

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 417, June 18, 1949]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY 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 "Dental Law."

ARTICLE II.—*Board of Dental Examiners*

SEC. 2. *Creation and composition of Board.*—Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, a Board of Dental Examiners shall be created composed of three members, one of whom is designated as chairman, to be appointed by the Secretary of Health and possessing the qualifications prescribed in section four of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Powers vested in Board.*—The Board of Dental Examiners is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act, to administer oaths, to issue, suspend, revoke, or reissue certificates of registration for the practice of dentistry subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health. 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 compel their attendance, and to inspect dental schools and other establishments to see if the laws relating to dentistry are being enforced, and to discharge such other duties as the Board may deem necessary for the maintenance of efficient ethical and technical standards of the dental profession in the Philippines for the well-being of the public and the safeguarding of life and health.

The Board shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act, shall from time to time look into the conditions affecting the practice of dentistry 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 his appointment:

1. Be a citizen of the Philippines and actually a resident thereof;
2. Be a holder of a degree of either Doctor of Dental Medicine or Doctor of Dental Surgery conferred by a reputable and legally constituted university, college, school, or institute;
3. Be at least thirty years of age;

4. Be a duly registered dentist in the Philippines;
5. Have had at least five years' practice of the profession immediately prior to his appointment; and
6. Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where any branch of dentistry is taught, nor shall 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 after their appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. 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 the other member for three years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to entering upon the performance of his duties.

SEC. 6. *Executive officer and secretary of the Board.*— The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the executive officer of the Board and shall conduct the examinations given by it. The secretary of the Boards of Examiners appointed under Act Numbered Four thousand seven shall also be the secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners. 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.*—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 Secretary of Health may 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 in a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 9. *Rules and regulations.*—The Board may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health, 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.

SEC. 10. *Annual report.*—The Board shall submit an annual report to the Secretary of Health 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.—*Examination and Registration of Dentists*

SEC. 11. *Inhibition against practice of dentistry.*—Unless exempt from registration, no person shall practice or offer to practice dentistry in the Philippines as defined in this Act without holding a valid certificate of registration as dentist issued by the Board of Dental Examiners.

SEC. 12. *Scope of practice of dentistry.*—A person shall be regarded to be practicing dentistry or rendering dental service, within the meaning and intent of this Act, who

shall, for a fee, salary, or other reward or compensation, paid to him or through another, or even without such reward or compensation, perform any operation or part of an operation upon the human mouth, teeth, jaws, and surrounding tissues; or treat oral diseases or lesions or correct malpositions of the teeth: *Provided, however,* That this provision shall not apply to artisans engaged in the mechanical construction of artificial dentures or other oral devices, so long as none of such procedures is done inside the mouth of the patient, or to students of dentistry undergoing practical training in any legally chartered dental school or college under the direction or supervision of a member of the faculty duly qualified to practice dentistry in the Philippines; or to duly qualified dental hygienists serving as dentists' assistants who may be allowed to perform oral prophylaxis and such other procedures which the law regulating the practice of dental hygienists may permit; nor shall this section be construed to interfere with the legitimate practice of physicians and surgeons undertaken in conformity with the provisions of the Medical Law.

SEC. 13. *Holding of examination.*—Examination for candidates desiring to practice dentistry in the Philippines shall be given by the Board 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 and the Secretary of Health.

SEC. 14. *Examination required.*—Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of dentistry shall be required to undergo an examination as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 15. *Qualifications for examination.*—In order to be admitted to the dentist examinations, an applicant must, at the time of filing his application therefor, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

1. He is a citizen of the Philippines;
2. He is at least twenty-one years of age;
3. He is of good moral character and reputation;
4. He had finished a standard four-year high-school course or its equivalent in a school, institute, college or university legally established and duly recognized by the Government: *Provided, however,* That two years after the approval of this Act and thereafter, students shall present as a requisite for admission to the first year of the college of dentistry Dental Student's Entrance Certificate, to be issued by the secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners, upon the payment of a registration fee of two pesos and the submission of satisfactory credentials acceptable to the Board, as evidence of the fulfillment of the requirements concerning the two-year pre-dental course as herein required ;
5. He has received a diploma as either doctor of dental surgery or doctor of dental medicine from an institution, college or university duly accredited and legally constituted in which the following branches are taught during four years in regular nine-month courses: anatomy, histology, physiology, bacteriology, chemistry, dental materials, materia medica and therapeutics, anesthesia, toxicology, physical diagnosis, radiography, general pathology, oral pathology, oral surgery, operative technic, operative clinic,