

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5065



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to lower the age requirement for Professional Social Workers from twenty-one to eighteen.

Republic Act 4373 regulates the practice of social work and the operation of social work agencies and this legislation was enacted on June 19, 1965, at that time the age of majority was twenty-one years of age.

With the pegging of the entry level for social workers at twenty-one years of age, young graduates are unintentionally deprived of a profession and become productive members of society.

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

REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

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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

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

SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act Number Forty-three hundred seventy-three, as amended, is hereby further amend to read as follows:

Section 12. *Qualifications of Applicants.* – In order to be admitted to take the social work examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing [his or her] OF THE application[, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that]:

(a)[He or she is] BE a FILIPINO citizen;

[(b) He or she is at least twenty-one years of age:]

[(c)] (B) [He or she is] BE in good health and [is] of good moral character;

[(d)] (C) [He or she has received] BE a diploma as holder of a Degree OR MASTER'S DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT in social work from an institution, college or university duly accredited constituted: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT OF 1959, AS AMENDED, INsofar AS CULTURAL MINORITIES ARE CONCERNED, SHOULD BE APPLIED; AND

[(e)] (D) [He / she has] HAS completed a minimum period of one thousand case hours of practical training in an established social work agency under the direct supervision of a fully trained and qualified social worker: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN THE INSTITUTION, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY'S UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, THE ACADEMIC COURSES PRECEDED

THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE OF ONE THOUSAND HOURS: *PROVIDED*, FURTHER, THAT THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLIED WITH THE SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORKERS WHICH SPECIFIED FIELD PRACTICE IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH SMALL GROUPS AND WITH COMMUNITIES.

THOSE WHO FAIL TO PASS THREE (3) LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS MUST RE-ENROLL IN AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) UNITS OF BASIC PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK SUBJECTS AND PASS THEM, AS SHOWN IN AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, BEFORE THEY CAN BE ALLOWED TO RE-APPLY TO TAKE ANOTHER LICENSURE EXAMINATION. FAILURE TO PASS FOR THE FOURTH TIME SHALL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY AN APPLICANT FROM TAKING ANOTHER SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE EXAMINATION.

SEC. 2. The same Act is further amended by inserting new Section between Sections 24 and 25 to read as follows:

SEC. 24-A. CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION. – ALL REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS MUST PROVIDED PROOF OF ACCOMPLISHING TWENTY (20) UNITS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL (CPE) GIVEN BY A CPE PROVIDED ACCREDITED BY THE SOCIAL WORK BOARD OF EXAMINERS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKS'S LICENSE.

SEC. 24-B. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) AND THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC. (PASWI) SHALL JOINTLY ISSUE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THIS SPECIFIC PROVISION WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER EFFECTIVITY OF THIS LAW.

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

SEC. 26. Penal Provisions. – The following shall be punished by a fine of not less than [five hundred] ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND pesos (P100,000.00) nor more than [two thousand] TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND pesos (P200,000.00), or imprisonment for not less than [one month] SIX (6) MONTHS nor more than two (2) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

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

(b) Any person presenting or attempting to use as [his] ONE'S own the certificate of registration of another;

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

(d) Any person who shall impersonate any registrant of like or difference name;

(e) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoke or suspended certificate of registration;

(f) Any person who shall in connection with [his or her] ONE'S name, otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that [he or she] ONE is a social worker without holding a valid registration;

(g) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act;

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

(i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a social worker agency, without the corresponding certificate of registration issued by the DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare AND DEVELOPMENT [Administration].

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provision not affected thereby shall continue in operation.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. All laws or parts of any law inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,