

Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 534

Submitted by the Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade
and Commerce on _____.

RE : SB Nos. 849, 1517, 1555 and HB 12073

Recommending approval of SB No. 1863, prepared by the
Committees in consolidation thereof

Sponsors : Senators Macapagal-Arroyo, Alvarez and the
Members of the Committees on Economic Affairs
and Trade and Commerce

MR. PRESIDENT :

The Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade and
Commerce, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 849,
introduced by Senator Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled :

"AN ACT
TO ACCELERATE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF
PHILIPPINE EXPORTS BY RATIONALIZING THE
GOVERNMENT'S EXPORT PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT
FUNCTIONS, ENCOURAGING UNITY AMONG PHILIPPINE
EXPORTERS, GRANTING INCENTIVES TO EXPORTERS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES",

Senate Bill No. 1517, introduced by Senator Alvarez,
entitled:

"AN ACT
GRANTING INCENTIVES TO EXPORTERS TO EVOLVE EXPORTS
AS THE KEY TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PHILIPPINE
NICHOOD BY THE YEAR 2000, INTENSIFYING EXPORT
PROMOTION AND INFORMATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES",

Senate Bill No. 1555, introduced by Senator Macapagal-
Arroyo, entitled :

"AN ACT
CREATING THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, DEFINING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES",

and House Bill No. 12073, introduced by Cong. De
Venecia et. al., entitled :

"AN ACT
TO EVOLVE EXPORTS AS THE KEY TO BALANCED AND
SUSTAINED AGRI-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
PHILIPPINE NICHOOD TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000"

has considered the same and has the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached consolidated bill, Senate Bill No. 1863, prepared by the Committees, entitled :

"AN ACT
TO DEVELOP EXPORTS AS A KEY TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE NATIONAL GOALS TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000"

be approved with Senators Macapagal-Arroyo, Alvarez and the Members of the Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade and Commerce as sponsors thereof.

Respectfully submitted :



GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Chairman

Committee on Economic Affairs
Committee on Trade & Commerce

Senate Archives (CRAS)



Blas F. Ople
HON. BLAS F. OPLE
Vice - Chairman
Committee on Economic Affairs

Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng
with reservation - bill not needed if govt gets
out together & solve basic problems first. *Other says this is only lip service to the sector for political mileage.*
HON. ANNA DOMINIQUE M.L. COSETENG
Vice-Chairman
Committee on Trade and Commerce

MEMBERS :

Agapito A. Aquino
HON. AGAPITO A. AQUINO

Orlando S. Mercado
HON. ORLANDO S. MERCADO

Francisco S. Tatad
HON. FRANCISCO S. TATAD

Neptali A. Gonzales
HON. NEPTALI A. GONZALES

Arturo M. Tolentino
HON. ARTURO M. TOLENTINO

Dissenting in part: Export should be primarily a private sector responsibility. This bill increases government participation in private business; also disagrees as to making this a criminal law type of activity, why criminal penalties; also why should
HON. ERNESTO M. MACEDA

John H. Osmena
HON. JOHN H. OSMENA

Ramon B. Revilla
HON. RAMON B. REVILLA

Raul S. Roco
HON. RAUL S. ROCO

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS :

Leticia Ramos-Shahani
HON. LETICIA RAMOS-SHAHANI
President Pro-Tempore

Alberto G. Romulo
HON. ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Majority Floor Leader



Wigberto E. Tanada
HON. WIGBERTO E. TANADA
Minority Floor Leader

HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senate President
Republic of the Philippines

Edgardo J. Angara

NINTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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S. B. No. 1863

(In consolidation of SB Nos. 849, 1517, 1555 and HB No. 12073)

Introduced by Senators Macapagal-Arroyo, Alvarez
and the Members of the Committees on Economic Affairs
and Trade and Commerce

"AN ACT
TO DEVELOP EXPORTS AS A KEY TOWARDS THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL GOALS TOWARDS THE YEAR
2000"

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

ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

SECTION 1. -This Act shall also be known as the "Export
Development Act of 1994".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the
policy of the State to evolve export development into a
national effort. The government shall support exports as a
key strategy for a sustainable agri-industrial development to
achieve Philippine NIC status towards the year 2000. The
private sector shall play a major role in export promotions,
diversification of export markets and development of new
world-class products.

The government and the private sector shall jointly
transform the Philippine into an exporting nation. The State
shall develop macro-economic polices that support export
development in order that the national goals of increased
productivity, employment and income can be expeditiously
achieved.

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Small and medium scale enterprises (SME's) which comprise the greater part of the country's business entities, shall play a dominant role in the country's export thrusts. Along this line, export programs and strategies shall be geared towards transforming all industries including domestic-oriented enterprises and SME's into world class exporters.

SEC. 3. Basic Principles. - The following are the basic national principles that shall govern exports:

a) Monetary and foreign exchange policies shall establish and maintain a competitive exchange rate, supported by measures to provide safety nets for various sectors that may be adversely affected by the implementation of such policies. Such policies shall be consistent with the objectives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas pursuant to Section 3 of R.A. 7653;

b) Fiscal and credit policies shall provide adequate funds at liberal terms for public and private investments and export business operations as well as for the financing needs of SME's especially those in the countryside, while keeping the cost of credit comparable to international levels;

c) Agricultural policies shall build up viability and competitiveness of the country's agriculture sectors and facilitate their linkage with industry to strengthen the agri-industrial base of the country's export sector;

d) Trade, tariff and customs policies and regulations shall be directed towards competitiveness of domestic manufacturing industries as main and cheaper source of raw materials for the export sector;

e) Technical Support policies to improve the quality of export products shall be adopted, particularly those relating to technology transfers, R & D, technical training

and related activities. As such, the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Agriculture shall be supported by state colleges and universities in the diffusion of technology, information and training to the countryside for agri-industrial and export development;

f) Infrastructure policies must be urgently towards the improvement of facilities critically needed for the development of the export sector, particularly those relating to the continuous and adequate supply of power, water, transportation, roads and bridges, ports and communication in order to support the flow of goods and services in the context of the national export drive;

g) The link between export growth and countryside development must be strengthened through policies favorable to SME's regional industrial centers, and export processing zones to boost rural and farm-based entrepreneurship in identified geographic economic growth areas of the country;

h) Labor and industrial relations policies must recognize the need to promote harmonious and industrial peace between labor and management in order to achieve international competitiveness and encourage investments in the export sector. Focus shall be given to formulation of accords between labor and management which shall provide for sustained increase in productivity and competitiveness while maintaining industrial peace. Likewise, reasonable price and income policies shall be adopted to safeguard the interest of the labor sector; and

i) All government agencies whose actions affect exporters, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments, Bureau of Customs, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue shall simplify procedures to minimize bureaucratic red tape.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply to the following terms:

a) "Exporter" means any person, natural or juridical, licensed to do business in the Philippines, engaged in the production, manufacture or trade of products or services which earns at least fifty percent (50%) of its normal operating revenues either from the sale of its products or services abroad for foreign currency, or from the sale of products whose export pricing is based on quotations in an international commodity exchange or market, and which will result in the increase in the international reserve for the country; Provided, that in the case of services, the same shall include financial, legal, engineering, technical, construction and other related professional services supplied by Philippine firms contracted to provide such services for institutions/entities abroad on a project basis. Services rendered by overseas contract workers are not covered by this definition.

(b) "Indirect exporter" means any person, natural or juridical, engaged in the production or manufacture or products or provision of services (as the term is defined in the next preceding paragraph) which earns at least fifty percent (50%) of its normal operating revenue from the sale of its products or services to an exporter or exporters, as defined above, as raw materials for or component parts of, or otherwise inputs to, a product which is finally exported.

c) "Small and Medium Scale Enterprises" (SME'S) - (i) Small scale enterprises are those whose assets are equivalent to or in excess of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) but less than Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00) while Medium scale enterprises are those whose assets are equivalent to or in excess of Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00) but not

more than Fifty Million Pesos (₱50,000,000.00). Small and Medium Scale enterprises who are also exporters are also called Small and Medium Scale Exporters.

d) "Export Promotion" - shall refer to a range/network or services and activities which enhance, boost or develop exports such as trade/market information; organization of trade fairs and missions; provision of product design and technical advisory services; conduct of training seminars, workshops and conferences on export-related subjects; publication of export related news and information; improvement of quality standards and related activities aimed at promoting or strengthening exports and improving the position of Philippine exports in specific foreign markets pursuant to the Philippine-Export Development Plan;

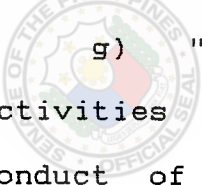
e) "Export Development" - shall refer to those activities aimed at the generation of new export trade (i.e. old products to new markets, new products to old markets) over the medium to long term including those activities such as market research and product development.

f) "Export Sales" shall mean the Philippine port F.O.B. value, determined from invoices, bills of lading, inward letters of credit, landing certificates, and other commercial documents, of export products exported directly by a registered export producer or the net selling price of export products sold by a registered export producer to another export producer, or to an export trader that subsequently exports the same: Provided, That sales of export products to another producer or to an export trader shall only be deemed export sales when actually exported by the latter, as evidenced by landing certificates or similar commercial documents: Provided, further, That without actual exportation the following shall be considered constructively exported for purposes of this provision: (1) sales to bonded

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manufacturing warehouses of export-oriented manufacturers; (2) sales to export processing zones; (3) sales to registered export traders operating bonded trading warehouses supplying raw materials used in the manufacture of export products under guidelines to be set by the Board in consultation with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs; (4) sales to foreign military bases, diplomatic missions and other agencies and/or instrumentalities granted tax immunities, of locally manufactured, assembled or repacked products whether paid for in foreign currency or not: Provided, further, That export sales of registered export traders may include commission income: and Provided, finally, That exportation of goods on consignment shall not be deemed export sales until the export products consigned are in fact sold by the consignee.

Sales of locally manufactured or assembled goods for household and personal use to Filipinos abroad and other non-residents of the Philippines as well as returning Overseas Filipinos under the Internal Export Program of the government and paid for in convertible foreign currency inwardly remitted through the Philippine banking systems shall also be considered export sales.

 g) "Export support services" - shall refer to activities that are vital and indispensable part of the conduct of exports such as but not limited to insurance, brokerage, warehousing, port services, financing, transportation, communications and related services.

h) "Export Incentives" shall refer to support measures provided by the government to exporters to encourage investment in the export sector, create a freer trade environment and motivate exporters to increase export sales and perform competitively in the international market.

i) "Accredited Organization" shall refer to the

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organization or exporters granted accreditation by the Export Development Council, as provided for in Section 7 (1) of this Act.

ARTICLE II

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES

SEC. 5. Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP) -

The President of the Republic of the Philippines shall approve a rolling three-year Philippine Export Development Plan prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry which shall form part of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan. It shall be formulated in consultation with private sector, validated and updated semestrally.

The PEDP shall define the country's annual and medium term thrusts, strategies, programs and projects and shall be jointly implemented by the government, exporters and other concerned sectors.

SEC. 6. Export Development Council - The existing Export Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which was created by Executive Order No. 98 (1993) as modified by Executive Order No. 110 (1993) and E.O. 180 (1994), shall be strengthened and institutionalized for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of the PEDP and coordinating the formulation and implementation of policy reforms to support said Plan. It shall be an independent body that shall report directly to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, and shall be vested with executing and implementing authority over the coordination of government efforts to promote exports.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Council - The Council shall :

(a) Formulate and endorse the approval of the PEDP, coordinate, monitor and assess the implementation thereof

and, when necessary, institute adjustments thereon in the light of changing conditions in both the domestic and international environment;

(b) Periodically review and assess the country's export performance, problems and prospects;

(c) Identify the main bottlenecks, problem areas and constraints in all areas/sectors/activities which affect the export sector, such as but not limited to physical infrastructures, finance, technology, production, promotions and marketing;

(d) Mandate specific departments and agencies to attend to these problems and constraints in the development of exports in any of the areas mentioned in (c) above, and require the concerned secretaries to deliver a progress report(s) on the actions/initiatives taken to resolve these areas of concern at the next meeting(s).

(e) Ensure export quality control by overseeing the formulation and implementation of quality control guidelines by appropriate agencies to make Philippine exports at par with world-class products;

(f) Impose sanctions on any government agency or officer or employee thereof that violates the provisions of this Act or rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto in accordance with due process of law;

(g) Recommend to Congress any proposed legislation that would contribute to the development of exports;

(h) Formulate policies or recommend measures and draw up a study within six (6) months from approval of this act relative to the rationalization of the government's export promotion and development function/activities and programs for the eventual transfer of government export promotion and development activities to the private sector within a period of three (3) years after the approval of this Act;

(i) Formulate the policies for the granting of incentives to exporters, direct and indirect;

(j) Formulate policies for the granting of incentives to exporters;

(k) Formulate policies, rules and regulations, procedures and administrative systems for the efficient and effective exercise of its powers and functions, including the creation or adoption of an executive committee or secretariat;

(l) Grant and review the accreditation of the organization of exporters, according to the guidelines which it shall later promulgate for the purpose: Provided, That the organization accredited shall be the dominant one among the other existing export organizations as determined under the guidelines promulgated by the Council;

(m) Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, submit to Congress a study on the legal and financial feasibility of setting up/strengthening a unified export financing institution for exporters;

(n) To prepare and recommend a budget to the National Government to fund the activities of the Council for export promotion and development, for inclusion on a yearly basis, in the General Appropriations Act, with the power and authority to disburse the same for the promotion and development of exports in accordance with the guidelines to be set by the Council;

(o) To negotiate and enter into any and all kinds of agreements and contracts for the purposes mandated in this Act.

SEC. 8. Composition of the Council. -The Council shall be composed of the following:

- (a) President of the Philippines - Ex-Officio Chairman
- (b) Secretary of Trade and Industry - Vice-Chairman

(c) Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - Member

(d) Secretary of Finance - Member

(e) Secretary of Agriculture- Member

(f) Secretary of Foreign Affairs - Member

(g) Secretary of Labor and Employment - Member

(h) Secretary of Science and Technology - Member

(i) Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority - Member

(j) Presidential Assistant for Mindanao -Member

(k) Presidential Assistant for ^{Visayas GBD} Mindanao - Member

(l) Twelve (12) representatives from the Private Sector, comprising the following: the Chairman and the President of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEX-PORT) or its successor-in-interest, the President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and the President of the Confederation of Small and Medium Exporters, all four (4) being ex-officio members: a representative each from PHILEXPORT in the Visayas and in Mindanao: and six (6) other private sector representatives.

The private sector representatives shall be exempted from divesting their interests in any private company or corporation or in such other business as they are engaged in as precondition to their appointment as members of the Council.

Other heads of executive agencies, private organizations or individuals can be called upon by the President upon recommendation of the Chairman of the Council to attend any or all Council meetings and assist the Council to resolve issues and problems that concern their respective offices but without any voting rights in the Council.

Likewise, such heads of executive agencies, private organizations or individuals shall respond to the queries of

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the Council in accordance with existing laws.

SEC. 9. Mode of Selection and Tenure of the Private Sector Representatives - The President shall appoint the private sector representatives, upon nomination of the accredited organizations, ensuring balanced representation among sectors, such as agricultural and traditional export sectors as against the non-agricultural and non-traditional export sectors and the like.

The private sector representatives of the Council shall serve for a period of two (2) years. When a vacancy arises due to resignation, death or incapacity of a member, a replacement who shall serve for the remainder of the member's term of office shall be appointed by the President, upon recommendation of the accredited organization.

SEC. 10. Meetings of the Council - The Council shall meet once a month :Provided, That the President of the Republic of the Philippines or the Chairman may convene the Council anytime whenever they deem it necessary.

SEC. 11. Funding - The activities and operational expenses of the Council shall be funded through the creation of an Export Development Fund (EDF) to be initially funded by the National Government in the amount of P50 million.

The EDF shall be managed by the Council and allocated for export promotion and development activities, studies, communications and other related services with such sectors, organizations or entities that the Council may deem necessary.

Thereafter, the EDF shall come from direct annual budgetary appropriations from the government and from private sector contributions.

SEC. 12. Accredited Export Organization - The Council shall accredit a single umbrella organization of exporters pursuant to Section 7(1) of this Act to represent the export

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sector concerns and interests for three (3) years, after which the Council shall undertake a review of the accreditation prior to the granting or regranting of the said accreditation.

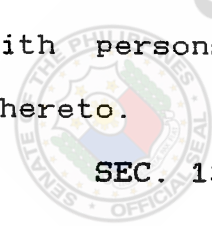
The accredited organization shall :

(a) Recommend private sector representatives to the Council for appointment by the President, with consideration of balanced sectoral representation, as provided for in Section 9 hereof.

(b) Represent the interests of the export sector; and

(c) Be responsible for coordinating, supporting and assisting the Department of Trade and Industry relative to the formulation and implementation of the government's export promotion programs and policies : Provided, That in the event that some of the export promotion functions of the government are privatized in accordance with this Act, be responsible for the performance of such privatized export promotion function(s).

(d) Be authorized to accept the land for the establishment of the Philippine Trade Center to be set up in accordance with Section 16 hereof, which shall include the authority to enter into any kind of agreements or contracts with persons, organizations, firms or entities pursuant thereto.



SEC. 13. Specific Mandate to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) - The NEDA shall issue standards and policies to be observed by local government units (LGU's) in order to :

(a) Ensure that LGU's plans and budgets are supportive of agri-industrial growth and export competitiveness thrusts of the national government.

(b) Ensure optimal allocation of expenditures.

The DILG and the regional development councils shall be the channels through which these standards and policies shall be coursed.

SEC. 14. Export Financing -Pursuant to Section 7(m) of this Act, the Council shall make the necessary legal and feasibility study/recommendation on the alignment and rationalization of government programs relative to export financing and existing organizations dealing primarily or exclusively with export financing, likewise considering the creation of a private sector-led unified export financing institution, whose services shall be primarily devoted towards supporting the operations of SME exporters as well as highly technical and export ready enterprises. The study shall include the powers, functions and operations of the proposed institution and if and when necessary, the preparation of a bill creating the same which the Council will recommend to Congress within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 15. Export Promotion and Information - As provided for in Section 7 (h) of this Act, the Council through the Department of Trade and Industry shall, within six (6) months from approval of this Act, prepare an Export Promotion Privatization Program which will rationalize or re-align the government's export promotion and information programs and services which the private sector can undertake and the privatization process shall be completed within a period of 3 years.

SEC. 16. Philippine Trade Center - The government shall hereby assist the private sector in the establishment of a world-class Philippine Trade Center which shall house the trade promotion offices of the two sectors and shall serve as the permanent exhibit site of the country's export products. In this regard, the government, through a wholly

owned-government corporation or subsidiary, shall provide the land for the Center, through a land grant or long-term lease to the accredited organization, and assist in arranging financing for the construction of the trade complex.

ARTICLE III
OTHER INCENTIVES

SEC. 17. Fiscal Incentives - In addition to existing incentives provided by the Board of Investments, the following incentives shall likewise be granted to exporters:

(a) Exemption from Presidential Decree No.1853 requiring advanced payment of duties and taxes for importations prior to the opening of letters of credit - Provided, That the importation shall be used 100% for export production;

(b) Duty-free importation of inputs/raw materials - Inputs and raw materials primarily used for the production and packaging of export goods which are not readily available in sufficient quantity from local sources, shall be exempted from any import duty;

(c) Tax credit for locally sourced inputs - Exporters who manage to locally source their inputs, whether raw materials, machinery, equipment and/or spare parts, will be granted a tax credit equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the value of the national internal revenue taxes and customs duties that would have been waived on the said inputs had the same been imported;

(d) Additional deduction for labor-intensive industries - Exporters who primarily use labor for the production of export commodities shall be allowed an additional deduction from their taxable income equivalent to the total expenses for these labor inputs.

(e) Double tax deduction scheme for trade fairs and missions, overseas trade offices, overseas market develop-

ment, promotional publicity, research and development activities, and training expenses of companies;

Provided, That these incentives shall be granted only upon: (i) Presentation of a Certification of exporter's eligibility and (ii) Presentation of Certification that in case of importations, the items sought to be imported shall be used exclusively for production of export products and are not available in sufficient quantity or quality from local sources, which Certifications shall be issued by the Council or appropriate bureau/office of the Department of Trade and Industry charged with these functions.

Provided, further, That except for those incentives with a period of five (5) years all other incentives shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years from approval of this Act, unless the period is extended for exporters with a growth of at least 10% yearly, unless sooner revoked by subsequent laws and regulations.

The Council shall formulate guidelines on the availment of these incentives by exporters within one hundred twenty (120) days from the approval of this Act.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 18. Appointment of Private Sector Representatives

Upon the effectivity of this Act, the President of the Republic of the Philippines shall appoint the ten (10) private sector representatives to the Council who shall serve a term of two (2) years. Thereafter, the determination of the private sector representatives shall be governed by Section 8 and 9 of this Act.

SEC. 19. Funding of the Council - Upon the effectivity of this Act, the budget granted to the Old Export Development Council shall be transferred to the new Council created under this Act. Thereafter, funding shall be in accord-

ance with Section 11 of this Act.

SEC. 20. Operation of the Council - The Council immediately discharge its functions one (1) month after the approval of this Act.

ARTICLE V

CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

SEC. 21. Misuse of Funds -Any person or entity, private or government, who shall unlawfully and maliciously divert the funds under this Act for purposes other than intended shall, in addition to the penalties under existing laws, be punished with imprisonment ranging from three (3) years to six (6) years and a fine equivalent to the fund diverted or misused.

SEC. 22. Violations of this Act - Likewise, any person or entity, private or government, who is found guilty of willful or negligent violation of the provisions of this Act shall be subject to penalty ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year imprisonment and a fine not exceeding P50,000.00

ARTICLE VI

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SPECIAL CLAUSES

SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Council shall formulate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from its approval. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days from their publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 24. Separability Clause - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared separable and in the event any of the provisions hereof are declared unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 25. Repealing Clause - All other laws and de-

crees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

SEC. 26. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval hereof.

Approved,

Senate Archives (LRAS)

