

[Commonwealth Act No. 88, October 26, 1936]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A STATE POLICE FORCE.

Be it enacted by the National Assembly of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. For the proper maintenance of law and order throughout the country, all the duly constituted police forces in all the municipalities and other local political subdivisions, including chartered cities, and all provincial guard organizations in the provinces, on the date of the approval of this Act, are hereby consolidated and placed under the immediate charge and direction of the Department of the Interior, and thereafter they shall be called the State Police and shall assume all the functions and activities now undertaken by the municipal police forces. The members of the State Police shall be peace officers and as such it shall be their duty to preserve order and exercise vigilance in the prevention of public offenses. They shall exercise the general power to make arrests and seizures according to law.

In places where there is no fire department, the State Police force shall organize and render service as such.

SEC. 2. There shall be a Commissioner of Public Safety and three Assistant Commissioners of Public Safety of the State Police in the Department of the Interior. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall have the rank and salary of an Undersecretary of Department, and shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the National Assembly. He shall be the chief executive officer of the organization and of all fire departments, and the three Assistant Commissioners of Public Safety shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Commissioner of Public Safety and such as may be imposed upon them by law. When the Commissioner of Public Safety is unable to perform his duties on account of illness, absence, or other cause, or, in case of vacancy in the office, the Department Head may designate one of the Assistant Commissioners of Public Safety to temporarily perform the functions of said office. The Assistant Commissioners of Public Safety shall each receive a salary of four thousand pesos per annum. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall be directly responsible to the Secretary of the Interior for the strict and faithful enforcement of the law and maintenance of order throughout the country and shall have the power to promulgate, with the approval of the Department Head and the President of the Philippines, the necessary rules and regulations not inconsistent with existing laws for the proper government, discipline, inspection and admission to examination of the members of the State Police force, prescribing the subject for such examination which shall be held under the direction of the Bureau of Civil Service; prescribe the uniforms, Insignia, arms and equipment to be used by the police force; and organize such rural police as may be necessary. Such rules and regulations as may be promulgated in pursuance hereof shall have the force and effect and compliance therewith shall be obligatory. Appointments to the State Police force and removal therefrom shall be made in accordance with civil service rules and regulations, by the Commissioner of Public Safety with the approval of the Department Head, except in the case of the chiefs of police of chartered cities where the existing laws shall govern: Provided, however, That any member of the Municipal Police force and Provincial Guard who is not qualified under civil service rules and regulations shall