[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487, June 21, 1969]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE, WATCHMEN OR SECURITY GUARD AGENCIES.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title of Act*.—This Act shall be known as "The Private Security Agency Law".

SEC. 2. *Scope of this Act.*—The organization, operation, business and activities of private detectives, watchmen or security guards agencies shall be governed by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*— (a) *Person.*—As used in this Act, person shall include not only natural persons but also juridical persons such as a corporation, partner-ship, company or association duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and/or the Bureau of Commerce, (b) *Private Detective Agency*.—A private detective agency is any person, who, for hire or reward or on commission, conducts or carries on or holds himself or itself out as conducting or carrying on a detective agency, or detective service, (c) *Private Detective*.—A Private detective is any person who is not a member of regular police agency or the Armed Forces of the Philippines who does detective work for hire, reward, or commission, (d) *Watchmen or Security Agency*.—Any Person who offers or renders personal services to watch ethier residential or business premises, or both, for hire or compensation thru subscription shall be known as watchmen and any person, association, partnership or corporation, who recruits, trains, musters, furnishes and solicits individuals or business firms, private or government-owned corporations in engaging his services or those of its watchmen, or otherwise conducts, carries on or holds himself or itself out as conducting or carrying on, any agency, office, or service or watchers, or watch either residential or business premises, or both for hire or compensation thru subscription shall be known as watchmen or security agency, (e) *License or License Certificate.*— A document issued to a person by competent authority allowing such person to establish, direct manage or operate the business or occupation of private detective or intelligence and private watchman or security agency.

SEC. 4. *Who May Organize a Security Watchman or Detective Agency*.—Any Filipino citizen, or a corporation, partnership or association one hundred percent of which is owned and controlled by Filipino citizens may organize a security, watchman or detective agency: *Provided*, That the operator or manager of said agency must be at least twenty-three years of age a high school graduate; of good moral character; having no previous record of any conviction of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude; and not suffering from any of the following disqualifications :

(1) Having been dishonorably discharged or separated from the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
(2) Being a mental incompetent;
(3) Being addicted to the use of narcotic drug or drugs; and
(4) Being a habitual drunkard.

For purposes of this Act, elective or appointive government officials and government employees who may be called upon to act on account of the functions of their respective offices in the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act, may not hold any interest, directly or indirectly, in any security guard, watchman or private detective agency.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications Required*.—No person shall be employed as security guard or watchman or private detective unless he is: (a) a Filipino citizens; (b) a high school graduate; (c) physically and mentally fit; (d) not less than 21 nor more than 50 years of age; (e) at least 5 feet and 4 inches in height; and (f) suffering none of the disqualifications provided for in the preceding section: *Provided*, That foreigners who, are already employed as watchmen or security guards prior to the approval of this Act shall not be subject to the above-mentioned requirements: *Provided, further*, That veterans shall be given priority in employment as security guard, watchman or private detective; *And Provided, finally*, That person convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude shall not be employed as security guard, watchman or private detective.

SEC. 6. *License Necessary*.—No person shall engage in the business of, or act either as a private detective, or detective agency; and either engage in the occupation, calling or employment of watchman or in the business of watchman's agency without first having obtained the necessary permit from the Chief, Philippine Constabulary which permit as approved is a prerequisite in obtaining a license or license certificate: *Provided*, That all existing private detective or watchman or security guard agencies shall have a period of one (1) year from the approval of this Act to secure the said license: *Provided, further*, That existing agencies, and any new agency which may hereafter apply for a license, certify under oath that their Private detectives, watchmen or security guards, have received the appropriate training from either the Philippine Constabulary, the National Bureau of Investigation, local police department, or any other public or private institution duly recognized by the government to conduct police training.

SEC. 7. *Application for License*.—The application shall be made in writing and shall be filed with the Chief, Philippine Constabulary. It shall contain the full name of the applicant, his age, civil status, his residence, and location of business. If the applicant is a corporation, association or partnership, a copy of the certificate of registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission together with its by-laws and articles of incorporation, with the Bureau of Commerce.

SEC. 8. *Fees to be Paid and Bonds*.—When all requisites for the issuance of the license have been complied with, the Chief of the Philippine Constabulary or his duly authorized representative shall issue a permit for the issuance of such license and register the same in his office, upon payment by the applicant of the fee in .accordance with the following schedule: