

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10029, March 16, 2010]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY
CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Psychology Act of 2009".

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* — The State recognizes that psychologists have an important role in nation-building and development. It also acknowledges the diverse specializations of psychologists and the diverse functions specific to the varied specializations. In particular, it recognizes the significance of the psychological services that practicing psychologists provide to diverse types of clients, but also recognizes the need to protect the public by preventing inexperienced or untrained individuals from offering psychological services. Hence, it shall nurture competent, upright and assiduous psychologists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent and globally competitive through the administration of inviolable, effective and credible licensure examinations and the imposition and promotion of regulatory measures, programs and activities that enhance their professional growth and well-being.

ARTICLE III

DEFINITION OF TERMS

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. "Psychology" is the scientific study of human behavior. It involves the application of scientific methods to inquire into the biological, cognitive, affective, development, personality, social, cultural and individual difference dimensions of human behavior.
- b. "Practice of Psychology" consists of the delivery of psychological principles and procedures for the purpose of describing, understanding, predicting and influencing the behavior of individuals or groups, in order to assist in the attainment of optimal human growth and functioning. The delivery of psychological services includes, but is not limited to: (1) psychological interventions: psychological counseling, psychotherapy, psychological support, coaching, psychological debriefing, group processes and all other psychological interventions that involve the application of psychological principles to improve psychological functioning of individuals, families, groups and organizations; (2) psychological assessment: gathering and integration of psychology-related data for the purpose of making a psychological evaluation, accomplished through a variety of tools, including individual tests, projective tests, clinical interviews and other psychological assessment tools, for the purpose of assessing diverse psychological functions including cognitive abilities, aptitudes, personality characteristics, attitudes, values, interests, emotions and motivations, among others, in support of psychological counseling, psychotherapy and other psychological interventions; and (3) psychological programs: development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of psychological treatment for individuals and/or groups.
- c. "Psychologist" means a natural person who is duly registered and holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as professional psychologist, issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology and the Professional Regulation Commission pursuant to this Act for the purpose of delivering the different psychological services defined in its Act.
- d. "Psychometrician" means a natural person who holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as psychometrician issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology and the Professional Regulation Commission pursuant to this Act. As such, he/she shall be authorized to do any of the following: Provided, That such shall at all times be conducted under the supervision of a licensed professional psychologist: (1) administering and scoring of objective personality tests, structured personality tests, pen-and-paper intelligence, achievement and interest tests, excluding projective tests and other higher level forms of psychological tests; (2) interpreting results of the same and preparing a written report on these results; and (3) conducting preparatory intake interviews of clients for psychological intervention sessions.

ARTICLE IV

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

SEC. 4. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology. — There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the administrative

control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) nominees for each position. The list of nominees shall be submitted to the Commission by the integrated and accredited national organization of psychologists. The Board shall be organized not later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and the Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology.* — The Chairperson and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment and for the course of their term, possess the following qualifications:

- a. A natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- c. Possess good moral character;
- d. Hold a doctorate degree in psychology conferred by a university, college or school in the Philippines or abroad duly recognized and/or accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- e. Have at least ten (10) years of practice in psychology and psychometrics in a duly recognized institution, clinic or center, as well as at least five (5) years of teaching experience in the field of psychology;
- f. Be a registered and licensed psychologist, except in the case of the first member of the Board who shall automatically be conferred a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card in psychology and psychometrics upon appointment to the Board;
- g. Is neither an officer, trustee nor member of the faculty of any university, college, institute or school where a regular course in psychology is offered or taught or review classes conducted and shall not have any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any such institution;
- h. Is not an officer, nor hold any position other than being a member of the integrated and accredited national organization of psychologists; and
- i. Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 6. *Term of Office.* — The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. Each member of the Board may be reappointed for one (1) full term of three (3) years. The first members of the Board shall hold office for the following terms: the Chairperson for three (3) years; one (1) member for two (2) years; and the other member for one (1) year, which shall be specified in their respective appointments. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to the performance of his/her duties.

SEC. 7. *Powers and Duties.* — The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Administer and implement the provision of this Act and promulgate as well as revise or update, as necessary, rules and regulations, resolutions and guidelines hereto: *Provided*, That the policies, resolutions, rules and

- regulations issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the Commission;
- b. Supervise and monitor the registration, licensure and practice of psychologists and psychometrics in the Philippines;
 - c. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
 - d. Issue, and upon compliance with due process requirements, suspend or revoke and/or reinstate, the certificate of registration and professional identification card for psychologists and psychometricians;
 - e. Adopt an official seal of the Board;
 - f. Monitor the conditions and circumstances affecting the practice of psychology and psychometrics in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed lawful and proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards of the profession;
 - g. Issue permits to and exercise visitorial powers over agencies, institutions, associations, corporations and partnerships to verify that the persons practicing psychology and psychometricians with valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards, and that they possess the necessary accreditation, skills and/or facilities to competently carry out their functions;
 - h. Assist the Commission in the formulation and implementation of the guidelines on continuing professional education for psychologist and psychometricians;
 - i. Ensure, in coordination with the CHED, that all educational institutions offering the course/program of psychology strictly comply with the policies, standards and requirements prescribed by the CHED for such course/program, especially in the areas of administration, curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
 - j. Prepare, adopt, issue and amend, in consultation with the CHED, syllabi for the licensure examinations subjects;
 - k. Investigate and, when warranted, hear administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations as hereinafter promulgated, and any applicable code of ethics and/or code of professional standards. For this purpose, it may issue *subpoena testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That the Board's decision, resolution or orders rendered in administrative cases shall be subject to review only on appeal; and
 - l. Perform such other functions and duties as may be lawfully delegated to it, or as it may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Compensation and Allowances.* — The Chairperson and members of the Board shall receive the same compensation and allowances as those received by the Chairperson and members of the existing regulatory boards under the Commission, as provided in the charter of the Commission and in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Removal or Suspension of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology.* — Any member of the Board may, upon the recommendation of the Commission, upon observance of due process and completion of the proper investigation, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause, such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, behavior unbecoming of a psychology professional, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, any act of graft and corruption, and participation in the manipulation of or any dishonesty relative to the licensure

examinations and/or the registration process.

SEC. 10. *Administrative Supervision over the Board Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* — The Board shall be under the administrative supervision and control of the Commission. All records of the Board, including documents relative to the licensure examinations as well as administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board, shall be kept in the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat with necessary support services to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

ARTICLE V

LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

SEC. 11. *Examinations Required.* — All applicants for registration to practice psychology and psychometrics shall be required to pass a licensure examination for psychologists and psychometricians to be conducted by the Board in such places and dates, and subject to such requirements prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examinations for Psychologists.* — Any person may apply to take the examination for registration and licensure as a psychologist after furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

- a. Is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident or a citizen of a foreign state/country which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
- b. Holds at least a master's degree in psychology conferred by a university, college or school in the Philippines or abroad recognized/accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examination;
- c. Has undergone a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervised practicum/internship/clinical experience related to services enumerated in paragraph (b) of Section 3 of this Act and under the auspices of a licensed psychologist or other licensed mental health professional;
- d. Is of good moral character; and
- e. Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination for Psychometricians.* — Any person may apply to take the examination for registration and licensure as a psychometrician by furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

- a. Is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident or a citizen of a foreign state/country which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
- b. Holds at least a bachelor's degree in psychology conferred by a university, college or school in the Philippines or abroad recognized/accredited by the