



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4869**

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**Introduced by Honorable Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to regulate the practice of vocational and technical occupations in the country through the issuance of license to individuals who have attained the minimum degree of competency necessary to carry out its purpose of protecting the health, safety and welfare of consumers.

Vocational and technical courses are usually the choice of the less-economically fortunate high school graduates especially when they cannot afford to enroll in universities offering four-year degree courses.

Unlike four-year college degree courses, vocational-technical schools offer students a shorter, but more intensive program directed toward training for a specific occupation. Vocational-technical occupations provide all vocational graduates with equal opportunities to acquire marketable job skills and occupational knowledge for entering into a satisfying career of their choice.

The proposed measure aims to uplift and recognize the importance of vocational-technical courses by making it a board course. In Europe and the United States, career training for barbers, hairstylists, auto mechanics or cosmetologists requires the graduates to pass a national board examination before they can practice their profession. This ensures that practitioners and persons engaged in such occupations are appropriately qualified, licensed

and regulated to perform their work safely in accordance with standards and promote safety for the benefit of their clients. In return, they get better compensation comparable with the earnings of graduates of degree courses. Statistics reveal that millions of college graduates remain unemployed and underemployed because their skills in most cases do not match the needs of the industry. Thus, they contribute to the problems of the Philippine economy.

This bill, therefore, shall establish a Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission which shall effectively enforce and regulate the practice of the various vocational and technical occupations in the country. The Commission shall administer, coordinate and supervise the licensing Boards with respect to the practice of the vocation or technical occupation within their jurisdiction.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REMEDIOS L. PETILLA**



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**AN ACT**  
**REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ALL VOCATIONAL AND**  
**TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONS, CREATING A VOCATIONAL AND**  
**TECHNICAL LICENSING COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
“Professionalization of Vocational and Technical Occupations Act of 2005.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of  
the State to effectively enforce laws with respect to the regulation and  
professionalization of the various vocational and technical occupations.  
Towards this end, the State shall encourage and rationalize the formulation

of policies and the implementation of programs which shall grant individuals the permission to engage in a vocational or technical profession upon satisfaction of requirements for licensure of the vocational or technical profession concerned.

SEC. 3.     Definition of Terms.   – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a)     “Board” refers to any vocational and technical regulatory board which is created and authorized by law to issue a vocational or technical license;

b)     “Commission” refers to the Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission, a government agency, which shall provide administrative services to various vocational and technical regulatory boards;

c)     “License” refers to the permission to engage in a profession or vocation granted by the applicable licensing board to a person who has satisfied every requirement for licensure and shall include any registration, certificate, or other document issued by the licensing board reflecting proof of permission;

d)     “Technical Occupation” refers to an occupation of a skilled person which deals with the practical, industrial, mechanical arts or the applied sciences;

e) “Vocational Occupation” refers to a profession or vocation of a person specifically engaged in trade or any industrial craft which is officially or traditionally recognized as requiring special qualifications which can be acquired by lengthy training experience and practical and theoretical instruction.

SEC. 4. Creation of the Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission. – There is hereby created a Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be composed of seven (7) members with the Secretary of Labor and Employment as ex-officio chairperson, and two (2) other ex-officio members, namely: a) Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and b) Secretary of Trade and Industry. The Commission shall be attached to the Office of the President for general direction and coordination.

The four (4) regular members of the Commission who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines are:

- a) One (1) representative from the employer or industry organization;
- b) One (1) representative from the labor sector;

c) Two (2) representatives of the national associations of private vocational-technical education and training institutions.

SEC. 5. Term of Office. – The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall hold office for a term of four (4) years from the date of their appointment until their successor shall have been appointed. Vacancies shall be filled only for the unexpired term.

SEC. 6. Compensation of Members. – The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall receive compensation which shall be consistent with existing laws and rules.

SEC. 7. Removal of Members. – Any member of the Commission may be removed by the President of the Philippines for neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct for commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Commission. – The powers and functions of the Commission are as follows:

a) To administer, implement and enforce the regulatory policies with respect to the regulation and licensing of the various vocational and technical occupations under its jurisdiction including the maintenance of

occupational standards and ethics and the enforcement of the rules and regulations relative thereto;

b) To perform any and all acts, enter into contracts, make such rules and regulations and issue such orders and other administrative issuances as maybe necessary in the execution and implementation of its functions and the improvement of its services;

c) To review, coordinate, integrate and approve the policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders or decisions promulgated by the various regulatory Boards with respect to the vocation or technical occupation under their jurisdiction including the results of their licensure examinations but their decisions on administrative cases shall be final and executory unless appealed to the Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of promulgation thereof;

d) To administer and conduct the licensure examinations of the various vocational and technical regulatory Boards according to the rules and regulations promulgated by it; determine and fix the places and dates of examinations; appoint supervisors and room examiners from among the employees of the Government or private individuals who have been trained by the Commission for that purpose;

e) To keep and maintain a register of the authorized practitioners of the profession or vocation; certificates of registration or licenses signed by all the members of the Board concerned and the Commissioner with the official seal of the Board affixed;

f) To determine, fix and collect the amount to be charged for examination, registration, licenses, annual registration fees, certifications, surcharges and other fees;

g) To appoint, subject to the provision of existing laws, such officials and employees of the Commission as are necessary in the effective performance of its functions and responsibilities, prescribe their duties and fix their compensation; and to organize or reorganize the structure of the Commission, create or abolish positions, change the designations of existing positions to meet changing conditions or as the need therefor arises: *Provided*, That such changes shall not affect the employment status of the incumbents, reduce their ranks or salaries nor result in separating them from the services;

h) To submit and recommend to the President of the Philippines nominees for appointment as members of the various Boards from among those nominated by the bona fide vocational or technical education and

training institutions accredited by the Commission to fill existing or probable vacancies;

i) To exercise general supervision over the members of the various Boards;

j) To promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectively implement policies with respect to the regulation and practice of the professions;

k) To perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary to carry out effectively the various provisions of vocational-technical regulatory laws or orders.

SEC. 9. Creation of the Various Vocational and Technical Regulatory Boards. – Within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a regulatory Board for every particular vocational or technical profession concerned which shall be composed of four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the list of nominees submitted by the Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission, based on the recommendations by the recognized groups, associations or societies of a particular profession, as professionally, academically and morally qualified. The regulatory Board shall elect a Chairperson from among its members and shall operate under the

Commission attached to the Office of the President for program coordination.

SEC. 10. Responsibilities of Various Vocational and Technical Regulatory Boards. – The various vocational and technical regulatory Boards shall have the following responsibilities:

a) To look from time to time into conditions affecting the practice of the vocational or technical occupation under their respective jurisdictions and whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of ethical and technical standards;

b) To investigate violations of their respective laws, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and for this purpose may issue summons, subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to alleged violators or witnesses thereof and compel their attendance to such investigations or hearings;

c) To delegate the hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before them except in cases where the issue involved strictly concerns the practice of the vocational or technical occupation, in which case the hearing shall be presided by at least one member of the Board concerned assisted by a legal or hearing officer of the Commission;

d) To promulgate decisions on such administrative cases subject to review by the Commission. If after thirty (30) days from the receipt of such decision no appeal is taken therefrom to the Commission, the same shall become final and immediately enforceable;

e) Subject to review by the Commission, to approve registration without examination and the issuance of the corresponding license to practice; *Provided*, That the regulatory Board concerned shall determine the exceptional circumstances wherein registration without examination is allowed;

f) To determine and prepare the contents of licensure examinations; score and rate the examination papers and submit the results thereof to the Commission within one hundred twenty (120) days after the last examination day unless extended by the Commission, and subject to approval by the Commission, determine the appropriate passing general rating if not provided for in the law regulating the vocational or technical occupation.

SEC. 11. *Requirements for the Practice of A Particular Vocational or Technical Occupation.* – No person shall practice or offer to practice a particular vocational or technical occupation without passing the board examination and without having obtained the proper license from the Board.

SEC. 12. Examination Required. – All vocational or technical graduates shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given annually in such places and dates as the Commission may determine.

SEC. 13. Qualification Requirements for Examination Applicants.  
– Any person applying for examination shall, prior to admission to examination, establish to the satisfaction of the Board:

a) That he is a Filipino citizen who is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

b) That he is of good moral character and has not been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

c) That he is free from any physical and mental defect which will incapacitate him to render efficient service;

d) That he has graduated with a two-year vocational or technical degree course from an accredited vocational or technical institution duly recognized by the government;

e) That he has a specific record of two years or more of active practice in the field of specialization.

SEC. 14. Issuance of License. – All vocational or technical graduates who passed the licensure examination shall be issued a license to practice such profession or vocation. The license shall show the full name

of the license and serial number, and shall bear the signatures of the members of the Board and the Commissioner of the Vocational and Technical Licensing Commission, and duly authenticated with the official seal of the Board.

SEC. 15. Fees for Examination and License. – Applicants for examination shall pay an examination fee of Three Hundred Fifty Pesos (P350.00). Successful applicants shall pay a license fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00). All such fees shall be paid to the disbursing officer of the Commission and such officer shall pay from receipts thereof all the authorized expenses of the various vocational and technical regulatory Boards including the compensation of its chairperson and members.

SEC. 16. Penal Provisions. – The following shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years, or both at the discretion of the court:

a) Any person who practices vocational or technical occupation in the Philippines without the license to practice in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

b) Any person who represents or attempts to use as his own the license of another;

c) Any person who uses a revoked or suspended license to practice;

d) Any person who violates any provision of this Act.

SEC. 17. Appropriations. – The amount of One Hundred Million (P100,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to carry into effect the purpose of this Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 18. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision of this Act shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 19. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees or orders which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,