

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 1712



Introduced by **Rep. Anthony R.T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Throughout the pandemic, the country's frontline workers have vitally contributed in keeping the mortality rate of the country at a manageable level. They risked their lives and sacrificed their time to protect the Filipino people. Their contribution to the nation is invaluable and should be commended with the highest of honors. Despite showing their importance during this time of great need, it has to be stated that the country's frontline workers experience a lack of support from the government when compared to the treatment given to them in other countries.

The Philippines has continually produced excellent nurses and medical personnel. To note, around 17,000 Filipino nurses were given contracts abroad. In 2020, however, the country was forced to put a halt to these in order to aid the country in addressing the pandemic.¹

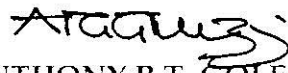
While this may seem like an indicator that the country truly has one of the best nursing programs in the world, this is anything but such. Compared to other professional fields in the country, the government and the field itself has lacked a continuous education program for the country's nurses. As the backbone of hospitals and the strongest aid of doctors, Filipino nurses should be further developed to the point that they will be recognized internationally by the best countries.

This bill proposes to elevate and further nurture Filipino Nurses by providing them with the avenue to hone their skills and develop

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-raises-cap-health-professionals-going-abroad-2021-06-18>

their specializations to further meet international standards. Advanced nursing education programs can help address this by providing a deeper approach to the development of Filipino nurses. The development of advance nursing education programs will not only lead to a higher job opportunities for nurses, but will also lead to a higher quality of hospital care for the people.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ANTHONY R.T. GOLEZ JR. MD, MBAH

Malasakit at Bayanihan Party List

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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9173 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR
AN ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

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 “Advanced Nursing Education Act of 2022”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses.

Sec. 3. Section 25 of Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 25. [Nursing–Education Program. - The--nursing education program shall provide sound general and professional foundation for the practice of nursing. The learning experiences shall adhere strictly to specific requirements embodied in the prescribed curriculum as promulgated by the Commission on

~~Higher Education's policies and standards of nursing education.]~~

NURSING EDUCATION. - NURSING EDUCATION SHALL REFER TO THE FORMAL LEARNING AND TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF NURSING PROVIDED BY HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DULY RECOGNIZED AND ACCREDITED BY THE CHED.

THERE SHALL BE STANDARD BASIC AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CHED LAW".

Sec. 4. A new Section 26 is hereby inserted after Section 25 of RA 9173, to read as follows:

"SECTION 26. BASIC AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR NURSING EDUCATION. - THERE SHALL BE A BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL PROVIDE SOUND LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, AND SHALL EQUIP BASIC NURSING STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY COMPETENCIES FOR ENTRY-LEVEL SAFE AND QUALITY NURSING PRACTICE. THE CURRICULUM AND RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES SHOULD INCLUDE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND IMMERSION TO ENCOURAGE MORE GRADUATES TO WORK IN A COMMUNITY SETTING. ADMISSION TO THE BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE PASSING A NATIONAL NURSING ADMISSION TEST (NNAT). THE CURRICULUM AND THE RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

NATIONAL NURSING CORE COMPETENCY STANDARDS TO BE PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES OF THE CHED.

THERE SHALL ALSO BE A GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL BE A POST BACCALAUREATE NURSING PROGRAM, WHICH BUILDS ON THE EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS OF A NURSE TOWARDS MASTERY, EXPERTISE, AND LEADERSHIP IN PRACTICE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION. SUCH PROGRAMS WILL DEVELOP HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SKILLS NEEDED FOR NURSING PRACTICE IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF ADVANCED NURSING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING, AMBULATORY CARE NURSING, CRITICAL CARE NURSING, PALLIATIVE CARE NURSING, REHABILITATION NURSING, AND OTHER SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF ADVANCED NURSING. IT SHALL INCLUDE A MASTER'S DEGREE AND DOCTORATE DEGREE IN NURSING FOUNDED ON THE PHILOSOPHIES, AND THE SCIENTIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE. GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR NURSING EDUCATION SHALL BE OFFERED ONLY IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE PREVAILING CHED POLICIES, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION.

THE FACULTY-TO-STUDENT RATIO MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD TO BE

DETERMINED AND PRESCRIBED BY THE CHED."

Sec. 5. Section 26 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered to Section 27.

Sec. 6. Section 27 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered and amended, to read as follows:

"Section 2[7]8. Qualifications of the Faculty. – ~~[A member of the faculty in a college of nursing teaching professional courses must:~~
~~(a) Be a registered nurse in the Philippines;~~
~~(b) Have at least one (1) year of clinical practice in a field of specialization;~~
~~(c) Be a member of good standing in the accredited professional organization of nurses; and~~
~~(d) Be a holder of a master's degree in nursing, education, or other allied medical and health sciences conferred by a college or university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. In addition to the aforementioned qualifications, the dean of a college must have a master's degree in nursing. He/she must have at least five (5) years of experience in nursing.]~~

(1) BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION. - A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY IN A COLLEGE OF NURSING TEACHING PROFESSIONAL COURSES:

- (A) MUST BE A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND HOLDER OF A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND A CURRENT PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION;**
- (B) MUST HAVE AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS OF NURSING PRACTICE;**
- (C) MUST BE A HOLDER OF A MASTER'S DEGREE IN**

NURSING, CONFERRED BY A UNIVERSITY DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES; AND

(D) MUST HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATE OF NURSING PROFICIENCY, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, TO BE ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF NURSING.

(2) GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION. - A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY TEACHING GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COURSES:

(A) MUST FOLLOW PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) ABOVE ON BASIC NURSING EDUCATION; AND

(B) MUST BE A HOLDER OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN NURSING CONFERRED BY A UNIVERSITY DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES."

Sec. 7. Section 28 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered as Section 29, and all succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Implementing Guidelines.* — Within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board and the Professional Regulatory Commission, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* — Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec 10. *Repealing Clause.* — All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and other executive issuances, which are not consistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or amended.

Sec. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazzette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,