

[Act No. 780, May 29, 1903]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE EXAMINATION AND LICENSING OF APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITIONS OF MASTER, MATE, PATRON, AND ENGINEER OF SEAGOING VESSELS IN THE PHILIPPINE COASTWISE TRADE, AND PRESCRIBING THE NUMBER OF ENGINEERS TO BE EMPLOYED BY SUCH VESSELS.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. A board is hereby created, to consist of the Collector of Customs for the Philippine Archipelago, the Superintendent of the Nautical School, the Inspector of Boilers, the Inspector of Hulls, and one master of a merchant vessel, who shall be appointed by the Insular Collector of Customs, to examine and certify for licenses all applicants for the positions of master, mate, patron and engineer of seagoing vessels in the Philippine coastwise trade. The Insular Collector of Customs shall be president of the Board ex officio, and any three members thereof shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This board shall be known and referred to as the "Board on Philippine Marine Examinations."

SEC. 2. Whenever any person applies for license as master, mate, patron, or engineer of a Philippine coastwise vessel it shall be the duty of the Board on Philippine Marine Examinations to make thorough inquiry as to his character and carefully to examine the applicant, the evidence he presents in support of his application, and such other evidence as it may deem proper or desirable, and if satisfied that his capacity, experience, habits of life, and character are such as to warrant the belief that he can be safely intrusted with the duties and responsibilities of the position for which he makes application, it shall so certify to the Insular Collector of Customs, who shall issue a license authorizing such applicant to act as master, mate, patron, or engineer, as the case may be.

SEC. 3. The Board shall meet at the office of the Insular Collector of Customs at Manila during the last week of the months of April, August, and December of each year and examine all applicants for any such positions who have filed in writing their applications for examination at least one month before the meeting of the Board. Every applicant shall be examined physically by a competent physician selected by the Board, and, unless found to be physically sound, shall not be further examined and shall not be licensed. The Board may, in its discretion, require the production of ship's journals and log books for inspection in the examination of applicants for positions of master or mate.

Every applicant for license as master must produce satisfactory evidence that he has served as certified first mate for at least three years in a seagoing sailing vessel or at least five years in a seagoing steamer, and must not be less than twenty-eight years of age.

Every applicant for license as first mate shall be required to produce to the Board properly certified documents should that he has served in the capacity of second and third mate for at least two years in a seagoing sailing vessel or at least three years in a seagoing steamer, and must not be less than twenty-five years of age.

Every applicant for license as second mate must produce to the Board a certificate as third mate and properly certified documents showing that he has served in the capacity of third mate in a seagoing sailing vessel for at least one year or in a seagoing steamer for at least two years, and must; not be less than twenty-three years of age.

Every applicant for the position of third mate shall be required to present to the Board documents properly certified showing that he has served as seaman, apprentice, or quartermaster continuously for at least nine months in a seagoing sailing vessel or at least eighteen months in a seagoing steamer: *Provided*, That, if the applicant produces a certificate of graduation from the Nautical School of Manila, it shall be sufficient, evidence of his technical knowledge, but not of his physical condition, experience, habits, or character. The applicant shall not be less than nineteen years of age.

Every applicant for license as patron shall not be less than twenty-three years of age. He shall be examined on the following subjects: Reading and writing; management of the sails and rigging of coasting and pilot boats; manner of loading according to cargo; manner of careening a boat so as to rid it of water, as well as manner of stranding same; knowledge of the coasts where he is to navigate, their shoals, banks, and reefs; of ocean currents and tides; of prevailing winds; which winds to sail with and which to sail away from; how to square the compass; to take bearings by the lead, and other practical methods for determining the nearness of the coast and what course is to be taken; methods of entering and leaving the ports of the provinces; precautions to be taken in time of storms at sea as well as in port; method of repairing damage sustained by vessels; familiarity with all existing coast lighthouses on their routes knowledge of all maritime laws relating to the sanitation and police regulations of ports; knowledge of regulations governing the use of lights and signals for the prevention of collisions, and in short, of all subjects that may have a bearing on his calling.

The Board in examining applicants for the position of engineer shall diligently inquire into the knowledge of said applicants of the construction and operation of steam machinery and especially of engines and boilers, also as to the applicant's practical experience, character, and habits, and the Board may, in its discretion, make such practical tests and examinations of applicants as it may deem necessary to demonstrate their fitness or unfitness for the positions which they seek. The Board may also take the statements, written or oral, of any persons cognizant of the qualifications of such applicants.

SEC. 4. The holders of licenses as master, mate, or engineer under the laws of the United States shall be eligible to appointment to like positions under this Act. The examination of every applicant shall be in writing and shall include a thorough examination as to his knowledge of seamanship and navigation in its various branches, his capacity and skill in lading and unlading cargo, in handling and storing freight under all conditions, and his knowledge generally of the duties of the position which he seeks.

SEC. 5. To obtain a license, every applicant shall be required to show a proficiency in the subjects upon which he is examined and shall answer correctly at least seventy-five per cent of the questions propounded to him on such examination. Examinations of all applicants, as well as the records of the Board, shall be kept in