

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 768, June 20, 1952 ]**

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS 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 Dental Hygienist Law."

ARTICLE II.—*Examining Board for Dental Hygienists*

SEC. 2. *Board of Dental Examiners.*—The Board of Dental Examiners created under Republic Act Numbered Four hundred and seventeen, as amended, shall be the examining and licensing board for dental hygienists.

SEC. 3. *Secretary of the Board.*—The Secretary of the Boards of Examiners appointed under Act Numbered Four thousand and seven, as amended by Republic Act Numbered Five hundred forty-six, shall also be the Secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners in connection with the examination and registration of dental hygienists as provided for in this Act. All records and minutes of the deliberations of the Board, including examination papers, under this Act, shall be kept by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. *Compensation of the Board.*—The members of Board shall each receive as compensation a fee not exceeding five pesos per capita of candidates examined under the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Powers and duties of the Board.*—The Board of Dental Examiners shall, with respect to the regulation of the practice of dental hygienists in the Philippines, have the same powers as those vested in them by the Dental Law. It shall, subject to the approval of the President and with the advice and consent of the Commissioner of Civil Service, adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. It shall also submit an annual report to the President after the close of each fiscal year giving a detailed account of the proceedings of the Board under this Act during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may desire to make with a view to improving the standards in the practice of dental hygienists in the Philippines.

### ARTICLE III.—Examination and Registration of Dental Hygienists

SEC. 6. *Certificate of registration.*—No person shall Practice as dental hygienist in the Philippines as defined in this Act without holding a valid certificate of registration as registered dental hygienist issued by the Board of Dental Examiners.

SEC. 7. *Scope of practice of dental hygienist.*—A person shall be regarded as rendering services as dental hygienist, within the meaning and intent of this Act, who shall with or without compensation, remove calcific deposits, accretion and stains from the exposed surfaces of the teeth perform surface application of medicaments for the prevention and control of dental caries, or do other helpful duties in the reception and care of patients, in the sterilization of instruments, and in rendering assistance to the dentist at the chair or laboratory; and shall not perform operations on the teeth or tissues of the mouth which only the qualified dental practitioner could do under the provisions of Republic Act Numbered Four hundred and seventeen, as amended. A dental hygienist, within the meaning of this Act, shall always be understood as one; working under the supervision of a registered dentist, Dentists, schools, public institutions, or commercial firms may employ registered dental hygienists but, nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing any dental hygienist to perform any work in the mouth without the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

SEC. 8. *Examination.*—All applicants for registration as dental hygienists shall be required to pass an examination as provided for in this Act, which shall be given by the Board of Dental Examiners on the second Tuesday of June and December of each year in Manila or at such other place as may be deemed necessary and expedient by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Service.

SEC. 9. *Qualifications for examination.*—In order to be admitted to the dental hygienist examination, an applicant must, before admission thereto, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that—

- a. He is a citizen of the Philippines;
- b. He is at least eighteen years of age;
- c. He is of good moral character and reputation;
- d. He is not suffering from any contagious disease and is physically fit to perform services as a dental hygienist;
- e. He had finished a standard four-year high school nurse or its equivalent in a school recognized by the government; and
- f. He had graduated with the title of graduate dental hygienist (G.D.H.) or its equivalent, after completing a dental hygienist course of at least two years and of a standard or scope duly approved by the Board from a legally incorporated dental college or university, dental infirmary, or any other institution of equal standing, duly accredited and recognized by the government.

SEC. 10. *Scope of examination.*—The examination for dental hygienist shall cover