

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2482



INTRODUCED BY REP. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is presently no integrated medical professional organization in the country. There exists the Philippine Medical Association, Inc. (PMA) which is an organization of doctors licensed to practice medicine in the Philippines.

The PMA is one of the most prestigious organizations in the Philippines. It is the umbrella organization of the medical profession of the country and is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock, non-profit organization and is the mother association of all medical organizations in the Philippines. The PMA brings together the entire medical profession under one roof to serve as an authoritative source of information on health, disease and medical practice. It is responsible for the training of specialists through its Specialty Societies and also for sustained excellent quality healthcare delivery through its continuing medical education and formulation of clinical practices and guidelines.

The PMA has eight specialty divisions such as Pathology, Radiology, Anesthesiology, Surgery, Physicians, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Family Medicine. There are presently 117 Component Societies, which is the basic unit of the Association, equitably distributed in all regions of the country.

There is no other medical organization in the country that possesses the breadth, composition, membership and nationwide coverage of the PMA. In almost all matters affecting health or the medical profession, the government seeks the advice of the PMA.

This bill seeks to address the medical profession's lack of integration by providing for the integration of the Philippine Medical Association.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelino Teodoro".

MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative
1st District, City of Marikina

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PMA) AS THE
INTEGRATED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES

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 "Integrated Medical Professional Organization Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to have an institutionalized organization of medical professionals that will serve as a partner of the government in the improvement of the health care delivery system in the country. It is also declared as a policy of the State to rid the medical profession of so called misfits found to be negligent in the practice of the medical profession.

SEC. 3. Membership. - All physicians duly registered by the Professional Regulations Commission shall become members of the Philippine Medical Association, Inc. Membership in good standing of the PMA shall be a condition precedent for his or her renewal of license and for the continuous practice of medicine.

SEC. 4. Organization. - The organizational structure of the PMA, including the specialty divisions, specialty and sub-specialty societies and the component medical societies and as a non-stock, non-profit corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission shall be retained.

SEC. 5. Rules and Regulations. - The Philippine Medical Association shall prescribe rules and regulations to implement the integration of the medical profession including the various specialty divisions, the specialty and subspecialty societies and their training program, and the component and affiliate medical societies.

SEC. 6. Complaints. - The Philippine Medical Association shall hear complaints against its members. The Philippine Medical Association shall prescribe its rules to govern the conduct of its proceedings and the rules of its procedures. The rules shall be liberally construed and the technical rules of procedure on evidence shall not be strictly applied.

SEC. 7. Grounds for filing complaint. - A person may file a verified complaint before the PMA against any of its members based on the following grounds:

- a) Gross negligence, ignorance or incompetence in the practice of his/her profession resulting to death or physical injury to a person;
- b) Conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude;
- c) Immoral or dishonorable conduct;
- d) Insanity;

- e) Fraud in the acquisition of the certificate of registration, and professional license or renewal thereof;
- f) Addiction to alcoholic beverages or to any habit-forming drug rendering him or her incompetent to practice his or her profession;
- g) False or extravagant or unethical advertisement;
- h) Performing or aiding in any criminal abortion;
- i) Knowingly issuing any false medical certificate;
- j) Issuing any statement or spreading any news or rumor which is derogatory to the character and reputation of another physician without justifiable motive;
- k) Aiding or acting as a dummy of an unqualified or unregistered person to practice medicine; and
- l) Violation of the Code of Ethics of the PMA.

SEC. 8. Penalties. - The Philippine Medical Association may impose penalties of reprimand, suspension or expulsion. All cases filed or pending under this Act shall not be discussed or taken in any forum until after the same shall have been decided with finality.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules. - The Philippine Medical Association shall promulgate the implementing rules and guidelines for this Act within 60 days after its enactment.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. - Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - Provisions on the integration of professionals/professions in the professional regulatory laws and provisions of laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation, whichever is earlier.

Approved,