

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7836, December 16, 1994 ]**

**AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION  
OF THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND  
PRESCRIBING A LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994."

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of teachers in nation-building and development through a responsible and literate citizenry. Towards this end, the State shall ensure and promote quality education by proper supervision and regulation of the licensure examination and professionalization of the practice of the teaching profession.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - This Act has the herein objectives:

- a. The promotion, development and professionalization of teachers and the teaching profession; and
- b. The supervision and regulation of the licensure examination.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. "Teaching" - refers to the profession concerned primarily with classroom instruction, at the elementary and secondary levels in accordance with the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, whether on part-time or full-time basis in the private or public schools.
- b. "Teachers" - refer to all persons engaged in teaching at the elementary and secondary levels, whether on full-time or part-time basis, including industrial arts or vocational teachers and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools in the aforesaid levels and qualified to practice teaching under this Act.
- c. "Board" - refers to the Board for Professional Teachers duly established and constituted under this Act.
- d. "Commission" - refers to the Professional Regulation Commission.

**Article II**  
***Board for Professional Teachers***

SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* - There is hereby created under this

Act a Board for Professional Teachers, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the general supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the recommendees chosen by the Commission. The recommendees shall be chosen from the list of nominees selected by the accredited association of teachers, who duly possess all the qualifications prescribed in Section 8 of this Act.

The chairman and the vice-chairman of the Board shall be appointed from these five (5) members by the President: Provided, That the members of the first Board appointed under this Act shall be automatically registered as professional teachers and issued with the certificate of registration and professional license upon payment of the fees for examination, registration, and other fees prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 6. *Duties and Functions of the Board.* - The Board shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the charter of the Professional Regulation Commission;
- b. Determine and fix the frequency, dates, and places of examination, appoint supervisors, proctors, and other personnel as needed who shall be entitled to a daily allowance to be fixed by the Board for every examination day actually attended, use buildings and facilities of public or private schools for examination purposes;
- c. Issue, suspend, or revoke the certificate of registration for the practice of the teaching profession;
- d. Prescribe and collect examination and other fees as it may deem proper;
- e. Prescribe and/or adopt a code of ethical and professional standards for the practice of the teaching profession. Such ethical standards, rules and regulations to take effect sixty (60) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation;
- f. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- g. Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of professional teachers in the Philippines;
- h. Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- i. Look into the conditions affecting the practice of the teaching profession and whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the profession;
- j. Ensure that all educational institutions offering elementary and secondary education comply with the essential requirements for curricula, faculty and facilities for the elementary and secondary levels;
- k. Investigate such violations of this Act, the rules and the code of ethical and professional standards for professional teachers as it may come to the knowledge of the Board, and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith; and
- l. Discharge such other powers, duties and functions as the Board may deem necessary for the practice of the teaching profession and the upgrading, enhancement, development and growth of education in the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date they assume office: *Provided,* That the first appointees to the Board under this Act shall hold office according to the following terms: one (1) member shall serve for one (1) year; one (1) member for two (2) years; the chairman, vice-chairman, and one (1) member for three (3) years. Vacancies shall be served for the unexpired term only. No person who has served for two (2) consecutive terms shall be eligible for reappointment. Appointment to fill an unexpired term shall be considered an appointment to a complete term.

The chairman or any member shall take his oath of office prior to the performance of his duties.

SEC. 8. *Qualifications of Board Members.* - Each Board member must at the time of his appointment:

- a. Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity, and possessed of high moral values in his personal as well as professional conduct and has not been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- c. Be a holder of the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education and preferably a holder of a master's or doctorate degree in education, or their equivalents, from a university, school, college, academy or institute duly constituted, recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- d. Be a professional teacher with a valid certificate of registration and valid professional license, save those members who shall compose the first Board for Professional Teachers;
- e. Has been a professional teacher in the active practice of the teaching profession for at least ten (10) years in the elementary and secondary level; and
- f. Not be an official or member of the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in any university, college, school, or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in education or its equivalents for at least three (3) years prior to his appointment, and neither connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted.

*Provided, however,* That, the membership to the Board shall be evenly distributed to cover all levels of education, including equitable representation of the different fields of specialization.

SEC. 9. *Compensation of the Board.* - The chairman, vice-chairman, and members of the Board shall receive compensation comparable to the compensation received by existing regulatory boards under the Professional Regulation Commission, computed on the basis of the number of examinees/candidates.

SEC. 10. *Supervision of the Board and Custodian of its Records.* - The Board shall be under the supervision and control of the Commission. All records, including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and investigative cases and investigations involving professional teachers shall be kept by the Commission.

SEC. 11. *Secretariat and Support Services.* - The Professional Regulation Commission, through its chairman, shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement effectively the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Removal of a Board Member.* - The chairman or any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct, commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation.

In the course of investigation, the President may preventively suspend the respondent.

### **Article III** ***Examination and Registration***

SEC. 13. *Examination, Registration and License Required.* - Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as professional teachers shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given at least once a year in such places and dates as the Board may determine upon approval by the Commission. A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the Commission are required before any person is allowed to practice as a professional teacher in the Philippines, except as otherwise allowed under this Act.

SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* - The examinations for the elementary and secondary school teachers shall be separate. The examination for teachers in the elementary level shall consist of two (2) parts, namely: professional education and general education. The examination for teachers in the secondary level shall consist of three (3) parts, namely: professional education, general education, and field of specialization.

SEC. 15. *Qualification Requirements of Applicants.* - No applicant shall be admitted to take the examination unless, on the date of filing of the application, he shall have complied with the following requirements:

- a. A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the teaching profession;
- b. At least eighteen (18) years of age;
- c. In good health and of good reputation with high moral values;
- d. Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court for an offense involving moral turpitude;
- e. A graduate of a school, college or university recognized by the government and possesses the minimum educational qualifications, as follows:
  1. For teachers in preschool, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education (BECED) or its equivalent;
  2. For teachers in the elementary grades, a bachelor's degree in elementary education (BSEED) or its equivalent;
  3. For teachers in the secondary grades, a bachelor's degree in education or its equivalent with a major and minor, or a bachelor's degree in arts and