

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1192, August 25, 1954 ]**

**AN ACT TO CREATE THE BUREAU OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS,  
ABOLISHING THE DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS OF THE BUREAU OF  
PUBLIC WORKS.**

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

SECTION 1. *Creation and chief officials of the Bureau of Public Highways.*—There is created in the Department of Public Works and Communications an office to be known as the "Bureau of Public Highways," which shall have one chief to be designated as the Commissioner of Public Highways who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Ments and shall receive an annual compensation of thousand six hundred pesos. He shall, upon appointment, take and file the oath prescribed by law for public officers, shall be bonded in accordance with the Public Bonding Law in the sum of twenty-five thousand pesos, and shall be subject to removal by the President for neglect of duty or for nonfeasance or malfeasance in office.

No person shall be appointed Commissioner of Public Highways unless he is a competent civil engineer, graduate of an engineering college duly recognized by the Government, with at least fifteen years experience in highway and bridge construction, maintenance and repair.

Any reference made in any act, executive order, administrative order, proclamation, rules or regulations to the Bureau of Public Works or to the Division of Highways of said Bureau in relation to construction, improvement, maintenance or repair of public roads, streets or highways or other activities connected therewith, shall hereafter be understood to be a reference to the Bureau of Public Highways herein created: Provided, That no additional administrative expenditures for the operation of the Bureau of Public Highways created under this Act shall be drawn from the general funds, such expenditures being proper charges against the allotments already set aside under section six, paragraph (a), of Republic Act Numbered Nine hundred and seventeen, known as the "Philippine Highway Act of 1953."

SEC. 2. *Powers, duties, functions and aims of the Bureau in general.*—The Bureau of Public Highways shall have the following powers, duties, functions and aims in general:

- a. The planning of a national highway program and the administration of large highway construction expenditures;
- b. The conducting of research and investigation studies, including studies of highway administration, legislation, nuance, economics, transport, construction, operation, maintenance, utilization, and safety, and of street and highly traffic control; investigations and experiments in the best methods of

- road making, especially by the use of local materials; studies of types of mechanical plants and appliances used for road building and maintenance, and of methods of road repair and maintenance suited to the of different localities;
- c. The survey, construction, care, maintenance, improvement and repair of national roads, express highways through cities, main rural highways, and the establishment of a highway system connecting the principal metropolitan areas and important industrial centers, and a system of secondary or farm-to-market roads;
  - d. The giving of advice to the President of the Philippines, the Congress, and the Secretary of Public Works and Communications upon matters pertaining to public high-ways;
  - e. The making of needful preliminary investigations plans and specifications for the construction or repair of national roads, the obtaining of bids for contract work, the acceptance or rejection of the same and the awarding of contracts therefor;
  - f. The preparation of plans and estimates with reference to provincial and municipal roads, the letting of contracts therefor, and supervision over the construction, improvement, maintenance, and repair thereof;
  - g. The supervision over the engineering features of streets throughout the Philippines, whether pertaining to the National Government or to any political subdivision thereof;
  - h. To cooperate with the department or departments concerned in the construction of roads in national forests, national parks and other areas belonging to the National Government.

SEC. 3. *Powers and duties of the Commissioner.*—The Commissioner of Public Highways shall possess the powers conferred generally on bureau chiefs, shall have full control, management, supervision, administration, and direction of the Bureau, and shall be responsible for the carrying out of the activities thereof. In particular, he shall be directly responsible for: (1) the administration of Republic Act Numbered Nine hundred seventeen, otherwise known as the Philippine Highway Act of 1953; (2) preparation of long-range programs of highway development, improvement and construction; (3) formulation of uniform practices for the physical design of highway facilities; (4) direction and supervision in matters of highway planning, location, design, construction and maintenance, including the testing of materials and the proper and efficient use of highway equipment; (5) promotion of sane economy in the expenditure of highway funds, utilization of supplies and materials, preservation of property and equipment, and, management operations; (6) preparation of annual budgets of proposed expenditures for construction, reconstruction, and improvement work; (7) causing minutes of his acts to be kept; and (8) supervising the signing of vouchers, orders for supplies, materials, and any other expenditures.

The Commissioner shall not hold any other office, shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and shall not hold any position of trust or profit, nor engage in any business or occupation interfering or inconsistent with his duties, nor serve on or under any committee of any political party.

The Commissioner, or whosoever may be designated by him, may hold sessions or conduct investigations or hearings at his office or at any other place within the Philippines when deemed necessary to facilitate the work of his Bureau.

The Commissioner shall be custodian of, and shall preserve, the files and records of