

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

8220

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill seeks to modernize the practice of medical technology in the Philippines by overhauling Republic Act No. 5527 or the "Medical Technology Act of 1969" which has not been updated since its passage 50 years ago.

Medical technology is currently defined as an auxiliary branch of laboratory medicine which deals with the examination by various chemical, microscopic, bacteriologic and other medical laboratory procedures or technique which will aid the physician in the diagnosis, study and treatment of disease, and in the promotion of health in general¹. Under the proposed "Philippine Medical Technology Act of 2018", the term is expanded to likewise refer to the profession that provides laboratory investigations on biological and non-biological specimen which have impact on health, the results of which provide information to physicians or other health professionals in relation to healthcare, research and forensics. The practice shall now specifically include molecular and cytogenetic technologies, drug testing, phlebotomy, research, academic work, and other similar activities.

Through the passage of this bill, the State shall establish a Professional Regulatory Board for Medical Technology, and introduce a Code of Professional Ethics for the practice of medical technology. This year alone, almost 3,000 new medical technologists shall join the work force after successfully hurdling the March, 2018 medical technology licensure exam². While they may not be doctors, medical technologists perform critical and sensitive functions in our health facilities. They also directly interact with patients, and handle delicate specimens. Hence, the compelling need to ensure that they shall always ethically perform their duties to the best of their abilities – or face penal sanctions.

Finally, pursuant to the Constitutional mandate to promote the rights of our workers, as well as the commitment to support science and technology education,

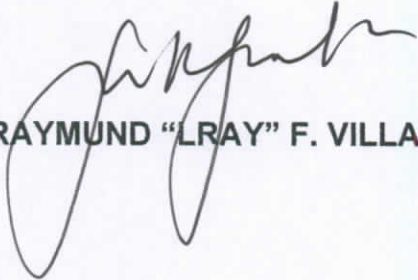
¹ Republic Act No. 5527

² <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/976826/2648-out-of-3644-pass-march-2018-medtech-licensure-exam>

training, and services, the bill seeks to institutionalize a continuing education program for medical technologists so that their knowledge and techniques remain at par with international standards, and proficient enough to provide topnotch services to our people.

National healthcare is one of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's priority concerns. The President has repeatedly stressed the need to improve professional competence in health facilities, especially public ones. We believe that medical technology is only one of the key branches of medical practice in our jurisdiction that requires serious examination, and modernization.

In light of the foregoing, the swift passage of this bill is urgently sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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AN ACT
REGULATING AND MODERNIZING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER RELATED 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 "Philippine Medical Technology Act of 2018."

SECTION. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of the Medical Technology profession in nation building and development through the portals of healthcare, education and research. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded medical technologists whose standard of practice and service shall be world class. Furthermore, the State shall promote, regulate and protect the professional practice of Medical Technology in the Philippines and shall ensure its continued growth and development and the maintenance of high international standards of practice.

SECTION. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

- a) *Accredited Medical Technology Training Laboratory* refers to a clinical laboratory duly licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) and accredited as a training laboratory by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) upon recommendation by the Technical Panel in Medical Technology Education or its equivalent;
- b) *Accredited Professional Organization (APO)* refers to a national organization, recognized and accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);

- c) *Board* refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Medical Technology of the Professional Regulation Commission;
- d) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);
- e) *Continuing Professional Development (CPD)* refers to the inculcation of advanced knowledge, skills and ethical values in post-licensure specialized or in inter-or multidisciplinary field of study for assimilation into professional practice, self-directed research and/or lifelong learning;
- f) *Code of Professional Ethics* refers to a set of standards relating to the conduct, integrity and moral duties of medical technologists as prescribed and promulgated by the Board, in consultation with the duly accredited professional organization, with the approval of the Commission;
- g) *Medical Technology* refers to the healthcare profession that provides professional services for the purpose of helping the physician in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and in the promotion of health in general. The profession provides laboratory investigations on biological and non-biological specimen which have impact on health, the results of which provide information to physicians or other health professionals in relation to healthcare, research and forensics. Medical Technology may also provide laboratory investigations on animals in relation to veterinary medicine;
- h) *Medical Laboratory Science* refers to the other name for Medical Technology;
- i) *Medical Technologists* refers to a holder of a Bachelor of Science on Medical Technology or Public Health who is duly registered with the Commission and is qualified to practice Medical Technology;
- j) *Medical Laboratory Scientists* refers to the other name for medical technologists;
- k) *Phlebotomy* refers to the collection of blood;
- l) *Phlebotomist* refers to the holder of a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology and who has passed an examination for phlebotomy given by the Board. *Provided*, that a registered medical technologist automatically qualifies as a phlebotomist. *Provided further*, that other health professionals registered by the Commission may be allowed by the Board to take the Phlebotomy examination;

- m) *Recognized School of Medical Technology* refers to a school, college or university which offers a Bachelor's degree program in Medical Technology/Medical Laboratory Science approved by the Commission on Higher Education; and
- n) *Technical Committee for Medical Technology Education* refers to the Technical Committee for Medical Technology Education recognized under the Office of Programs and Standards of the Commission on Higher Education.

SECTION. 4. *The Scope of the Practice of Medical Technology.* – The practice of Medical Technology shall include the following:

- a) Examination of tissues, secretions and excretions of the human body and other body fluids through electronic, chemical, microscopic, microbiologic, hematologic, serologic, immunologic, nuclear, molecular, cytogenic or other laboratory procedures and techniques, either manual or automated;
- b) Blood banking procedures and techniques;
- c) Parasitologic, Bacteriologic, Mycologic, Virologic, or other microbiologic techniques;
- d) Histopathologic and cytologic techniques;
- e) Drug Testing in clinical laboratories;
- f) Research involving human beings or animals requiring the use of and/or application of Medical Technology (Medical Laboratory Science) knowledge and procedures;
- g) Preparations and standardization of reagents, standards, stains or others. *Provided*, that such reagents, standards, stains or others are exclusively for the use of their laboratory;
- h) Clinical laboratory quality control;
- i) Phlebotomy, collection, handling, processing or preservation of specimen;
- j) Consultancy in test upgrading, method selection, laboratory equipment planning and troubleshooting, and laboratory operations where the application of knowledge in medical technology is required;
- k) Teaching, training and supervising students in Medical Technology education programs;

- l) Introduction, demonstration, evaluation, or improvement of clinical laboratory procedure or techniques and/or laboratory procedures or techniques and/or laboratory operations; and
- m) Other similar activities where the training, skill and experience of a medical technologist are needed.

The performance of any of the foregoing activities by a registered and licensed medical technologist shall be without prejudice to all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION. 5. Professional Regulatory Board of Medical Technology. – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Medical Technology under the Commission. The Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) Members, all of whom are registered medical technologists who have completed the Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology/ Medical Laboratory Science. The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines ("President") upon recommendation of the Commission and shall serve for a term of three (3) years. The Chairperson and the Members of the Board shall hold such office until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. For its recommendation, the Commission shall submit to the President a list containing three (3) names from among a list of five (5) nominees for each position recommended by the duly accredited professional organization of medical technologists for appointment of the term of the Chairperson or any Member of the Board prior to the expiration of the term of the Chairperson or any Member of the Board prior to the expiration of the term of the Chairperson or any Member of the Board, his successor shall only serve the balance of this term.

SECTION. 6. Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Board. – No person shall be appointed as Chairperson or as a Member of the Board unless he is Filipino citizen, of good moral character and is a duly registered medical technologist. *Provided*, that the Chairperson and Members of the Board must be members in good standing of the APO. *Provided, further*, that the Chairperson and the Members of the Board must not be an officer or director of the accredited professional organization at the time of their nomination. The Chairperson must also have at least fifteen (15) years of experience at the time of their nomination. The Chairperson must also have at least fifteen (15) years of experience as a medical technologist. He must be actively practicing his profession as a medical technologist within five (5) years prior to his nomination. The Chairperson must have at least a Master's Degree in medical technology or other medical technology related programs to include biological sciences, education and administration or equivalent level using the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF). *Provided*, that for the first

three (3) years prior to the effectivity of this Act, the requirement of a Master's Degree may be waived for as long as the nominated candidate has obtained at least 70% of the required units for a Master's Degree.

A Member of the Board must have at least ten (10) years of experience as a medical technologist. He must be actively practicing his profession as a medical technologist three (3) years prior to his nomination. The Chairperson and the Members of the Board shall not in any way be professionally connected with the faculty of any Medical Technology school at the time of the appointment of any review center for at least two (2) years prior to nomination.

SECTION. 7. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board.* – The Chairperson and each Member of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the chairperson and members of the other professional regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION. 8. *Functions and Duties of the Board.* – The following are duties and functions of the Board:

- a) Administer and implement the provisions of this Act;
- b) Regulate the practice of the profession in the accordance with professional regulatory law;
- c) Determine and prepare the questions for the licensure examination for medical technologists;
- d) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- e) Issue, suspend or revoke Certificates of Registration and Special Temporary Permits of medical technologists, phlebotomists, and medical laboratory technicians;
- f) Look into conditions affecting the practice of medical technology in the Philippines and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and standards in the practice of medical technology;
- g) Investigate violations of this Act or the rules and regulations issued hereunder. For this purpose, the Board may issue subpoenas *duces tecum*;
- h) Draft such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;

- i) Prescribe the qualifications and training of medical technologists with regard to special fields of the profession and to supervise their special examination to be conducted by the Commission;
- j) Formulate and recommend the approval refresher courses for applicants who failed to pass the Board Examinations for the third time;
- k) Determine and prepare the questions for the certification examination of phlebotomists;
- l) Prescribe and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Medical Technology, in consultation with the APO;
- m) Issue guidelines on the CPD, through the CPD Council, with the approval of the Commission; and
- n) Perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Commission, in accordance with existing laws.

SECTION. 9. *Removal of the Board of Members.* – The Chairperson or any Member of the Board may be removed by the President for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice or unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct after having been given an opportunity to defend himself in proper administrative proceeding. *Provided*, that pending the resolution of the administrative proceeding, the President shall have the power to indefinitely suspend the Chairperson or any Member of the Board under investigation and appoint a temporary member in his place.

SECTION. 10. *Licensure Examination.* – Except as otherwise specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as medical technologists shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be given by the Board semi-annually during the months of March and September in such places as the Board may deem proper, subject to the approval of the Commission. The examination for Phlebotomy Certification as referred to in this Act shall be given by the Board semi-annually in such places as may be approved by the Commission.

SECTION. 11. *Qualifications for Admission to the Licensure Examination.* – Every applicant for examination under this Act shall, at least thirty (30) days, prior to the date of the Examination, furnish the Board satisfactory proof that he:

- a) Must possess Philippine citizenship or in the case of a foreigner, citizenship of a country or State that has a reciprocity agreement with the Philippines on the practice of medical technology;
- b) Must be of good moral character;
- c) Must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology (Medical Laboratory Science) or Public Health conferred by a school, college or university recognized and duly accredited by the CHED; and
- d) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION. 12. Scope of Examination. – The examination shall cover the following courses:

Chemical Chemistry	20%
Microbiology and Parasitology	20%
Hematology	20%
Immunohematology (Blood Banking)	
Immunology & Serology	20%
Clinical Microscopy (Urinalysis and Other Body Fluids)	10%
Histopathologic and Cytologic Techniques, Laboratory Management, Medical Technology Law, Related Laws and Their implementing Rules and the Code of Ethics	10%

The general average of each examinee shall be computed by the Board according to the above-mentioned relative weights of each course. The Board may change, add to or remove from the list of above courses or weights as progress in the science of medical technology may require, after consultation with the accredited professional organization and association of schools of medical technology upon approval of the Commission. The schedule of courses for examination shall be prepared and submitted by the Board in a manner prescribed by the Commission.

SECTION. 13. Report of Rating. – The Board shall, after the date of completion of the examination, report the result thereof for the approval of the Commission within such time limit and guidelines that the Board and the Commission may set.

SECTION. 14. Ratings in the Examination. – In order to pass the examination, a candidate must obtain a general average of at least seventy-five (75%) in the written

test, with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in the any of the major courses. *Provided*, that the candidate has not failed in at least sixty percent (60%) of the courses computed according to their weights. After three (3) unsuccessful board examinations, completion of a refresher program prescribed by the Board shall be required before another examination can be taken.

SECTION. 15. Oath. – All successful examinees shall be required to take a professional oath before the Board or before any person authorized by law prior to entering the practice of medical technology in the Philippines.

SECTION. 16. Issuance of Certificate of Registration. – Every applicant who has satisfactorily passed the required examination for medical technologists shall be issued a Certificate of Registration. All certificates shall be signed by the Chairman and the Members of the Board and by the Chairperson and the Commissioners of the Commission. A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number, date of issuance and expiry date, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise, be issued to every registrant, upon payment of the required fees. The Professional Identification Card shall be renewed in accordance with the guidelines set by the Professional Regulation Commission and upon satisfying the requirements of the Board such as, but not limited to, attendance in the CPD program.

The Board shall refuse to issue a Certificate of Registration to any person convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or who has committed immoral, dishonorable or dishonest conduct, or is of unsound mind, or is suffering from an incurable communicable disease. In the event of the Board's refusal to issue a Certificate of Registration, it shall issue a written statement to the applicant setting forth the reason for its action. The statement issued by the Board shall be incorporated in its records.

SECTION. 17. Fees. – The fees to be paid by each applicant for the issuance of a new Certificate of Registration, replacement of a lost, destroyed or mutilated Certificate of Registration, or issuance or replacement of the Professional Identification Card shall be in accordance with the fees established by the Commission.

SECTION. 18. Revocation or Suspension of Certificates of Registration. – The revocation or suspension of a Certificate of Registration may only be made after the completion of an administrative proceeding conducted by the hearing committee composed of at least one (1) Member of the Board and one (1) legal officer. *Provided*, that the existing rules of evidence shall be observed during the administrative proceeding. *Provided*, that the existing rules of evidence shall be observed during the administrative proceeding. *Provided further*, that the person whose Certificate of Registration is sought to be revoked or suspended shall be

entitled to be represented by counsel, to have a speedy, impartial and public proceeding, to confront the witness against him and all other rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The Board, may, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned, reprimand an erring medical technologist, revoke or suspend his Certificate of Registration for violating any provision of this Act, any rules or regulations issued pursuant to this Act or for unprofessional conduct, malpractice, incompetency, gross ignorance or gross negligence in the practice of medical technology. No penalty of revocation shall be imposed unless there is a unanimous vote of all the three members of the Board. The Board may, by majority vote, impose the penalty of reprimand or suspension, *Provided*, that the suspension of the Certificate of Revocation shall not exceed two (2) years. When the penalty of suspension or revocation is imposed by the Board, the medical technologist shall be required to surrender his Certificate of Registration within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Should the medical technologist fail to surrender his certificate of registration within said period, the Board may disqualify him perpetually from the practice of medical technology. The suspension shall run from the date of such surrender.

SECTION. 19. *Appeal.* – The revocation or suspension of a Certificate of Registration made by the hearing committee may be appealed primarily and exclusively to the Commission. The decision of the Commission may be elevated to the Court of Appeals in accordance with the Rules of Court.

SECTION. 20. *Reissuance of Reinstatement of a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration.* – The Board may reissue a revoked Certificate of Registration upon the application of the medical technologist whose Certificate of Registration was revoked. *Provided*, that the reissuance of a revoked Certificate of Registration may only be made for proper and sufficient reasons, *Provided*, further, that no revoked Certificate of Registration shall be reissued within two (2) years from the date of its surrender. A suspended Certificate of Registration shall be without prejudice to further actions by the Board for a violation of any provision of this Act, its implementing rules or regulations or any condition imposed by the Board upon the medical technologist during the period of revocation or suspension.

SECTION. 21. *Roster of Medical Technologists.* – A roster of Medical Technologists shall be prepared annually by the Registration Division of the Commission. This roster shall contain the name, address, and citizenship of each registered medical technologist; the date of registration or issuance of the Certificate of Registration and any other pertinent data. The roster shall be open to public inspection, and copies thereof shall be placed on file in the Commission, and furnished to other offices, private or governmental, and to the public, upon request.

SECTION. 22. *Technical Committee for Medical Technology Education (TCMTE) or its equivalent.* – The Technical Committee for Medical Technology

Education (TCMTE) under the Commission on Higher Education – Office of Programs and Standards (CHED-OPS) shall be composed of the following members:

- a) A representative from the Board;
- b) The President or representative of the national accredited professional organization of medical technologists;
- c) The President or representative of the association of schools of medical technology;
- d) A representative whose specialty is Laboratory Medicine and who is also a medical technologist.

The TCMTE or its equivalent shall be supported by a secretariat and staff.

SECTION. 23. *Responsibilities of the TCMTE or its equivalent.* – The TCMTE shall assist the Commission on Higher Education ((CHED) in setting Policies, Standards, and Guidelines for the Medical Technology Program. It may also assist in its implementation, including mentoring and evaluation.

The responsibilities of the TCMTE are as follows:

- a) To recommend the minimum curriculum required for the program of medical technology;
- b) To determine and prescribe the number of students that will be allowed to take the medical technology program in each school, taking into account the student-instructor ratio and the availability of facilities for instruction;
- c) To recommend the closure of medical technology schools which are found to be substandard;
- d) To inspect, whenever necessary, the different medical technology schools in the country in order to determine whether a high standard of education is maintained in said institutions; and
- e) To promulgate, prescribe and enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper implementation of the foregoing functions.

SECTION. 24. *Medical Technology Education.* – The Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology (Medical Laboratory Science) program shall be at least four (4)

years, as suggested in the Commission on Higher Education's Policies, Standards, and Guidelines. Said program shall be composed of general education, core and professional courses, and a satisfactory internship program in accredited training laboratories.

SECTION. 25. *Accreditation of Schools of Medical Technology Education and of Training Laboratories.* – The Commission on Higher Education, through TCMTE, shall approve schools of Medical Technology and accredit licensed clinical laboratories for training of students in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The laboratories shall show satisfactory evidence that they possess qualified personnel and are properly equipped to carry out laboratory procedures commonly required in the following fields: Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology and Parasitology, Immunohematology (Blood Banking), Immunology and Serology, Clinical Microscopy (Urinalysis & other body fluids), and Histopathologic and Cytologic Techniques, and that the scope of activities of said laboratories offer sufficient training in said laboratory procedures.

SECTION. 26. *Studies for Medical Technology Human Resource Management.* – The Board, in coordination with the accredited professional organization and appropriate government and private agencies shall initiate, undertake and conduct studies on health, human resources production, utilization or deployment and development.

SECTION. 27. *Membership to Accredited Professional Organization.* – All registered medical technologists whose names appear in the roster of the Professional Regulation Commission shall automatically become members of the accredited professional organization of registered and licensed medical technologists. Members of said accredited professional organization shall receive benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon compliance with the membership requirements and payment of the required fees and dues.

SECTION. 28. *Continuing Professional Development Program.* – There shall be a program of Continuing Professional Development for Medical Technology (CPD-MT) conducted by the national accredited professional organization and other CPD-MT providers duly accredited by the CPD Council for Medical Technology (CPDC-MT) under the Commission, to provide, promote and facilitate lifelong learning in the enhancement of competencies towards delivery of quality, updated and ethical services, both locally and globally.

The CPDC-MT herein created shall ensure adequate and appropriate provision of CPD programs and shall issue such operational guidelines as may be approved by the Commission. All registered medical technologists shall abide by the requirement, rules and regulations promulgated by the CPDC-MT approved by the Commission.

SECTION. 29. *Lifelong Learning for Medical Technologists.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a medical technologist shall be required to show compliance with the required CPD units as basis for renewal of the Professional Identification Card in accordance with the guidelines of the Commission.

SECTION. 30. *Salary.* – In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and professionalism of medical technologists, the minimum base pay upon entry of a registered medical technologist in governmental and non-governmental institutions should not be lower than the amount equivalent to Salary Grade 15.

SECTION. 31. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreigner shall be admitted to an examination, be given a Certificate of Registration or be entitled to any of the rights or privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which he is a subject or a citizen permits Filipino medical technologists to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

SECTION. 32. *Inhibition Against the Practice of Medical Technology/Special temporary Permit.* – No person shall practice or offer to practice medical technology as defined in this Act without having previously obtained a valid Certificate of Registration from the Board. Provided, that a Certificate of Registration shall not be required from the following:

- a) Duly registered physicians;
- b) Medical technologists in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States of America who are stationed in the Philippines and are rendering services as such for the members of said armed forces only.

SECTION. 33. *Penal Provisions.* – Without prejudice to the provisions of the Medical Act of 1959, as amended, relating to the illegal practice of medicine, the following shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (50,000) nor more than one hundred thousand pesos (100,000) or imprisonment for not less than six (6) months nor more than (2) years, or both, at the discretion of the court:

- a) Any person who shall practice Medical Technology in the Philippines without being registered or exempted from registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- b) Any medical technologist who shall knowingly make a fraudulent laboratory report;
- c) Any person presenting or attempting to use as his own, the Certificate of Registration of another;

- d) 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 a medical technologist;
- e) Any person who shall impersonate any registrant;
- f) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration;
- g) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration;
- h) Any person or corporate body who shall allow non-registered medical technologist/medical laboratory technician under his employ to engage in the practice of medical technology or recommend the appointment of anyone to the position of a medical technologist/medical laboratory technicians while knowing that he is not registered as such; and
- i) Any person or corporate body who shall violate any provision of this Act or any rules or regulations issued pursuant to this Act.

SECTION. 34. *Enforcement of this Act.* – It shall be the primary duty of the Commission and Board to effectively implement the provisions of this Act. Any law enforcement agency and officers, employees and agents of national, provincial, city or municipal governments shall, upon the call or request of the Commission on Board, render assistance in enforcing the provisions of this Act and, to prosecute any person violating the same.

SECTION. 35. *Funding Provision.* – The Chairperson of the Commission shall include in the Commission's program the funding requirements for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION. 36. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board and the Commission, in coordination with the national accredited professional organization, the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other concerned agencies, shall formulate such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION. 37. *Transitory Provisions.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act:

- 1) The Board shall discontinue the registration of medical laboratory technicians as provided for in Section 21 of Republic Act No. 5527. *Provided*, that medical

laboratory technicians registered under Republic Act No. 5527 shall maintain their status as registered medical laboratory technicians after this Act has taken effect. *Provided*, that a registered medical technologist occupying the position of medical laboratory technician shall be rendered an appropriate position and be reclassified as a medical technologist.

- 2) The incumbent Chairperson and members of the Board shall continue to serve until the first Board constituted under the provisions of this Act shall have been appointed and duly qualified.

SECTION. 38. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION. 39. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 5527 otherwise known as the “Philippine Medical Technology Act of 1969”, Republic Act No.6138 or otherwise known as “An Act to Amend Certain Sections of Republic Act Numbered Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Seven, Known as “The Philippine Medical Technology Act of 1968”, Presidential Decree No. 498 or otherwise known as “Amending Sections Two, Three, Four, Seven. Eight, Eleven, Thirteen, Sixteen, Seventeen Twenty-One and Twenty-Nine of Republic Act No. 5527 also known as The Philippine Medical Technology Act of 1969” and Presidential Decree No. 1534 or otherwise known as “Further Amending Republic Act No. 5527 as Amended by Presidential Decree No. 498” are hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 40. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,