

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2710



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Physical therapists play an important role in diagnosing and treating a range of injuries, disabilities, and health conditions. Part of their purpose is to improve a person's range of movement and quality of life and prevent further injury or disability.

Considering its distinct role in our society, this bill seeks to recognize physical therapy as a separate and distinct profession from occupational therapy by amending Republic Act No. 5680 or the Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law.

The bill shall also create the Board of Physical Therapy, which shall be tasked to maintain high professional, ethical, and technical standards for physical therapist. The Board may conduct ocular inspection in hospitals and clinics to determine and enforce compliance with professional regulatory laws, and the rule and regulation promulgated pursuant thereto, to aid the Board in formulating or revising policies relating to the practice of physical therapy.

In addition, the bill shall also establish the Council of Physical Therapy Education which shall be a policy-making body charged with standardizing physical therapy education.

In general, the proposed amendments are geared towards making the law more appropriate to present physical therapy practice in the country to enable them to provide quality rehabilitation service to more Filipinos. It aims to improve the quality of physical therapy education provided by schools.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE OF THE ACT AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. *Title of the Act.* This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Physical Therapy Law."

Section 2. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Physical Therapy (PT)* is an allied medical profession which develops, coordinates, and utilizes selected knowledge and skill in planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating the programs for the care of individuals whose ability to function is impaired or threatened by disease or injury.

Physical Therapy is the art and science of treatment by means of therapeutic exercises, heat, cold, light, water, manual manipulation, electricity and other physical agents.

The goal of physical therapy is to help the patient reach maximum

potential and to assume his due place in society while learning to live within limits of his capabilities.

Physical Therapy requires in-depth knowledge of human growth and development, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, biomechanics of motion, manifestations of disease and trauma, normal and abnormal psychological responses to injury, sickness and disability, and the cultural socioeconomic influences of the individual.

- b. *Physical Therapist (PT)* is a legally qualified professional licensed to practice physical therapy under the provisions of this Act as a member of the Rehabilitation Team. The Physical Therapist assists patients with temporary or permanent physical disability to achieve the highest possible degree of recovery.
- c. *Physical Therapy Technician* a person who not having acquired a bachelor's degree in physical therapy is qualified through in-service training and practical experience to assist the application of physical therapy procedures and to undertake specific assignments under the direct supervision of a Licensed Physical Therapist. Such assignments shall be confined within the limits of a hospital or institution of employment.
- d. *Disability* according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is: "any restriction or lack (resulting from impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being."
- e. *Impairment* refers to any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function.

ARTICLE II

THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Section 3. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* Within thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act, there shall be created the Board of Physical Therapy, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of a Chairman and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines on the recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission from among Physical

Therapists recognized in the Philippines nominated by the accredited national organization of physical therapists.

Section 4. *Qualifications of the Board Members.* The members of the Board shall at the time of their appointment be:

- a. A natural-born citizen of the Philippines and actually resident thereof;
- b. A duly-registered physical therapist in the Philippines with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy;
- c. At least twenty-seven (27) years of age but not over sixty-five (65) years old;
- d. With at least five (5) years of experience in the practice of the profession prior to his appointment;
- e. Mentally and physically fit;
- f. Of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- g. Not a member of the faculty of any school, college, or university where the regular course of his profession is being taught or review classes are conducted;
- h. Not financially interested, directly or indirectly, in such schools or centers; and,
- i. Not an elective officers of the bona fide national professional organization.

No member of the Board may accept employment or become connected with any school, college or university conferring a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy for a period of one year after his term.

Section 5. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* The Board is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act to:

- a. Implement the provisions of this Act;
- b. Administer oaths in connection with the enforcement of this Act;
- c. Study the conditions affecting the practice of Physical Therapy in the Philippines and adopt measures for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards. The

Board may conduct ocular inspection of places where registered therapists are employed or are working, such as hospitals and clinics, to determine and enforce compliance with professional regulatory laws, and the rule and regulation promulgated pursuant thereto, to aid the Board in formulating or revising policies relating to the practice of physical therapy.

- d. Study and examine the facilities of colleges or universities offering Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and/or seeking to open new schools of physical therapy so as to see if the essential requirements – including qualified academic officials and faculty and adequate facilities such as the classrooms, laboratory rooms, essential equipment, and books – and program of studies and activities are properly complied with. The authorization to open schools of PT and the granting of government recognition shall be based upon the favorable written recommendation of the Board; failure to consult the Board, shall be ground for administrative sanctions;
- e. Suspend, revoke or re-issue certificates of registration, after due process, for causes provided for by law or by the rules and regulation promulgated therefore;
- f. Determine and evaluate the qualifications of applicants for registration with or without licensure examination and applicants for special permits. Only applicants from schools recognized by the Council of Physical Therapy Education, hereafter referred to as the Council, shall be allowed to take the licensure examination;
- g. Issue certificates of registration or special permits to those admitted to practice of physical therapy;
- h. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weight, construct the test questions in the licensure examination, score and rate the examination papers and submit the examination results to the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, within the period provided for in the rules of the Commission;
- i. Investigate violations of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated

thereunder and for this purpose may issue summons, *subpoena ad testificandum*, and *subpoena duces tecum* to alleged violator/s or witness/es thereof and compel their attendance to such investigations or hearings;

- j. Delegate the hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before the Board except in cases where the issue involved strictly concerns the practice of PT, in which case the hearing shall be presided by at least one member of the Board assisted by a legal officer of the Commission;
- k. Promulgate decisions on such administrative cases subject to review by the Commission, the same shall become final and immediately enforceable; and,
- l. Draft such rules and regulations as maybe necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, that the same shall be issued only after the approval of the President of the Philippines.

Section 6. *Terms of Office.* The Chairman and the Members of the Board shall hold office for three (3) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms: Chairman for three years, one member for two years, and the other member for one year: *Provided*, further, That any chairman or member may be reappointed for another term of three years but not in any case shall the whole term exceed six years. The most senior member of the Board shall automatically be the Chairman. Interim vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

Section 7. *Removal of Board Members.* A Chairman or a Board member may be suspended or removed from office for continuous neglect of duty, incompetence, commission or toleration of irregularity in the licensure examination, malpractice or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct after due notice and hearing where the member concerned has been afforded an opportunity to be heard and defend himself. The administrative proceeding shall be heard and decided by the Commission, but the decision shall be subject to appeal to the President of the Philippines. During the

investigation, the respondent may be placed under preventive suspension by the Commission, if evidence warrants.

Section 8. *Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board.* The Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission shall be the Executive Officer of the Board and shall conduct the examination given by the Board. The Secretary of the Boards of Examiners appointed under Republic Act No. 546 shall also be the Secretary of the Board of Physical Therapy. All records of the Board, including examination papers, minutes of deliberation, and records of administrative proceedings and investigations, shall be kept by the Commission.

Section 9. *Compensation of the Board.* Each Chairman and Member of the Board, whether employed in the government or not, shall receive an honorarium of not less than thirty pesos (P30.00) for every applicant examined, or registered without examination, and a fee of not less than twenty pesos (P20.00) per day of attendance in an investigation or hearing; *Provided*, That proper adjustments thereof may be made pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 985 and Presidential Decree No. 1597: *Provided*, further, That the issuance of a certificate of registration shall entitle the Chairman and the Members of the Board signing the certificate to a fee of ten pesos (P10.00) each.

Section 10. *Rules and Regulations.* The Board may, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 11. *Annual Report.* The Board shall submit an annual report to the Commission after the closing of each fiscal year, giving detailed account of the proceedings of the Board during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may deem proper.

ARTICLE III

THE COUNCIL OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION

Section 12. *Creation and Composition of the Council.* The Council of Physical Therapy Education, hereafter referred to as the Council, shall be a policy-making body under the Secretary of Education, charged with the responsibility of regulating and standardizing physical therapy education in the country.

The Council shall be composed of the Commission Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education as Chairman, the Chairman and Members of the Board of Physical Therapy, Presidents of the Association of Philippine Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Schools and the Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc., as members. The Chairman and Members of the Council shall serve as such only during their incumbency in their respective positions.

Section 13. *Functions of the Council.* To be effective in carrying out its objective, the Council shall have the following functions:

- a) To recommend the minimum required curriculum for the course of Physical Therapy;
- b) To determine and prescribe the minimum requirement for physical facilities of educational institutions offering the course of physical therapy;
- c) To determine and prescribe the minimum number of students who shall be allowed to take up the course, taking into account the capacity of each school of physical therapy based on their facilities and faculty;
- d) To determine and prescribe the minimum number and qualifications of teaching personnel, including student-teacher ratio;
- e) To keep a registry of physical therapy students and to collect from each student no less than fifty pesos (₱50.00) which shall accrue to the operating fund of the Council;
- f) To accredit hospitals or clinics for affiliation and training of interns;
- g) To approve physical therapy schools that meet the requirements and recommend closure of those found to be substandard;
- h) To inspect or visit schools in connection with the function of the

Council as herein provided;

- i) To formulate and recommend approval of refresher course for applicants who shall have failed the Board examination for the third time; and,
- j) Promulgate, prescribe, and enforce necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of the foregoing functions.

Section 14. *Compensation and Traveling Expenses of the Council Members.* For every meeting actually attended, the Chairman and Members shall be entitled to one hundred pesos per diem (₱100.00) each, regardless of whether or not they receive regular salaries from the government. In addition, the Chairman and Members of the Council shall be entitled to traveling expenses and accommodations in connection with their official duties.

Section 15. *Inhibition against the Practice of Physical Therapy.* Unless exempt from registration, no person shall practice or offer to practice Physical Therapy within the meaning and intent of this Act, without having previously obtained a valid certificate of registration as a Physical Therapist from the Board, and a referral from a general medical practitioner or a specialist in any of the recognized branches of medicine, and other related professions.

Section 16. *Scope of Practice of Physical Therapy.* A person shall be deemed to be practicing PT within the meaning of this Act, who, for a fee, salary, reward or other compensation or even without such remuneration, shall:

- a) Perform and interpret tests to assist in differential diagnosis and to determine the degree of impairment of relevant aspects, such as muscular strength, motor development, functional capacity, respiratory and circulatory efficiency;
- b) Plan and implement initial and subsequent treatment programs on the basis of test findings within the scope of physical therapy;
- c) Perform muscle strength evaluation and quantification;
- d) Perform accurate joint range of motion measurement;

- e) Offer various physical therapy modalities such as both superficial and deep heat, cold, as well as hydrotherapy techniques, electrical stimulation, traction and massage to relieve pain or alter physiological status;
- f) Provide joint range of motion, strengthening exercises, and joint mobilization to increase or maintain range of motion;
- g) Offer exercises to increase strength, endurance, and coordination for either specific muscle group or the entire body;
- h) Evaluate and offer exercises to improve sitting and standing balance, transfers and ambulation including wheelchair and bipedal;
- i) Assess and train for independence in activities of daily living;
- j) Assess the need and prescribe the use of assistive devices for ambulation and train patient in its use;
- k) Assess the need and prescribes the use of wheelchair and train the patient in its use;
- l) Assess patient's home environment and prescribe modifications when necessary to make it barrier free and accessible; and,
- m) Plan and prescribe appropriate home exercise program for the patient, and require regular follow-up of the prescribed program.

Section 17. *Exemptions.* Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the practice of:

- a) Any PT student duly enrolled in an approved school under training, serving without professional fee in any government or private hospital: *Provided*, That he/she renders such service under the direct supervision and control of a registered physical therapist; and
- b) All PTs who are already in the government service who became eligible by virtue of the testimonial examination given by the Civil Service Commission on December 29, 1967 in the City of Manila.

Section 18. *Special Permit to Practice.* The Board may grant a special permit to practice PT in the country for such period of time and under such conditions as the

Board may fix, to:

- a) A foreign PT called for consultation or for a specific purpose which, in the judgment of the Board, is essential for the development of the country: *Provided*, That his practice shall be limited only for the particular work he is being engaged: *Provided*, further, That there is no Filipino PT qualified for such consultation or specific purpose;
- b) A foreign PT to be engaged as professor, lecturer, or critic in fields essential to PT education in the Philippines and his engagement is confined to teaching only; and,
- c) A foreign PT who is an internationally recognized expert or with specialization in any branch of PT and his service is essential for the advancement of PT in the Philippines.

Section 19. *Holding of Examination.* Licensure examination for candidates desiring to practice PT in the Philippines shall be conducted by the Board twice a year on dates to be determined by the Board: *Provided*, That the interval between the first and second examination shall be six (6) months and shall be conducted in the City of Manila or in such other places as the Board may designate subject to approval of the Commission.

Section 20. *Qualifications of Applicants.* In order to be admitted to the PT examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing of his application, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- a) He is citizen of the Philippines, or if a foreigner, he must prove that the country in which he is a subject or citizen of permits Filipino PTs to practice within the territorial jurisdiction on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such country, and: *Provided*, further, That the requirements for the admission to PT schools and for graduation as PTs in such country are substantially the same as provided under this Act;
- b) He is of sound health and of good moral character and reputation;
- c) He has finished a standard academic high school course or its equivalent in a school, college, or university legally established or duly-recognized by the

government;

- d) He has completed at least 1500 hours of clinical internship of Physical Therapy in PT departments of hospitals or clinics that are accredited by the Council; and,
- e) He has completed a course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy conferred by a school recognized by the Council. No application shall be accepted, or if accepted, no application shall be processed unless the name of the applicant appears in the certified list of graduates, submitted directly to the Board by the school and duly certified by the Dean of the college and the school's Registrar and affixed with the school seal.

Section 21. *Scope of Examination.* The examination for the practice of PT in the Philippines shall be in writing and the scope of which shall be determined by the Board, taking into consideration the teaching plan of the schools legally established and duly recognized by the government. It shall be the duty of the Board to prepare the schedule of subjects of the examination. It shall submit the same to the President of the Philippines for approval through the Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission and to publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation at least two (2) months before the date of the examination wherein such subjects are to be used. Any alteration or amendment that may be made in the schedule of subjects shall likewise be approved by the Commission.

	SUBJECTS	RELATIVE WEIGHT
I.	BASIC SCIENCES	25%
	a. Anatomy	
	b. Kinesiology	
	c. Physiology	
	d. Pathology	
II.	CLINICAL SCIENCES	25%
	a. Medical Conditions	
	b. Surgical Conditions	
	c. Medical Psychology	
	d. Growth and Development	
III.	THEORY AND PRACTICE	50%
	a. Physical Agents	

- b. Equipment
- c. Evaluation – principle and practices of assessment
- d. Musculoskeletal Treatment
- e. Neuromuscular Treatment
- f. Cardiovascular Treatment
- g. Respiratory Treatment
- h. Treatment of Burns, Decubiti, Ob-Gyn, Oncology, etc.
- i. Administration
- j. Ethics

Section 22. *Rating in the Examination.* In order to pass the examination, the candidate must obtain a general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in the written examination, with no rating below sixty percent (60%). No further examination will be given an applicant who has not qualified after three examinations, unless and until s/he shall have completed a twelve-month (12) refresher course organized by the Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc. and to show proof of the completion of such course before he will be admitted to the fourth examination.

Section 23. *Report of Results of Examination.* The Board shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the examination, report the rating obtained by each candidate to the Commission for approval.

Section 24. *Issuance of Certificates of Registration.* Upon payment of the registration fee as provided for in this Act, the Board shall issue a certificate of registration as PT to any applicant who, in the opinion of the Board, has satisfactorily met all the requirements specified in this Act: *Provided*, That no such certificate shall be issued to any successful applicant who has not attained the age of twenty-one (21) years.

All certificates of registration shall show the full name of the registrant, have a serial number, bear the signatures of the members of the Board, attested by the Secretary of the Board and duly authenticated by the seal of the Board. The issuance of certificate of registration by the Board to the registrant shall evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all rights and privileges of a registered PT until the said certificate is revoked temporarily or permanently for just cause/s.

The Board shall issue a temporary permit to practice PT renewable on a yearly basis to a graduate PT from a school recognized by the Council: *Provided;* that he shows proof of his having taken the PT licensure examination of the current year.

Section 25. *Issuance of Professional Identification Card.* Every registered PT shall be issued a professional identification card upon satisfactory evidence completed by the prescribed continuing education program and the payment of the annual registration fee. The professional identification card shall have a validity of three years.

Section 26. *Initial.* The initial PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist Registered, Philippines, may be added after the name of the physical therapist who successfully passes the examination given by the board.

Section 27. *Reciprocity.* No foreigner shall be admitted to the practice of PT unless he proves in the manner provided for in the rules and regulations of the Commission that the country of which he is a citizen, subject or national admits citizens of the Philippines to the practice of PT on terms of strict and absolute equality with citizen, subject or nationals of his country and complies with the requirements of this Act rules and regulations governing the practice of PT. Reciprocity shall not be required of those who have been issued a special permit to practice PT under Section 15.

Section 28. *Fees for Examination and Registration.* All applications must be filed with the Professional Regulation Commission and shall be subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission.

The annual registration fee shall be paid on or before the last day of the PT's birthmonth every three years, otherwise, it shall bear a surcharge of twenty per centum (20%) for each year in which payment was not made.

Section 29. *Refusal to Issue Certificates.* The Board shall refuse to issue a certificate of registration to any person convicted by court of competent jurisdiction of

any criminal offense involving moral turpitude; to any person guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct; to persons of unsound mind; or, to those suffering of communicable or contagious disease. In the event of such refusal, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth of the reason for its action, which statement shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

Section 30. *Revocation and Suspension of Certificate.* The Board shall also have the power, upon proper notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the validity of the certificate of registration of a PT for any causes mentioned in the preceding section or for unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, incompetency or serious ignorance or negligence in the practice of PT, for making use of fraud, deceit or false statements to obtain certificate of registration.

A certificate of registration is automatically revoked and the name of the registered PT stricken from the Registry of Professionals for non-payment of the annual registration fee for five years. The Commission may reinstate the certificate upon application and payment of the feed in arrears and the fee prescribed for registration without examination. The Commission may require the passing of a qualifying examination before reinstatement.

A PT may be exempted from the payment of the annual registration upon application for retirement from the practice of PT.

Section 31. *Reinstatement, Reissue or Replacement of Certificate.* The Board may, upon application and for reason deemed proper and sufficient, reissue any revoked certificate. The suspension of a certificate of registration shall be automatically lifted upon the expiration of the period of suspension. Said certificate shall be reissued to the PT concerned upon request without prejudice to further actions by the Board for violation of the provisions of this Act or conditions imposed by the Board upon the PT during the period of suspension.

ARTICLE IV

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Section 32. *Definition.* Continuing Professional Education may be defined as the systematic efforts to provide educational opportunities beyond formal education and initial entry into a profession, so that the practitioner may maintain competency, become aware of new developments in his field, and continue to provide responsible, quality healthcare services.

Section 33. *Creation of the Accreditation and Evaluation Committee.* There shall be created the Accreditation and Evaluation Committee, hereafter referred to as the Committee, charged with the responsibility of evaluating and accrediting continuing professional education programs in PT.

Section 34. *Composition of the Committee.* The Committee shall be composed of five (5) members, one from each of the following groups:

- a. Academic group;
- b. Hospital staff group;
- c. Private practitioner group; and,
- d. Regional group.

The fifth member shall be the incumbent chairman of the Continuing Education Committee of the Committee of the Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc.

An incumbent member of the Board of PT shall act as adviser.

Section 35. *Functions of the Committee.* The Committee shall have the following functions:

- a. Formulate program guidelines for continuing professional education as approved by the Board;
- b. Evaluate programs/activities for accreditation;
- c. Accredite programs/activities upon request of professional and/or sponsoring agencies; and,
- d. Accredite certified attendance and allocate corresponding continuing professional education credit units.

Section 36. *Qualifications of Members of the Committee.* Each member of

the Committee shall be nominated by the sector he/she represents and shall meet the following qualifications:

- a. Must be a registered PT of good standing with both the Commission and the Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc., hereafter referred to as the Association;
- b. Must have a minimum of two (2) years of professional practice in the country; and,
- c. Must have served as an officer or a member of a standing Committee of the Association for at least two (2) years.

Section 37. *Tenure.* Each member of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board for a term of three (3) years, renewable for a second term. A replacement nominated by the sector shall be made in case a member of the Committee cannot server for any reason. He shall meet the qualifications stated above and shall be co-terminus with the person he replaces.

ARTICLE V

ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 38. *Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc.* The Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc., is the first and only accredited professional organization founded on December 8, 1964. It is a non-stock, non-profit organization of licensed physical therapists and physical therapy students.

Section 39. *Goals of the Professional Organization.* The Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc. (PPTA) has the following goals:

- a. To foster a strong fellowship among its members;
- b. To promote and protect the economic well-being and general welfare of its members;
- c. To promote and maintain standards of PT services and education in accordance with the laws of the Republic of the Philippines;
- d. To promote research and continuing education regarding the theory and

- practice of PT for its members;
- e. To formulate the code of ethics for the profession and establish the observance of that code by its members;
 - f. To aid medical science by extending the knowledge and application of PT in the rehabilitation of patients;
 - g. To promote the legislation favorable to the profession and to be vigilant with the introduction or any legislation which may affect adversely the practice of PT;
 - h. To cooperate with the Government and other health and welfare organizations in the national healthcare program of the country; and,
 - i. To help the government eradicate PT malpractice.

ARTICLE VI

PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 40. *Penal Provisions.* The following shall be punished by a fine of no less than five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00) or by imprisonment for not less than one (1) year, or both, in the discretion of the court:

- a. Any person who shall practice PT in the Philippines without being registered, issued a temporary permit, or exempted from registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- b. Any PT, even if duly registered, who shall practice PT in the Philippines without the proper referral from a general medical practitioner, a specialist in any of the recognized branches of medicine and other related professions;
- c. Any person presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or a special permit issued to another;
- d. Any person who shall give or submit any false or fraudulent statement or document of any kind to the Commission, Board, or any of its Committees in obtaining a certificate of registration as a PT, admission to an examination, or renewal of license;
- e. Any person who shall impersonate any registrant or use the same name;

- f. Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended certificate of registration, special permit or license;
- g. Any person who shall use, advertise, or append to his name the letters PTRP tending to convey the impression that he is a professional as defined in this Act, when in fact he is not or his authority to practice has been suspended or revoked;
- h. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act; and,
- i. Any person or corporate body who shall violate the rules and regulations of the Board or orders promulgated by it having been duly approved by the Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Section 41. *Abolition of the Board of Examiners for Physical and Occupational Therapists, Transfer of Funds, Record, etc.* The Board of Examiners for PT and OT created by Republic Act No. 5680 is hereby abolished. Its properties, records, equipment, and other assets shall be transferred to the Board created under this Act.

Section 42. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 43. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Section 44. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,