

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2644, June 18, 1960]

AN ACT REGULATING MIDWIFERY TRAINING AND PRACTICE

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

ARTICLE I.—Title of Act

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*—This Act shall be known as the Philippine Midwifery Law.

ARTICLE II.—The Board of Examiners for Midwives

SEC. 2. *Creation and Composition of the Board.*—There is hereby created a Board of Examiners for Midwives, which shall be under the direct supervision and control of the President of the Philippine. It shall be composed of a chairman, who shall be an obstetrician, and two members one of whom shall be a registered nurse-midwife and the other a registered midwife, all of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments and upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service from among five obstetricians certified by the Association of Obstetricians or the Philippine Medical Association, for chairman, and for members, from among ten registered nurse-midwives and registered midwives in the Philippines as may be officially certified by recognized pertinent national associations of registered nurse-midwives and midwives in the Philippines.

SEC. 3. *Qualifications of the Board Members.*—The chairman and the two members of the Board shall all be citizens and residents of the Philippines of good moral character and reputation, at least thirty years of age and at least five years of successful practice prior to appointment. They shall not be members of the faculty of any school of midwifery during the year preceding their appointment, during their incumbency as members of the Board, and during the year after their terms shall have expired, nor shall they have directly or indirectly any pecuniary interest in such institutions. The Chairman must be an obstetrician. The nurse-midwife members must be registered both as a nurse and a midwife. The midwife member must be a registered midwife and preferably a holder of a college degree conferred by a duly recognized college or university.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Duties of the Board.*—The Board of Examiners for Midwives is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act, to issue, suspend, revoke or reissue certificates of registration for the practice of midwifery in the Philippines, and shall exercise powers conferred upon it by this Act with a view to

the maintenance of an efficient, ethical, technical and moral standard in the practice of midwifery.

The Board shall have the power to investigate violations of this Act and for this purpose, it may, under the hand of its chairman and seal of the Board, issue summons, *subpoena*, or *subpoena duces tecum* to violators of this Act and witnesses thereof and to compel their attendance and the production of records and documents. The Board shall, from time to time, look into the conditions affecting the practice of midwifery in the Philippines and, whenever necessary, recommend or adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the improvement of such practice and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Term of Office*.—The Members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That the chairman of the first Board of Examiners for Midwives under this Act shall hold office for three years, one member for two years and one member, for one year. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion only. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to entering upon the performance of his or her duties.

SEC. 6. *Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board*.—The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the Executive Officer of the Board. The Secretary of the Board of Examiners appointed under Republic Act Numbered Five hundred and forty-six shall also be the Secretary of the Board of Examiners for Midwives. All records and minutes of the deliberations of the Board, including examination papers, shall be kept by the Bureau of Civil Service under the direct custody of the Secretary.

SEC. 7. *Compensation of Board Members*.—The members of the Board shall each receive, as compensation fee, ten pesos *per capita* of the candidates examined.

SEC. 8. *Removal of Board Members*.—The President of the Philippines may, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service, remove any member of the Board for continued neglect of duty or incompetency, for commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination, or for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct after having given the member concerned an opportunity to defend himself or herself in a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 9. *Rules and Regulations*.—The Board may, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Annual Report*.—The Board shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines after the close of each fiscal year, giving a detailed account of the Proceedings of the Board, a statement of moneys received and expenses incurred, and such recommendations as the may desire to make.

ARTICLE III.—*Examination and Registration of Midwives*

SEC 11. *Examination Required*.—Except as otherwise permitted under Section twenty of this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of midwifery in the

Philippines shall be required to undergo an examination as required for in this Act.

SEC. 12. *Holding of Examinations.*—Examinations for candidates desiring to practice midwifery in the Philippines shall be given by the Board on the second Tuesday of August and February of each year in Manila and in such other places as may be deemed necessary and expedient by the Commissioner of Civil Service subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 13. *Scope of Examination.*—The examination for the practice of midwifery in the Philippines shall consist of a written test, the scope of which shall include: (1) obstetrical anatomy and physiology, (2) principles of bacteriology as applied to midwifery practice, (3) obstetrics, (4) midwifery procedures, (5) domiciliary midwifery, (6) infant care and feeding, (7) community hygiene and first aid, (8) normal nutrition, and (9) ethics of midwifery practice. Examination questions must be of such types as are used in recognized schools of midwifery in the country.

SEC. 14. *Prerequisites and qualifications of applicants for examination.*—In order to be admitted to the midwifery examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing his or her application therefor, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she:

- a. Is a citizen of the Philippines;
- b. Is at least twenty-one years of age;
- c. Is in good health and of good moral character;
- d. Has finished a standard academic high school; and
- e. Has finished a course in midwifery from an institution, accredited and legally constituted, in which the following subjects are taught: Introduction to General Anatomy and Physiology, Principles of Bacteriology, Obstetrics, Midwifery Procedures including personal hygiene and the care of patients environment, Delivery room technique, Nursery technique and infant care and feeding; Ethics, Nutrition, Domiciliary midwifery, Community hygiene and first aid, and Mothercraft.

SEC. 15. *Schools of Midwifery.*—To be recognized as a duly accredited and legally constituted institution for midwifery training as provided for in this Act, a school of midwifery must have a permit from the Department of Education, and be associated with, as owner or part owner, or has control of, a hospital with a least fifty beds for maternity cases, duly authorized to operate as such hospital by the Department of Health: *Provided*, That midwifery schools associated with, or has control of, a hospital whose bed capacity for maternity cases is over thirty but less than fifty beds may be authorized to operate if it can show that it is affiliated preferably with government hospital possessing the qualifications provided in this Act. No school of midwifery shall be authorized to operate whose hospital has less than thirty beds for maternity cases.

Such school must have a minimum ratio of trained resident staff members to maternity beds of 1:10 and a ratio of 1:12 of teaching staff members to students.

Before allowing a student to graduate, the school must satisfactorily show to the Department of Education that he or she has attended eighteen months of the course