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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1479

Introduced by Hon. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Chemistry Law (R.A. 754) was promulgated on June 18, 1952. Because of the significant changes brought about by the rapid developments in Chemistry, science and technology, and the rise of globalization and competitiveness, there is an urgent need to reformulate the Chemistry law so that it will be more responsive to these modern developments. Today, for example, sophisticated chemical analyses are required in a wide variety of applications, such as environment, water, food products, pharmaceuticals, forensics, plastics and polymers, materials, and many others.

Chemistry has two very important aspects: Chemistry as a scientific and academic endeavor, and Chemistry as applied to public safety, public interest and the national economy. In principle, the law should promote the former, but should regulate the latter.

The proposed new Chemistry Law seeks to introduce the following important changes:

- Update the definition of chemistry.
- Redefine the scope of the professional practice of chemistry.
- Redefine the practice of the chemical technician.
- Rationalize the relationship between chemistry and related professions.
- Strengthen the linkage between the training of chemists and the professional practice of chemistry.
- Strengthen the authority of the Board of Chemistry to supervise chemistry laboratories and other entities which practice chemistry to ensure that the minimum quality standards are maintained.
- Introduce a requirement for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for the continuous training of professional chemists.
- Bring the new law in line with the new PRC law of 2000.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

CONG. J.R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA

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AN ACT
TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF CHEMISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 754"
(Version 12, April 04, 2002)

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

ARTICLE I. TITLE, POLICY AND DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1. ***Title*** - This act shall be known as the "Chemistry Law of 2004."

SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policy***. - Because Chemistry is vital to public safety and the national economy, it is the policy of the State to promote, regulate and protect the professional practice of chemistry in the Philippines, and to ensure the continued development and high international standard of the practice of Chemistry in the Philippines.

SECTION 3. ***Definition of Terms***. The following terms used in this Act shall be defined as follows:

(a) *Chemistry*. Chemistry is defined as the study, analysis, modification and calculations of physico-chemical or biochemical properties of matter. Chemistry includes the atomic, molecular and supramolecular composition and structure of matter, the changes which matter undergoes, the energy involved, and the conditions under which such changes occur. Biochemistry, which is defined as the study of the chemical compounds and processes in biological organisms, is included within the scope of chemistry for purposes of this Act.

(b) *Registered Chemist*. Any person who is engaged in the professional practice of chemistry, as defined herein, must be a Registered Chemist who shall be duly registered with the Board of Chemistry and the Professional Regulation Commission. A Registered Chemist shall have the authority to undertake the professional practice of chemistry.

(c) *Registered Chemical Technician.* Any person who is engaged in the work of Chemical Technology, as defined herein, shall be duly registered with the Board of Chemistry.

(d) The definition of a "physico-chemical" or "biochemical" technique shall mean any of the following types of activities: qualitative or quantitative analysis, the characterization or modification of matter at the atomic or molecular level, and calculations related to these activities. This shall include any of the following, and related techniques:

(i) measurement of properties, such as pH, oxidation-reduction potential, density, atomic or molecular weight and others;

(ii) use of methods, such as titration, gravimetric analysis, electrochemical measurements, spectroscopy, chromatography, and others;

(iii) determination of the atomic, molecular or supramolecular nature, structure, or quantity of one or more components of a substance;

(iv) separation of a mixture into its components using techniques, such as distillation, crystallization, extraction, adsorption, affinity, chromatography, and others;

(v) calculations of physico-chemical or biochemical properties, or concentrations of chemicals or biochemicals; and

(vi) other analytical methods which characterize matter at the atomic, molecular or supramolecular level.

(e) "Chemical synthesis" shall mean the preparation of a compound or chemical entity from its elements or from other compounds or chemical entities, by one or more chemical reactions. "Biochemical synthesis" is a special case of chemical synthesis which uses enzymes and other biological compounds to promote a reaction.

(f) "Chemical laboratory" shall mean a facility where the following or similar activities are performed: physico-chemical or biochemical analysis, or chemical or biochemical synthesis. Laboratories where activities described in Section (f) are performed shall also be covered by this Act. Similar activities carried out outside of a chemical laboratory are also included, such as work carried out in a factory or mobile laboratory, field environmental testing, and the like.

(g) "Professional chemistry subject" shall mean a chemistry subject which is covered in the professional licensure examination administered by the Board of Chemistry.

SECTION 4. ***Scope of the Professional Practice of Chemistry.*** The professional practice of chemistry covers the performance of a service related to the public interest, public safety, legal or regulatory matters and which is performed for a fee, salary or other compensation. Activities which are performed for research or development, and which do not involve the public interest, public safety or legal or regulatory matters are not covered by this Act. The following and similar activities shall be the exclusive functions of the Registered Chemist:

1. Performance or certification of physico-chemical or biochemical analysis, or chemical or biochemical synthesis;
2. Certification of a chemical or biochemical laboratory;
3. Supervision of a physico-chemical or biochemical analysis, or chemical or biochemical synthesis, whether or not this is done in a chemical or biochemical laboratory;
4. Teaching, lecturing and reviewing of a professional chemistry subject in the curriculum of the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree or a subject in the chemistry licensure examination given in any college, university, or training or review center, or any other educational institution; and
5. Consultation or investigation concerning physico-chemical or biochemical matters which involve the public interest, public safety, laws or regulations.

For purposes of this Act, the Registered Chemist must affix his signature, license number and official seal to any certification report which he submits.

SECTION 5. ***Scope of the Professional Practice of Chemical Technology.*** The scope of the practice of the Chemical Technology shall be limited to the performance of physico-chemical or biochemical analysis, or chemical or biochemical synthesis, provided that such activities are under the supervision of a registered Chemist. Activities which are performed for research or development, and which do not involve the public interest, public safety or legal or regulatory matters are not covered by this Act. The Chemical Technician must affix his signature and license number to the report of a chemical analysis or synthesis which he has performed.

ARTICLE II. BOARD OF CHEMISTRY

SECTION 6. ***Composition of the Board.*** - There shall be created a Board of Chemistry, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of a Chairperson and two Members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among those recommended by the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, from the nominees of the Accredited Professional Organization, hereinafter referred to as APO.

SECTION 7. ***Powers and Duties of the Board.*** - The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Supervise and regulate the practice of the chemistry profession in the Philippines;

(b) Determine the requirements and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for registration and renewal of license of Registered Chemists and Registered Chemical Technicians;

(c) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination; determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights; construct the test questions in the examinations; and submit the examination results to the Commission;

(d) Issue together with the Commission Certificates of Registration to persons admitted to the practice of the professions of Chemistry and Chemical Technology;

(e) Issue together with the Commission Certificates of Recognition to individuals for professional accomplishments that contribute to its enrichment;

(f) Supervise and regulate chemistry laboratories and other entities engaged in the practice of Chemistry in the Philippines;

(g) Determine the requirements and evaluate the qualifications of chemistry laboratories and other entities engaged in the practice of Chemistry for registration and renewal of permit;

(h) Issue together with the Commission the Certificate of Authority to Operate to firms or corporations which are engaged in the practice of Chemistry or which operate chemical laboratories;

(i) Issue together with the Commission Certificates of Recognition to firms or corporations for accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the chemistry profession;

(j) Inquire into the conditions affecting the practice of the profession and adopt measures for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards.

(k) Set and enforce minimum guidelines for both government and private chemical laboratories within the provisions of this Act, conduct inspection, and issue the Certificate of Authority to Operate. The Board may seek the assistance of the APO in order to carry out these functions;

(l) In coordination with relevant government agencies, set the standard and inspect facilities, equipment and other related aspects of chemical laboratories of firms, corporations and government agencies;

(m) In coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), inspect the facilities, faculty, equipment and other aspects directly related to the chemistry program of educational institutions;

(n) Adopt the implementing rules and regulations of this Act;

(o) Adopt a Code of Ethics for the practice of Chemistry;

(p) Issue subpoena *testificandum* and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents in connection with any administrative case before the Board;

(q) Hear and decide administrative cases filed against chemists, chemical technicians, and the owners and administrators of chemical laboratories. The hearing shall be presided over by the Chairperson or a Member of the Board with the assistance of an attorney of the Commission. Any decision should be concurred in by a majority of the Board. The decision of the Board may be appealed to the Commission within thirty (30) days from notice, otherwise such decision shall be final and executory;

(r) Administer oaths in connection with the performance of its function;

(s) Prescribe reasonable fees to be collected by the Commission for the operation of the Board, in connection with the licensure examination; the registration of chemists, chemical technicians, chemical laboratories, and other firms and corporations engaged in the practice of Chemistry; the issuance of certificates; the registration of seals; the supervision and inspection of chemical laboratories and firms and corporations engaged in the practice of chemistry; the administration of a continuing professional education program, and the implementation of the other provisions of this Act;

(t) Adopt an official seal and prescribe the seal of the Chemistry profession; and

(u) Perform such other functions as may be necessary in order to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. ***Qualification of the Board Chairperson and Members***. - The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall have the following qualifications: (a) Be a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines;

(b) Be a holder of at least a Master's degree in Chemistry conferred by a chemistry institution recognized by the Commission on Higher Education, or by a reputable foreign university; (c) Be a Registered Chemist who has been in active practice for at least five (5) years; (d) Be of good moral character; (e) Not have any pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any university, college, school, or institution conferring an academic degree necessary for admission to the practice of chemistry or where review classes in preparation for the licensure examination are being offered or conducted; nor shall be a member of the faculty or of the administration thereof at the time of his appointment to the Board; and (f) Be a member in good standing of the APO for the chemistry profession.

SECTION 9. ***Term of Office.*** – The Chairperson and the Members of the Board shall have a term of three (3) years, with a maximum of one reappointment. The terms of office shall be staggered so that only one member may be replaced every year. The chairmanship shall also be rotated among the three members of the Board. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. The Chairperson and Members shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to assumption of office. The incumbent Chairperson and Members shall be allowed to continue until the three-year term is completed starting from the date of their appointment.

SECTION 10. ***Administrative management, custody of records, secretariat and support services.***. – The Board shall be under the administrative and executive management of the Commission. All records of the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. ***Removal of the Chairperson and Members.*** - The President, upon the recommendation of the Commission may remove, after due investigation, any member of the Board on the following grounds: (a) Neglect of duty or incompetence; (b) Unprofessional, unethical, or dishonorable conduct; (c) Manipulation of the licensure examination or its results, or disclosure of examination questions prior to the conduct of the examination, or tampering of the grades; (d) Final conviction by the court of criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

SECTION 12. ***Compensation of the Board.*** - The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive such compensation or honorarium as may be prescribed by the rules and regulations of the Commission.

SECTION 13. ***Annual Report and Annual Meeting.*** - The Secretary shall prepare an annual report for the consideration and approval of the Board and shall submit an annual report to the Commission after the close of each fiscal year giving a detailed account of the proceedings of the Board during the year and embodying such recommendations to the Commission as the Board may desire to make. The Board shall organize a meeting, at least once a year, where it shall invite members of the APO, representatives of departments of chemistry in higher education institutions, and CHED to discuss matters pertinent to the professional practice of Chemistry in the country.

ARTICLE III. EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION AND PERMIT

SECTION 14. ***Certificate to Practice Chemistry and Chemical Technology.*** Unless exempt from registration or not subject to the requirements of this Act, no person shall practice or offer to practice as a Chemist or Chemical Technician in the Philippines, without having previously obtained a Certificate of Registration from the Board.

SECTION 15. ***Examination Requirements for Chemist.*** - All applicants for registration for the practice of Chemistry in the Philippines shall be required to pass the licensure examination prescribed herein unless otherwise provided in this Act.

SECTION 16. ***Qualifications for Examination for Chemist.*** - Any person applying for admission to the chemistry examination must have the following qualifications: (a) Be a citizen of the Philippines, or a citizen of a foreign country which grants the corresponding privilege to Filipinos; (b) Be of legal age at the date of the examination. Applicants below legal age may be allowed to take the examination, but the Certificate of Registration shall be withheld until the candidate reaches legal age; (c) Be of good moral character; and (d) Be a graduate of a school, institute, college, or university recognized by the Philippine Government with the degree of BS Chemistry with at least sixty (60) university units in chemistry which should include all of the professional chemistry courses. Graduates of reputable foreign universities who have been conferred the degree of BS Chemistry, or its equivalent, and whose curriculum includes all of the professional chemistry courses, may apply to take the licensure examination, subject to evaluation by the Board.

SECTION 17. ***Scope of Examination for Chemists.*** - The chemistry licensure examination shall cover, but shall not be limited to, the following professional chemistry subjects: Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. Provided, that the relative weight of any subject shall not exceed 30% of the total. The Board may modify the coverage of the Board Examination as required by developments in chemistry and the professional practice of chemistry. In such a case, the Board shall consult with the CHED and the APO for chemistry. The Board must announce revisions in chemistry subjects and topics at least two years prior to their inclusion in the Board examination.

SECTION 18. ***Holding of Examination.*** - Examination of candidates desiring to practice chemistry in the Philippines shall be given at least once each calendar year on the date(s) and venue(s) prescribed by the Commission. Such examination shall be conducted by the Board.

SECTION 19. ***Examination Fees.*** - Each applicant admitted to take the Chemistry examination shall pay such fees as may be prescribed by the Commission before he is allowed to take the examination.

SECTION 20. ***Ratings in the Board Examination.*** - The Board and the Commission shall issue Certificates of Registration for Chemist to those who have obtained a general average of no less than seventy percent (70%) and rating of no less than sixty percent (60%) in any examination subject. The results of the examination shall be released within 10 working days from the last day of the examination.

SECTION 21. ***Registration of Chemists without Examination.*** – Holders of a doctoral degree in Chemistry from a reputable university may apply for registration as Chemist without examination. These persons shall apply for exemption from the Board and submit a copy of their undergraduate and graduate diplomas, transcripts, and cover pages of their Doctoral thesis. Provided further, that if such individuals have been active in the practice of Chemistry abroad, they should present evidence of such practice. The Board may require presentation of the Doctoral thesis and other pertinent documents for examination.

SECTION 22. ***Special Permit to Practice Chemistry.*** - The Board may issue a Special Permit to practice Chemistry to the following persons upon proper application with the Board: (a) Foreign-based chemists, recognized as experts in their specific field of chemistry, called in by the Republic of the Philippines for consultation or for a specific project, provided, that their practice shall be confined to such work; and (b) Foreign-based chemists, who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of specialization, contracted as a professor or lecturer on chemistry subjects by Philippine schools, colleges, institutes or universities on a direct hire or exchange basis.

The Special Permit shall indicate the period of validity, provided that such period shall not exceed three (3) years. It may be renewed subject to the rules and regulations of the Board. Complaints or questions regarding such individuals may be directed to the Board for verification or action.

SECTION 23. ***Professional Oath.*** – All persons to be admitted to the practice of Chemistry and Chemical Technician are required to take their oath before the Board or any officer authorized by the Commission prior to the issuance of their Certificate of Registration.

SECTION 24. ***Issuance of Certificate of Registration for Chemist.*** – A Certificate of Registration for Chemist shall be issued by the Board to examinees who satisfy the requirements of the licensure examination subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of Registration shall state the full name of the registrant and his registration number, and bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Members of the Board, authenticated by the official seal of the Commission and the Board. The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force and effect unless suspended or revoked under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 25. ***Qualifications for Chemical Technician.*** - Any person applying for the professional practice of Chemical Technician must have the following qualifications: (a) Citizen of the Philippines, or a citizen of a foreign country which grants the corresponding privilege to Filipinos; (b) Of legal age; (c) Of good moral character; (d) Successfully completed at least thirty (30) units of undergraduate or graduate-level chemistry courses which should include both lecture and laboratory courses in: General Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. The applicant should submit a certified true copy of his transcript.

SECTION 26. ***Issuance of Certificate of Registration for Chemical Technician.*** –A Certificate of Registration for Chemical Technician shall be issued by the Board to applicants who satisfy the requirements for Chemical Technician subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of Registration shall state the full name of the registrant and his registration number, and bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Members of the Board, authenticated by the official seal of the Commission and the Board. The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force and effect unless suspended or revoked under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 27. ***Issuance of Professional Identification for Chemist and Chemical Technician.*** – A Professional Identification for Chemist shall be issued to holders of a valid Certificate of Registration for Chemist, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. A Professional Identification for Chemical Technician shall be issued to holders of a valid Certificate of Registration for Chemical Technician. The Professional Identification shall state the full name of the registrant and his registration number, and bear the signature of the Chairpersons of the Commission and the Board, authenticated by the official seal of the Commission and the Board. The Professional Identification shall be valid for a period of three (3) years, subject to renewal, provided that the Certificate of Registration shall not have been suspended or revoked under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 28. ***Disqualification from, Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Registration.*** - Any of the following shall be sufficient ground for the disqualification from, suspension or revocation of a Certificate of Registration: (a) Any act of misrepresentation in connection with the performance of chemistry services as defined in this law or any act inimical to the chemistry profession; (b) Gross immorality or commission of any act involving moral turpitude; (c) Any person who has been convicted by final judgement of a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense; or (d) Any person who has been judicially declared to be of unsound mind. The Board may, for reason it may deem sufficient and upon proper petition, reissue revoked Certificates of Registration or other certificates.

SECTION 29. ***Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Program.*** - The CPE program guidelines for Chemistry and Chemical Technology shall be prescribed and promulgated by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission. The Board shall create a CPE Council to administer the CPE program. The CPE Council shall be composed of a Chairperson coming from the Board, a member from the APO and a member from the academe. Compliance with the CPE requirements shall be a requirement for the renewal of the Professional Identification for Chemist and Chemical Technician.

SECTION 30. ***Membership in the Accredited Professional Organization (APO).*** – A Chemist or Chemical Technician duly registered with the Board shall automatically become a member of the APO and shall receive the benefits of membership upon payment of the required fees. Membership in the APO shall not be a hindrance to membership in other associations.

SECTION 31. ***Roster of Chemists and Chemical Technicians.*** - The Commission shall keep a roster of all registered Chemists and Chemical Technicians, stating their names, registration numbers and places of business. The Commission shall regularly update such roster and make it available to all interested parties.

SECTION 32. ***Seal and Title of Registered Chemist.*** – Each registered Chemist shall, upon registration, obtain a seal as prescribed by the Board with the label "Registered Chemist" bearing the registrant's name and registration number. All official documents or reports which require the certification or signature of the registered Chemist shall be stamped with the personal seal of the registered chemist. Registered Chemists have the right to use the title "Registered Chemist" or "RCh" in their official documents.

SECTION 33. ***Foreign Reciprocity.*** – No foreigner shall be granted a Certificate of Registration or Professional Identification unless the country of which he is a subject or citizen grants the same or similar rights or privileges to Filipino Chemists or Chemical Technicians.

SECTION 34. ***Certificate of Authority to Operate for Firms, Corporations, and Government Agencies.*** - Only firms, corporations, and government agencies which hold a Certificate of Authority to Operate from the Board may operate a chemical laboratory or engage in the practice of chemistry or chemical technology in the Philippines; provided further that such chemical practice is carried out only by registered Chemists or registered Chemical Technicians holding valid Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification issued by the Board. In case of a firm, corporation, or government agency, the person who has charge of the management or administration shall be held personally liable for violations of this Act.

SECTION 35. ***Requirements for Certificate of Authority to Operate.*** –The Board, in consultation with the relevant entities and the APO, shall set the requirements for the Certificate of Authority to Operate. Such requirements shall be issued as Board resolutions.

SECTION 36. ***Roster of Chemical Laboratories and Related Entities.*** - The Commission shall keep a roster of all chemical laboratories and entities engaged in the practice of chemistry, stating their names, registration numbers and places of business. The Commission shall regularly update such roster.

ARTICLE IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 37. ***Penal Clause for the Professional Practice of Chemistry and Chemical Technology.*** - No person shall undertake the professional practice of chemistry or chemical technology without a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification. This includes any person who: (a) Attempts to use as his own the certificate, license number or seal of another person or impersonate any registered chemist or chemical technician; (b) Furnishes the Board or Commission any false information or document in order to secure a Certificate of Registration; or (c) Operates a firm or corporation engaged in the practice of chemistry in a manner which violates the provisions of this Act.

Upon conviction, these persons shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) month or more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000) or more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000), or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 38. ***Penal Clause for Chemical Laboratories and Related Firms.*** - No chemical laboratory or firm shall undertake activities covered by this Act without a valid Certificate of Authority to Operate.

The president or highest ranking officer of the corporation shall be held liable for violations of this Act. Upon conviction, these persons shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) month or more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000) or more than one million pesos (P1,000,000), or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 39. ***Reports and Other Legal Documents.*** - Any document related to the practice of chemistry shall not be considered as official or admissible for legal purposes unless such document is signed by a registered Chemist, and registration number affixed thereto. Registered Chemical Technicians who contribute to the work should also sign such reports or documents, affix his registration number and official seal.

SECTION 40. ***Coverage of Professional Practice.*** – Provided that the nature of the activity is covered under Sec. 3(f) of this Act (Definition of a "physico-chemical" or "biochemical" technique), registered Chemists or registered Chemical Technicians may not be inhibited from undertaking the professional practice of Chemistry or Chemical Technology.

ARTICLE V. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 41. ***Term of Office of Incumbent Board.*** – The incumbent Chairperson and Members of the Board at the time of approval of this Act shall automatically function and hold office for another two (2) years from the date of effectivity of this Act or for the remaining duration of their current term, whichever is longer. The Board shall then promulgate the provisions, rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 42. ***Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Chemists and Chemical Technicians.*** – All Chemists and Chemical Technologists who are registered at the time of effectivity of this Act shall automatically be considered registered, and shall hold the same registration number. The validity and period of the existing professional license shall continue in force until its date of expiry.

SECTION 43. ***Preparation of Seal and Title of Registered Chemist.*** – Within three (3) years of the date of effectivity of this Act, all duly registered chemists with a valid professional license shall obtain an official seal prescribed by the Board with the label "Registered Chemist" bearing the chemist's name and registration number. Within three years, all official documents or reports which require the certification or signature of the registered chemist shall be stamped with the personal seal of the registered chemist. Upon the date of effectivity of this Act, all duly registered chemists with a valid professional license may use the title 'Registered Chemist' or 'RCh' in their official documents.

SECTION 44. ***Transitory Provisions for Lecturers of Professional Chemistry Subjects.*** On the date of effectivity of this Act, all new lecturers of professional chemistry subjects must comply with the provisions of this Act. For those who already been teaching professional chemistry subjects on the date of effectivity of this Act, there shall be a three (3) year grace period by which time he must fulfill with the following requirements:

(a) Successfully complete at least sixty (60) units of chemistry in undergraduate or graduate degree courses which must include all of the professional chemistry subject. This may include chemistry subjects taken before or after the date of effectivity of this Act; (b) Must have been already teaching these subjects satisfactorily for at least three (3) years on the date of effectivity of this Act; (c) Has satisfied other reasonable requirements or criteria that the Board may set to demonstrate his competence to teach such subjects; and (d) Actively participates in CPE for chemistry.

After the three (3) year grace period, such individuals must submit the certified true copies of all of their relevant transcripts, a letter of endorsement from the head of the institution, and proof of participation in CPE to the Board for evaluation. Those who are evaluated to have fulfilled the requirements shall be issued a Special Permit which to teach professional chemistry subjects. Such permission to teach professional chemistry subjects shall be limited only to this privilege and shall not be construed as permission to practice chemistry.

ARTICLE VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 45. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations***. – Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics, Code of Technical Standards, and other resolutions necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 46. ***Appropriations***. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and thereafter.

SECTION 47. ***Repealing Clause***. – Republic Act No. 754 and all other laws, parts of laws, orders, ordinances, or regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 48. ***Separability Clause***. - If any section of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such shall not invalidate any other section of this Act.

SECTION 49. ***Effectivity***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or any major newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.