

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7164, November 21, 1991 ]**

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NURSING IN THE  
PHILIPPINES**

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

**ARTICLE I  
TITLE**

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Nursing Act of 1991."

**ARTICLE II  
DECLARATION OF POLICY**

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, and in humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses.

The State hereby guarantees the delivery of basic health services through an adequate nursing personnel throughout the country.

**ARTICLE III  
ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING**

SEC. 3. *Name and Composition of the Board.* - There shall be created a Board of Nursing to be composed of a Chairman and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President from a list of twelve (12) nominees who are registered nurses of recognized standing in the Philippines and who possess the qualifications prescribed in Section 5 of this Act as certified by the accredited national nurses' association to the Professional Regulation Commission.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* - The Board shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

- a. Supervise and regulate the practice of the nursing profession;
- b. Describe the subjects in the licensure examination, determine the syllabi of the subjects, and their relative weight, construct the test questions in the licensure examination, and score and rate the examination paper. The Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the examination, submit a report of the examination result which shall contain the weighted average rating of each examinee to the Office of the President for release and publication;

- c. Issue, suspend, or revoke certificates of registration for the practice of nursing;
- d. Study the conditions affecting the nursing practice in the Philippines and exercise the powers necessary to ensure the maintenance of efficient, ethical, technical, moral and professional standards in the practice of nursing, taking into account the health needs of the nation;
- e. Examine the prescribed facilities of universities or colleges seeking permission to open new colleges of nursing or departments of nursing education in order to ensure that standards and essential requirements for a qualified dean and faculty and adequate budget are properly complied with and maintained at all times. The authorization to open colleges of nursing shall be based upon the favorable written recommendation of both the Board and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports;
- f. Require nurses who graduate from state colleges and universities to render, after being issued the necessary board licenses, at least one (1) year of nursing service in the Philippines before they are allowed to leave for overseas jobs;
- g. Investigate violations of this Act. For this purpose it may through its Chairman, with the approval of the Board, issue summons, subpoena or subpoena duces tecum to violators of this Act and witnesses thereof and to compel their attendance by the power of contempt; and
- h. Promulgate decisions or adopt measures as may be necessary for the improvement of the nursing practice, for the advancement of the profession, and for the proper and full enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of Board Members.* - A member of the Board shall:

- a. Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Be a member in good standing of the accredited national nurses' association;
- c. Be a registered nurse and holder of a master's degree in nursing conferred by a college or university duly recognized by the Government;
- d. Have at least ten (10) years of continuous practice of the profession prior to appointment;
- e. Not be a holder of a green card or its equivalent; and
- f. Not have been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude even if previously extended pardon by the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 6. *Requirements Upon Qualification as Member of the Board of Nursing.* - Any person who qualifies as Chairman or member of the Board shall automatically resign from any teaching position in any school, college or university and/or review program for the local nursing board examinations or in any office of employment in the Government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries. He shall not have any pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any institution offering basic nursing education programs, including review classes.

SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* - The Chairman and the members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors shall have qualified: *Provided*, That a member of the Board may be reappointed for another term not exceeding three (3) years: *Provided, further*, That, in the event that only one (1) member of the Board is reappointed, he or she, by virtue of seniority, shall automatically become the Chairman of the new Board. *However*, in case two (2) or more members are reappointed, the best qualified among them, to be determined

by all the members of the new Board, shall become the new Chairman of the Board: *Provided, finally,* That, in case all members of the old Board are reappointed or all members are new, all the members of the new Board shall determine the best qualified from among themselves who shall be recommended to the President of the Philippines to be the Chairman of the Board.

Any vacancy in the Board occurring within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member of the Board shall take the proper oath of office prior to the performance of his or her duties.

SEC. 8. *Compensation of Board Members.* - The Chairman and members of the Board shall receive as compensation an amount equal to that given the Chairman and members of other government boards situated under analogous circumstances.

SEC. 9. *Removal of Board Members.* - The President may remove any member of the Board on the following grounds after giving the member concerned an opportunity to defend himself or herself in a proper administrative investigation to be conducted under the supervision and control of the Department of Justice, upon instruction of the President:

- a. Continued neglect of duty or incompetence;
- b. Commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination conducted by the Board; and
- c. Unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

SEC. 10. *Rules and Regulations.* - The Board shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Records.* - All records of the Board of Nursing, including examination papers, minutes of deliberations, records of administrative cases and investigations, and examination results shall be kept by the Professional Regulation Commission under the direct custody of the person designated by the Chairman of the Commission. No record shall be removed, altered or examined without the prior authorization of the Board.

SEC. 12. *Examination Required.* - All applicants for license to practice nursing shall be required to pass written examinations by the Board of Nursing.

SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicants.* - In order to be admitted to the examination for nurses, an applicant must, at the time of filing his or her application, establish to the satisfaction of the Board of Nursing that:

- a. He or she is a citizen of the Philippines, or a citizen or subject of a country which permits Filipino nurses to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subject or citizen of such country: *Provided,* That the requirements for the registration or licensing of nurses in said country are substantially the same as those prescribed in this Act;
- b. He or she is at least eighteen (18) years of age: *Provided,* That any underage applicant who successfully passes the examination shall not be permitted or licensed to practice nursing until he or she shall have reached the age of majority;
- c. He or she is in good health and is of good moral character; and

- d. He or she is a holder of bachelor's degree in nursing from a college or university duly recognized by the proper government agency.

SEC. 14. *Licensure Examination.* - The licensure examination for the practice of nursing in the Philippines shall be given by the Board not earlier than one (1) month but not later than two (2) months after the closing of the semester prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. The examination shall be held in the City of Manila or in such places as may be decided by the Board subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission.

SEC. 15. *Scope of Examination.* - The scope of the examination for the practice of nursing in the Philippines shall be determined by the Board. The Board shall take into consideration the objectives of the nursing curriculum, the broad areas of nursing, and other related disciplines and competencies in determining the subjects of examinations.

SEC. 16. *Rating in the Examination.* - In order to pass the examination, an examinee must obtain a general average rating of at least seventy-five percent (75%) with a rating of not below sixty percent (60%) in any subject. An examinee who obtains an average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but gets a rating below sixty percent (60%) in any given subject must take the examination again, but only in the subject or subjects where he or she rated below sixty percent (60%).

In order to pass the succeeding examination, an examinee must obtain a rating of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in the subject or subjects repeated.

An examinee who despite the third examination fails to obtain at least seventy-five percent (75%) in the subject or subjects repeated shall no longer be allowed to take the examination, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she has undergone a refresher course consisting in enrollment and passing in the regular fourth year subjects in a recognized nursing school.

SEC. 17. *Issuance of Certificates.* - A certificate of registration as nurse shall be issued to any applicant who passes the examination upon payment of the prescribed fees. Every certificate of registration shall show the full name of the registrant, the serial number, the signature of the members of the Board, and the official seal of the Board.

SEC. 18. *Fees of Examination and Registration.* - Applicants for licensure examination and for registration shall pay the prescribed fees set by the Professional Regulation Commission.

SEC. 19. *Registration by Reciprocity.* - Certificates of registration may be issued without examination to nurses registered under the laws of any foreign state or country: *Provided*, That the requirements for the registration or licensing of nurses in said country are substantially the same as those prescribed under this Act: *Provided*, further, That the laws of such state or country grant the same privileges to registered nurses of the Philippines on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country.

SEC. 20. *Nonissuance of Certificates in Certain Cases.* - No person convicted by final