

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4348

Introduced by Honorable Augusto Boboy Syjuco, Ph.D.

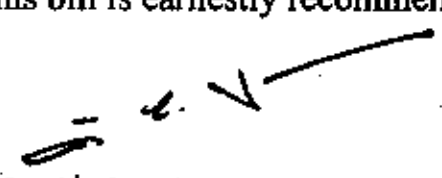
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate all public and private hospitals to provide a three (3) year free training program for newly-licensed nurses.

Carpe diem, seize the day! This is apparently the mantra of some hospitals nationwide in exploiting the oversupply in manpower resources of our nurses. The Philippine Nurses Association raises the issue about this seemingly helpless situation of newly-licensed nurses who wish to complete three (3) year hospital training. After rigid studies in school, nurses have to undergo actual job training in hospitals or other medical institutions as a pre-requisite for gainful employment. In exchange for this required hospital training, nurses must pay exorbitant miscellaneous and training fees.

Recent reports show that some hospitals are using these nurses to augment their staffing needs in the guise of training them. Instead of giving these nurses remunerations for the services they render, they are required to pay the hospital. The immediate passage of this proposed measure is intended to end this unscrupulous practice.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO

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AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE FREE
TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEWLY-LICENSED NURSES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9173, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002"

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

SECTION 1. Section 30, Article VII of Republic Act No. 9173 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ARTICLE VII

HEALTH, HUMAN RESOURCES

PRODUCTION, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 30. *Studies for Nursing Manpower Needs, Production, Utilization and Development.* – xxx

SEC. 31. *Comprehensive Nursing Specialty AND TRAINING Programs.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board in coordination with the accredited professional organization recognized specialty organizations and the Department of Health is hereby mandated to formulate and develop a comprehensive nursing specialty program that would upgrade the level of skill and competence of specialty nurse clinicians in the country, such as but not limited to the areas of critical care, oncology, renal and such other areas as may be determined by the Board.

The beneficiaries of this program are obliged to serve in any Philippine hospital for a period of at least two (2) years and continuous service.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS ARE LIKEWISE MANDATED TO PROVIDE THREE (3) YEAR FREE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NEWLY-LICENSED NURSES: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE NUMBER OF NURSES ACCEPTED AS TRAINEES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE EQUIVALENT TO TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NURSES EMPLOYED IN THE HOSPITAL: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE TRAINEES SHALL RECEIVE A MONTHLY HONORARIA EQUIVALENT TO ONE THIRD (1/3) OF THE BASIC SALARY RECEIVED BY A NURSE I IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AN HONORARIA OF TWO FORTHS (2/4) OF THE BASIC SALARY OF NURSE I AND THREE FOURTH (¾) OF THE BASIC SALARY OF NURSE I FOR THE THIRD YEAR OF TRAINING AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6758, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "*COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION ACT OF 1989.*"

NEWLY-LICENSED NURSES MAY AVAIL OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSING THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF NURSING OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION.

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SEC. 2. Section 35, Article VIII of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ARTICLE VIII

Penal and Miscellaneous Provisions

“SEC. 35. *Prohibitions in the Practice of Nursing.* – A fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) nor more than six (6) years or both, upon the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon:

a) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

d) Any person or the chief executive officer of a juridical entity violating any provision of this Act and its rules and regulations[.] ; AND

E) ANY HOSPITAL WHICH SHALL REFUSE TO ADMIT NURSES FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM AS MANDATED UNDER SECTION 31 OF THIS ACT.”

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,