Republic Act No. 12009.

SEC. 19. *Prohibition on the Sale of Materiel to Private Entities.* – Materiel in the form of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and weapons systems, and other similar materiel, produced under the SRDP shall solely be for the use of the State's uniformed services and other law enforcement agencies. Sale of materiel to private entities in the Philippines, both natural and juridical, shall be prohibited, unless otherwise allowed under existing laws and regulations, including but not limited to Republic Act No. 10591 or the "Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act". All sales of materiel to private entities allowed under this section shall be subject to value-added tax and other applicable taxes.

The prohibition shall not apply to sale to foreign governments and their agencies and to foreign private entities, subject, however, to the imposition of the applicable taxes and duties: *Provided*, That exports shall only be allowed upon satisfaction of the materiel requirements of the AFP, uniformed services, other law enforcement agencies, and GOCCs mentioned under Section 18 of this Act.

SEC. 20. *Countertrade and Offset.* – Countertrade and offset shall be integrated as part of the procurement policy and procedures in the DND, including those of its attached agencies, bureaus, and offices, with respect to its purchase or procurement of imported capital equipment, machinery, supplies, material, and services, as an added value in the selection of a supplier during the procurement of goods and services.

In order to reduce foreign exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance technology transfer to

the Philippines, the Secretary of National Defense, shall, as far as practicable, incorporate in each agreement involving the Government the development, production, manufacturing, assembly, servicing, or operation of materiel, special foreign exchange reduction schemes, offset, and countertrade, in-country manufacture co-production, or other innovative arrangements or combinations thereof.

SEC. 21. *Promotion and Marketing Support.* – The Government shall promote the export of locally made materiel, and the local enterprises to other countries, and is encouraged to provide financial marketing support for the purpose of such promotion.

SEC. 22. *Reporting and Oversight.* – The Secretary of National Defense shall, not later than the end of the first quarter of the succeeding year, submit to the President and the Congress:

(a) An annual report on the acquisitions made under this Act including identified causes of delays, reasons for bottlenecks, cost overruns, both actual and prospective, and continued viability; and

(b) Copies of the multi-year contracts, obligations and other agreements entered into by the department and its bureaus.

Pursuant to its constitutional duties, the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Congress shall discharge oversight functions, to wit:

The COA shall conduct an audit on each ongoing and completed acquisition and render a report thereon to the Congress, not later than June 30 of each year. There shall be a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of the Chairpersons of the Committees on National Defense and Security of both Senate and House of Representatives who shall serve as Co-Chairpersons of the oversight committee, the Chairpersons of the Committees on Ways and Means of both

Senate and House of Representatives who shall serve as Co-Vice-Chairpersons, four (4) members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives representing the majority and two (2) members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives representing the minority to be designated by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 23. *Mandatory Review and Impact Evaluation.* – Every three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, a systematic evaluation of its accomplishments and impact shall be spearheaded and facilitated by the Office of the Undersecretary for DTRID to collect data for the purpose of determining remedial legislation.

The review shall look into a range of indicators which shall include, but not be limited to, the number of decent jobs created in the defense industry, entry of domestic and foreign investments in the defense sector, percentage of locally-sourced defense and other law enforcement materiel and equipment, and enhanced technological and industrial capacity of local defense industry.

The impact evaluation report shall be submitted to Congress not later than ninety (90) days after said evaluation.

SEC. 24. *Rule of Interpretation.* – Rights and obligations arising from existing contracts as of the date of effectivity of this Act shall be governed by their original terms and conditions or the law in force at the time such rights were vested.

The Secretary of National Defense shall continue to serve as a member of the GPPB.

Nothing in this Act shall be considered as exempting our country from compliance with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty.

This Act shall not hinder the full implementation of the declared policy enshrined under Republic Act No. 7042 or the "Foreign Investments Act of 1991", as amended by Republic Act No. 11647.

SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DND shall formulate and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the law.

SEC. 26. *Appropriations.* – An initial funding of One billion pesos (P1,000,000,000) shall be included in the annual appropriations of the DND for the purpose of implementing this Act. The amount necessary to support the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the respective agency's subsequent funding and shall be included in the annual GAA.

SEC. 27. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, and administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.


SEC. 29. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.


Approved.


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*


FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
President of the Senate

This Act, which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2455 and House Bill No. 9713, was passed by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives on August 12, 2024.

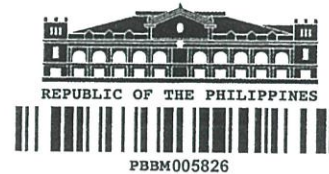

REGINALD S. VELASCO
*Secretary General
House of Representatives*


RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: OCT 08 2024




FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.
President of the Philippines



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