

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 877, June 19, 1953]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF NURSING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 Nursing Law."

ARTICLE II.—*Organization of the Board of Examiners for Nurses*

SEC. 2. *Name and composition of the Board.*—The Board shall be known as the Board of Examiners for Nurses and shall be composed of a chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service from among registered nurses of recognized standing in the Philippines as may be certified by the officially recognized national association of nurses in the Philippines and possessing the qualifications prescribed in section four of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Powers and duties of the Board.*—The Board of Examiners for Nurses is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act, to issue, suspend, revoke, or reissue certificates of registration for practice of nursing. The Board shall study the conditions affecting nursing education and the practice of the nursing profession in the Philippines, and shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act with a view to the maintenance of an efficient ethical, technical, moral and professional standard in the practice of nursing. The Board shall likewise study and examine the facilities of hospitals or universities seeking permission to open new schools or colleges of nursing or departments of nursing education so as to see if the essential requirements therefor including qualified faculty and adequate budget are properly complied with. The authorization to open schools or colleges of nursing shall be based upon the written recommendation of the Board and the representative of the Government entity concerned with the granting of school permits or authorization.

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. The Board shall from time to time look into the conditions affecting the practice of nursing in the Philippines and whenever necessary, recommend or adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession and for the vigorous enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of Board members.*—The members of the Board shall, at the time of appointment:

- a. Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Be a registered nurse and a holder of the degree of Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing or its equivalent, conferred by a reputable and legally constituted school, college or university, with either nursing education or public health nursing as major study;
- c. Be at least thirty years of age;
- d. Have had at least ten years of successful practice of the profession prior to appointment;
- e. Not be a member of the faculty of any school college or university during one year immediately preceding appointment as member of the Board of Examiners where undergraduate nursing is taught, nor have, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest in such institution.

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 members of the first Board appointed under this Act shall hold office for the following terms: One member for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. 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 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 Boards of Examiners appointed under Republic Act Numbered Five hundred forty-six shall also be the Secretary of the Board of Examiners for Nurses. 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 the Board members.*—The members of the Board shall each receive as compensation a fee not exceeding 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 herself or himself 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 during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may desire to make.

ARTICLE III.—*Provisions Regarding Nursing Schools and Colleges*

SEC. 11. *Purpose of school or college of nursing.*—Schools and colleges of nursing should be established for the preparation of qualified applicants for the profession of nursing, and should be operated as educational institutions.

SEC. 12. *Budget and facilities.*—Provisions should be made for adequate budget for the school or college of nursing and for adequate library, classrooms, and teaching equipment and supplies.

SEC. 13. *Clinical and public health nursing facilities.*— No hospital, college or university shall be permitted to operate a school or college of nursing unless provision is made by such hospital or university for at least one hundred beds to be available at all times for occupation by medical (including communicable), surgical, obstetric and pediatric patients. Provisions for student's experience in the field of public health nursing should likewise be made with community health agencies.

Colleges or universities offering courses to nurses-graduates of the three-year hospital course should also make necessary provisions for additional experience of students either in hospitals or in public health nursing depending on their major study.

SEC. 14. *Qualifications of faculty members.*—The director of the school or the dean of the college of nursing should be a qualified nurse with the following minimum qualifications;

- a. Must be a holder of a bachelor's degree in nursing a nursing education major;
- b. Must have had at least three years of acceptable experience in teaching and supervision in schools or colleges of nursing;
- c. Must be a registered nurse; and
- d. Must be a Filipino citizen.

The instructors in nursing arts and in clinical nursing courses should be registered nurses with the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Must be holders of the bachelor's degree in nursing;
- b. Must have majored in the particular subject or subjects which they teach;
- c. Must have had at least a year of acceptable experience as head nurses in a hospital.

The instructor in public health nursing should be a nurse with the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Must be a holder of a bachelor's degree in nursing, and a major in public health nursing;
- b. Must have had at least six months of acceptable experience in generalized public health nursing; and
- c. Must be a registered nurse.

SEC. 15. *General entrance requirements to schools and colleges of nursing.*— Applicants desiring to enter any hospital school of nursing must show evidence of completion of at least one year of college work in a recognized educational institution. Courses studied should include: Chemistry, Zoology, English, Spanish,