

## [ Act No. 7, September 26, 1900 ]

### **AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU OF STATISTICS FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a Bureau of Statistics for the Philippine Islands, the central office of which shall be located in the city of Manila. The chief officer of this Bureau shall be denominated the Chief Statistician. He shall be appointed by the Commission, under the limitations which are applicable to the appointment of the heads of other Departments by virtue of section twenty of the Civil Service Act. He shall superintend and direct the collection, compilation, and publication of such statistical information concerning the Philippine Islands as may be required by law, and shall perform his duties under the general supervision of the Military Governor.

SEC. 2. All appointments in the Bureau of Statistics shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Act.

SEC. 3. All information collected by the Bureau concerning the affairs of private persons, firms or corporations shall be strictly confidential, and shall not be published or communicated in such a way as to reveal the identity of the persons concerned to any other than the employees of the Bureau. The violation of this requirement by the Chief Statistician, or by any assistant, clerk, special agent, enumerator or other employee of the Bureau shall be a misdemeanor, the punishment for which shall be a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. Any assistant, clerk, special agent, enumerator, or other employee of the Bureau who shall communicate to any person not authorized to receive the same any information gained by him in the performance of his duties, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in the preceding section.

SEC. 5. The Chief Statistician, or any assistant, clerk, special agent, enumerator, or other employee of the Bureau, who shall willfully report or publish false statistical information, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section three of this Act.

SEC. 6. All public officers of the Philippine Islands are authorized and required to render to the Chief Statistician, on his request, regular or special reports on all matters coming to their knowledge in the performance of their official duties, in so far as the information possessed by them or contained in their records relates to a subject under duly authorized investigation, and is not of a confidential nature. The regular reports required of public officials shall, as far as possible, take the form laid down in the statutes of the United States for similar reports to the several statistical Bureaus of the Federal Government on the same or cognate subjects, or such forms as shall be prescribed by law. When any of the special reports called for from any