

Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4492**



Introduced by Representative **ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 4373 having enacted into law last June 19, 1965 and amended by Republic Act 5175 on August 4, 1967 paved way to the professionalization of social work practice in the Philippines.

Since its passage it has undergone an amendment two years after it was enacted into law. Recent developments prove that there is a need to update the law to remain responsive to the needs of the social workers, its clientele groups and the society in general. In June 2004, more than a thousand social work graduates were not able to take the Board Examinations for a failure to meeting the basic requirements for applicants provided under Section 12 of the law. They were all twenty year olds during the time of the examinations. This was brought about by the latest development in the educational system that requires six year olds to enter primary education. This Bill seeks to give opportunity to young social work graduates to take the examination and become economically and socially productive by joining the workforce as professionals. This Bill likewise intends to minimize the government's lack of social work professionals that are essential in the implementation of its major programs and services.

Furthermore, the bill aims to continually capacitate the social workers by requiring them to embrace the habit of lifelong education. Global changes that have direct impact to the Philippine society compel the social workers to develop indigenous means to respond to these challenges. This is significant to ensure that its clients and the society as a whole maximally benefits from the social workers' intervention. This Bill therefore would likewise provide additional provisions to Section 24 of the law.

Finally, the Bill aims to upgrade penalties to the various provisions concerning the practice of social work in order to protect the profession as well as the public against fraudulent and malicious acts.


ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA
2nd District of Palawan

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Introduced by Representative **ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA**

AN ACT

ABOLISHING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND UPGRADING THE SUNDRY PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 12, 24 AND 26 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT 4373, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SOCIAL WORKER'S LAW.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of the Republic Act Numbered Forty-Three Hundred
2 Seventy-Three hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 “Sec. 12. *Qualifications of applicants.* – In order to be admitted to take the
5 social work examination, an applicant must, at the time of the filing his or her
6 application therefore establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

7
8 “(a) He or she is a Filipino citizen;

9
10 [“(b) He or she is at least twenty-one years of age];

11
12 “(b) He is in good health and of good moral character;

13
14 “(c) He or she has received diploma as holder of a bachelor's degree **OR**
15 **MASTER'S DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN SOCIAL WORK** from
16 an institution, college or university duly accredited and legally
17 constituted;

18

1 “(d) He or she has completed minimum period of one thousand case hours of
2 practical training in an established social work agency under the direct
3 supervision of a fully trained and qualified social worker: **PROVIDED,**
4 **THAT IN THE INSTITUTION, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY’S**
5 **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, THE ACADEMIC COURSES**
6 **PRECEDED THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE OF ONE THOUSAND**
7 **HOURS: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE REQUIRED FIELD**
8 **PRACTICE COMPLIED WITH THE SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM**
9 **APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND**
10 **BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS WHICH SPECIFIES FIELD**
11 **PRACTICE IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH**
12 **SMALL GROUPS AND WITH COMMUNITIES; AND**

13
14 “(E) IF THE APPLICANT HAD FAILED IN THE LICENSURE
15 EXAMINATIONS THREE TIMES, HE OR SHE MUST ENROLL IN
16 FORMAL REFRESHER COURSES FOR TWO SEMESTERS IN
17 MAJOR SUBJECTS BEFORE APPLYING FOR ANOTHER
18 LICENSURE EXAMINATION.

19
20 SECTION 2. *Continuing Social Work Education (CPE).* All registered social
21 workers must provide proof of accomplishing twenty (20) units of Continuing
22 Professional Education given/issued accredited CPE provider by the Social Work Board
23 of Examiners as a requirement for renewal of professional social worker’s license.

24
25 SECTION 3. Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

26
27 “Sec. 26. *Penal Provisions.* The following shall be punished by a fine of not less
28 than [five hundred pesos] **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS** nor more than [two
29 thousand pesos] **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS**, or imprisonment for not
30 less than [one month] **SIX MONTHS** nor more than two years, or both, in the discretion
31 of the court:

32
33 “(a) Any person who shall practice social work in the Philippines without getting
34 registered or exempted from registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

1 “(b) Any person presenting or attempting to use as his own, the certificate of
2 registration of another;

3
4 “(c) Any person who shall give any false or fraudulent evidence of any kind to
5 the Board or any member thereof in obtaining a certificate of registration as social
6 worker;

7
8 “(d) Any person who shall impersonate any registrant of like or different name;

9
10 “(e) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended certificate of
11 registration;

12
13 “(f) Any person who shall in connection with his or her name, otherwise
14 assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that
15 he or she is a social worker without holding a valid registration;

16
17 “(g) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act; or

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19 “(h) Any person or corporate body who shall violate the rules and regulations of
20 the Board or orders promulgated by it, duly approved by the President of the Philippines,
21 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act; or

22
23 “(i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a social work agency without
24 the corresponding [Certificate of Registration] **LICENSE TO OPERATE** issued by the
25 [Social Welfare Administration] **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND**
26 **DEVELOPMENT.**

27
28 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Professional
29 Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc.
30 (PASWI) shall jointly formulate the implementing rules and regulations for this specific
31 provision 30 days upon approval of this law.

32
33 SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
34 its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

35
36 *Approved,*