

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5865



Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
Third District, Bohol

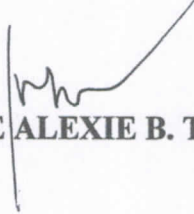
Explanatory Note

The State recognizes the vital role of Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists in nation-building hence Republic Act No. 5680 was enacted to supervise and regulate the said professions. For almost 50 years, RA 5680 has been the governing law with regard the two professions.

During the 17th Congress, Republic Act No. 11241 otherwise known as "The Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018" formally recognized Occupational Therapy as an independent medical profession from Physical Therapy. With the enactment of RA 11241 and the developments, both locally and internationally, in the standards of practice of Physical Therapy and in the field of healthcare in general, there is a need to update and upgrade the regulatory framework of the Physical Therapy profession.

This proposed measure seeks to upgrade and update the Physical Therapy profession and align the professions regulatory framework with both the local and international standards of practice. By upgrading the regulatory framework for the practice of the Physical Therapy profession, we would be able to maintain high technical and ethical standards of our PT professionals and ensure that Filipino PT professionals are globally competitive and are able to provide quality rehabilitation service to more Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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AN ACT
REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
RELATED PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title of Act.* - This Act shall be known as "The
Philippine Physical Therapy Law of 2020."

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - The State recognizes the importance of
physical therapy and physical therapists in nation building. Hence, it shall develop
and nurture competent, virtuous, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists
whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, world-class, and
globally competitive through inviolable, honest, effective, and credible licensure
examinations and through regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster
their continuing professional growth.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms
shall mean:

- a) Physical Therapy – is a health profession concerned with providing
relevant services to individuals and populations to develop, maintain,
and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the
lifespan. Such services are provided in circumstances where movement

1 and function are threatened by ageing, injury, pain, diseases, disorders,
2 conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding that
3 functional movement is central to what it means to be healthy. Physical
4 therapy is also known as physiotherapy in other parts of the world.

- 5
- 6 b) Physical Therapist – refers to a person who is a holder of a valid
7 registration and professional license issued by the Professional
8 Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy and the Professional Regulation
9 Commission, and who is legally qualified to practice physical therapy
10 in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

11

12 **SEC. 4. *Scope and Nature of the Practice of Physical Therapy.*** - The
13 practice of physical therapy shall include identifying and maximizing quality of
14 life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention,
15 treatment/intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass
16 physical, psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing.

17 Physical therapists are qualified and professionally required to:

- 18 a) Undertake a comprehensive examination/assessment of the
19 patient/client or needs of a client group;
20 b) Evaluate the findings from the examination/assessment to make
21 clinical judgments regarding patients/clients;
22 c) Formulate a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and plan;
23 d) Provide consultation within their expertise and determine when
24 patients/clients need to be referred to another professional;
25 e) Implement a physical therapy intervention / treatment program;
26 f) Determine the outcomes of any interventions / treatments; and
27 g) Make recommendations for self-management.

28

29 Physical therapists are guided by the universal principles of ethics and
30 professional practice as expressed in their own code of ethics.

31 The scope of physical therapy practice is not limited to direct patient/client
32 care, but also includes: public health strategies; advocating for patients/clients and
33 for health; supervising and delegating to others; leading; managing; teaching;

1 research; and developing and implementing health policy at the local, national,
2 and international levels.

3
4 **ARTICLE II**
5 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL**
6 **THERAPY**
7

8 **SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.*** - There is hereby
9 created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, hereafter referred to
10 as the Board, under the administrative supervision of the Professional Regulation
11 Commission, composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members appointed by the
12 President of the Philippines within six (6) months from the enactment of this Act
13 upon the recommendation of the Commission from among physical therapists of
14 recognized standing as nominated by the accredited integrated professional
15 organization of physical therapists.
16

17 **SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall have the
18 following powers and functions:

19 (a) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for
20 carrying out the provisions of this Act;

21 (b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of
22 physical therapy in the Philippines;

23 (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;

24 (d) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

25 (e) Maintain a roster of physical therapists indicating therein the basic
26 information about the registered professionals;

27 (f) Issue, reinstate, suspend, cancel, or revoke the registration and license,
28 or special permits for the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;

29 (g) Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy
30 and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the
31 profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;

32 (h) Ensure collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education
33 (CHED) or its equivalent, that all educational institutions offering physical
34 therapy education comply with the prescribed policies, standards, and guidelines;

1 (i) Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for physical
2 therapists as endorsed by the accredited integrated professional organization of
3 physical therapists;

4 (j) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules
5 and regulations, code of ethics, and standards of practice, and for this purpose,
6 issue subpoena duces tecum and/or ad testificandum to ensure the appearance of
7 the witnesses, and the production of documents in connection therewith; provided,
8 that the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become
9 final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision;

10 (k) Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional
11 Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;

12 (l) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table of
13 specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights,
14 score, and rate the examination papers, and submit the results to the Commission
15 within the period provided for in the rules of the Commission;

16 (m) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical
17 therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

18 (n) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure
19 examination;

20 (o) Grant registration without examination subject to approval by the
21 Commission;

22 (p) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical
23 therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced
24 studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the
25 profession; and

26 (q) Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry
27 out the objectives of this Act.

28
29 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders or decisions issued
30 or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the
31 Commission.

1 **SEC. 7. Qualifications of Board Members.** - The members of the Board
2 shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

3 (a) A resident of the Philippines for at least (5) years;

4 (b) A duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid
5 certificate of registration and professional license;

6 (c) Has engaged in practicing physical therapy for at least ten (10) years,
7 with the last five (5) years as a continuous period immediately preceding the
8 appointment;

9 (d) Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in
10 one professional practice as a physical therapist;

11 (e) A member of good standing of the accredited integrated professional
12 organization of physical therapists, and not an officer thereof;

13 (f) Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving
14 moral turpitude; and

15 (g) Has no pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school, college,
16 or university or institution conferring an academic degree for admission to the
17 practice of physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure
18 examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or
19 administration thereof.
20

21 **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** - The Chairperson and Members of the Board
22 shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors have been
23 appointed and duly qualified; provided, that members of the first Board to be
24 appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms:
25 the Chairperson for three (3) years, two (2) members for two (2) years, and the
26 other two (2) members for one (1) year; provided, further, that a chairperson or
27 member may be appointed for a second term, but may not serve more than two (2)
28 consecutive three (3)-year terms, or six (6) consecutive years. Interim vacancies
29 shall be filled for the unexpired term only.
30

31 **SEC. 9. Removal of Board Members.** - Any member of the Board may,
32 upon the recommendation of the Commission after due process of law and
33 investigation conducted by the Commission, be suspended or removed by the
34 President from office for cause such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence,

1 malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct,
2 final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulating or rigging
3 of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential
4 information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said
5 examination, or tampering of grades.

6
7 ***SEC. 10. Compensation and Allowances of the Board.*** - The Chairperson
8 and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable
9 to that being received by the chairpersons and members of existing regulatory
10 boards under the Commission, as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

11
12 ***SEC. 11. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat,***
13 ***and Support Services.*** The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of
14 the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination,
15 examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases, and
16 other investigations involving physical therapists, shall be kept by the
17 Commission.

18 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall
19 provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of
20 this Act.

21
22 ***SEC. 12. Annual Report.*** - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar
23 year, submit an annual report to the Commission, giving a detailed account of its
24 proceedings and accomplishments during the year and recommending measures to
25 be adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and improving conditions affecting
26 the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

27 28 **ARTICLE III**

29 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**

30
31 ***SEC. 13. Examination Required.*** - All applicants for registration for the
32 practice of physical therapy shall be required to undergo a licensure examination
33 to be given by the Board in such places and dates as the Commission may

1 designate, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the
2 Commission.

3
4 ***SEC. 14. Qualifications for Examination.*** - An applicant for the licensure
5 examination for physical therapists shall establish, to the satisfaction of the Board,
6 that the following qualifications are met:

7 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has formal
8 reciprocity agreement with the Philippines;

9 (b) Is of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime
10 involving moral turpitude; and

11 (c) A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree or its
12 equivalent degree as determined by the Board from a school, college, or university
13 in the Philippines or abroad whose physical therapy program is recognized by
14 CHED.

15
16 ***SEC. 15. Scope of Examination.*** - The scope of examinations shall, after
17 the necessary stakeholder consultation, be determined by the Board, subject to the
18 approval of the Commission. The Board shall take into consideration the
19 minimum curriculum standards for physical therapy, the current scope of practice,
20 and the latest developments in the profession, locally and globally, that affect the
21 practice and delivery of physical therapy services in the country.

22
23 ***SEC. 16. Ratings in the Examination.*** - To be qualified as having passed
24 the licensure examination for physical therapists, a candidate must have obtained a
25 general average of seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty
26 percent (60%) in any given subject.

27
28 ***SEC. 17. Report of Ratings.*** - The Board shall submit to the Commission
29 the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the
30 examination, unless extended for just cause.

31
32 ***SEC. 18. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional***
33 ***License, and Professional Identification Card.*** - Certificate of Registration
34 (COR) and a Professional Identification Card (PIC) shall be issued to examinees

1 who pass the licensure examination for physical therapist subject to payment of
2 fees prescribed by the Commission.

3 The COR shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the Commission
4 and the chairperson and members of the Board, stamped with the official seals of
5 the Commission and the Board, indicating that the person named therein is
6 entitled to practice the physical therapy profession, with all the benefits and
7 privileges appurtenant thereto. The COR shall remain in full force and effect until
8 revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

9 A PIC bearing the registration number, and dates of issuance and expiry,
10 duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to
11 every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The PIC shall be renewed
12 every three (3) years, upon compliance with the Continuing Professional
13 Development (CPD), Certificate of Good Standing (COGS) from the AIPO, and
14 other requirements of the Board and the Commission.

15
16 **SEC. 19. Initial.** - The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist
17 Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical
18 therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the
19 profession.

20
21 **SEC. 20. Refusal to Register.** - The Board shall refuse to register any
22 successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction
23 of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of
24 immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been
25 declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in
26 writing.

27
28 **SEC. 21. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration**
29 **and Cancellation of Special Permit.** - The Board may, after giving proper notice
30 of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate of
31 registration and PIC, or be suspended from the practice of the profession; or
32 cancel the special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 26
33 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation

1 of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics,
2 and Standards of Practice for physical therapists.

3
4 **SEC. 22. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of**
5 **Registration and Professional Identification Card.** - Two (2) years after the
6 date of revocation, the Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed
7 proper and sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of registration or
8 professional license.

9 A new COR or PIC, or special permit may be issued to replace lost,
10 destroyed, or mutilated ones, subject to the rules as implemented by the Board.

11
12 **SEC. 23. Oath of Physical Therapists.** - Successful examinees qualified
13 for registration, and qualified applicants for registration without examination,
14 shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or
15 any government official authorized by the Commission to administer oaths, prior
16 to entering into the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

17
18 **SEC. 24. Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.** - The
19 physical therapist shall be required to indicate his/her registration / professional
20 license number and date of issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said
21 license, including his/her privilege tax receipt number, on the documents he/she
22 signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of his/her profession.

23
24 **SEC. 25. Roster of Physical Therapists.** - The Board shall prepare,
25 update, and maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name
26 of each registered physical therapist, his/her residence and office addresses, the
27 date of registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the board
28 may deem pertinent.

29
30 **SEC. 26. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.** - Special or
31 temporary permits, upon recommendation of the accredited integrated
32 professional organization of physical therapists, may be issued by the Board,
33 subject to the approval by the Commission, and payment of fees the latter has
34 prescribed and charges, to the following persons:

1 (a) Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a
2 specified purpose that is deemed essential to national development; provided, that
3 the practice shall be limited only for the particular work being; provided, further,
4 that there is no Filipino physical therapist qualified for such consultation or
5 purpose;

6 (b) Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free and
7 who are highly needed under particular settings;

8 (c) Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or
9 critics in fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines, whose
10 engagement is limited to teaching only; and

11 (d) Foreign-licensed physical therapists recognized as experts or
12 specialists whose service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession
13 in the Philippines.

14
15 The permit shall, among other things, include these limitations and
16 conditions: valid only for a period of not more than one (1) year subject to
17 renewal; the branch or specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can
18 practice; and the specific place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital,
19 therapy center, school/college/university offering the course of physical therapy.
20 The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and
21 regulations for the implementation of this particular section.

22 23 ARTICLE IV

24 PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

25
26 ***SEC. 27. Delivery of Physical Therapy Service.*** - Physical therapists shall
27 collaborate with stakeholders in order to provide the most effective, cost-efficient,
28 and client-centered service. Physical therapy involves the interaction between the
29 physical therapist, patients/clients, other health professionals, families, caregivers,
30 communities, and other stakeholders in the delivery of services using knowledge
31 and skills unique to physical therapists.

32
33 ***SEC. 28. Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy.*** - No person
34 shall practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical

1 therapist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the
2 impression of being a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any manner
3 whatsoever to be qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without
4 passing the licensure examination given by the Board, except as otherwise
5 provided in this Act.

6
7 ***SEC. 29. Prohibited Acts.*** - No person shall:

8 (a) Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing
9 himself/herself as a physical therapist without a valid registration, professional
10 license, or a valid temporary/special permit granted by the Board pursuant to this
11 Act;

12 (b) Represent to be a physical therapist during the time that his/her
13 professional license is not valid or that his/her certificate of registration has been
14 suspended or revoked, or that his/her temporary/special permit has been cancelled;

15 (c) Allow anybody to use his/her certificate of registration and/or
16 professional license and/or temporary/special permit as a physical therapist to
17 enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;

18 (d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration, professional license,
19 or temporary/special permit of another person; and

20 (e) Violate the provision of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice as
21 recommended by the accredited integrated professional organization of physical
22 therapists.

23
24 ***SEC. 30. Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Physical***
25 ***Therapists.*** - The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and
26 Standards of Practice for physical therapists as prescribed and issued by the
27 accredited integrated professional organization of physical therapists.

28
29 ***SEC. 31. Continuing Professional Development Program.*** - All physical
30 therapists shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on continuing
31 professional development to be promulgated by the Professional Regulatory
32 Board of Physical Therapy, subject to the approval of the Commission, in
33 coordination with the accredited integrated professional organization of physical
34 therapists and/or the recognized representative of duly accredited education

1 institutions. For this purpose, the Board shall create a CPD Council to implement
2 a CPD program guided by qualifications framework and career progression
3 principles, subject to the guidelines as may be prescribed by the Commission.
4

5 ***SEC. 32. Integration of the Professional Organization.*** - The physical
6 therapy profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional
7 organization of physical therapists, which shall be duly registered with the
8 Securities and Exchange Commission. The Board, subject to the approval by the
9 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only accredited
10 integrated professional organization of registered physical therapists. All physical
11 therapists whose names appear in the current Roster of Physical Therapists shall
12 ipso facto or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the
13 benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required
14 membership fees and dues.

15 Membership in the accredited integrated professional organization shall
16 not be a bar to membership in other organizations of physical therapists.
17

18 ***SEC. 33. Foreign Reciprocity.*** - No foreign physical therapist shall be
19 given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional
20 identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the
21 country or state of which the foreign physical therapist is a subject or citizen,
22 permits Filipino physical therapists to practice within its territorial limits on the
23 same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.
24

25 **ARTICLE V**

26 **PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

27
28 ***SEC. 34. Penal Provisions.*** - Any person who shall violate any of the
29 provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as
30 promulgated by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, shall upon
31 conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than twenty thousand (Php 20, 000)
32 pesos nor more than fifty thousand (Php 50, 000) pesos, or by imprisonment of
33 not less than two year nor more than five year, or both, at the discretion of the
34 court.

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SEC. 35. Funding Provision. - The Chairman of the Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's budget program, the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - To implement the provisions of this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, promulgate the rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for physical therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 37. Transitory Provisions. - The existing Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that the new and separate Board for Physical Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 38. Separability Clause. - If any part, portion, section, or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other part, portion, section, or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 39. Repealing Clause. - RA 5680 is hereby repealed by this Act. All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, revised, superseded, or repealed.

SEC. 40. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) major newspapers of national circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,