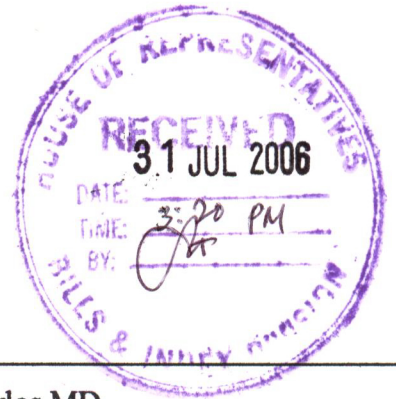


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
Quezon City
~~13th~~
14th Congress
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 5674



Introduced by Representative Jose Emmanuel L. Carlos MD

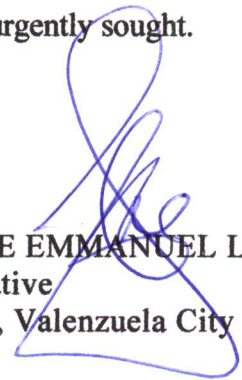
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The attached Bill seeks to upgrade the quality of nursing education for purposes of national development. In order to realize this objective, all high school graduates and other degree holders shall be required to pass a national nursing admission test (NNAT) as a prerequisite for admission to any professional nursing degree program in any private or public institution of higher learning, whether chartered or unchartered.

As the global health industry opens itself up to more migrant health workers, many of the new graduates will be making a beeline for jobs overseas. But many more of them will not pass the qualificatory exams for nurses, thanks to a boom in nursing schools that has led to a decline in the quality of education and also of students being accepted into nursing programs. In the last few years, less than half of those taking the nursing board exams passed. The best among the graduates, however, are often bound for abroad, many of them skipping the one or two-year experience that is usually required by hospitals. In the last 10 years, the Philippines sent close to 90,000 nurses overseas. Today it is exporting more qualified nurses than it is producing, leading to a nursing crisis that has already diminished the quality of hospital care and even forced the closure of a number of hospitals (PCIJ 2006). The impact of the nursing drain is compounded by the fact that doctors are also now taking nursing courses in the hope of going abroad, worsening the shortage of healthcare workers in many parts of the country. In the last four years, 3,500 Filipino doctors have left the country to take on nursing jobs overseas.

The passage of this bill will significantly help promote and eventually alleviate the economy of the country in general and enhance the status of the Philippine health industry.

In view of the foregoing passage of this is urgently sought.


HON. JOSE EMMANUEL L. CARLOS, MD
Representative
1st District, Valenzuela City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
Quezon City

14th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5674

Introduced by Representative Jose Emmanuel L. Carlos MD

AN ACT

UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF NURSING EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES
BY REQUIRING ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND DEGREE HOLDERS
SEEKING ADMISSION TO ANY PROFESSIONAL NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM
NECESSITATING TO PASS A NATIONAL NURSING ADMISSION TEST (NNAT)
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby a declared policy of the State to maintain the highest quality of nursing education for purposes of national development. To achieve this policy, all high school graduates and other degree holders shall be required to pass a national nursing admission test as a prerequisite for admission to any professional nursing degree program in any private or public institution of higher learning, whether chartered or unchartered.

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* --- For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

Nursing Degree. This refers to any four to five years bachelor degree in nursing which requires a professional board examination.

Degree Holders. This refers to all graduates of all course or degree regardless of the number of years to finish.

SECTION 3. *Powers and Duties of the Secretary.* — To carry out the aforementioned policy, the Secretary of the Department of Health has authority:

1. To promote and conduct or cause to be conducted national nursing admission test in accordance with this Act;

2. To determine the method, form, content, date and place or places of admission test;
3. To enter, when desirable or necessary, into agreements or contracts, and to make payments incidental to such agreements or contracts, with qualified persons, institutions, organizations, public agencies, entities and establishments to carry out the purposes of this Act;
4. To determine exemptions from the provisions of this Act;
5. To charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of examinations.

SECTION 4. *Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of the Department of Health shall within sixty days from the issuance of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act: These rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen days after their publication in the Official Gazette or in one newspaper of national circulation.

SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* —The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* ----This act shall take effect upon its approval.