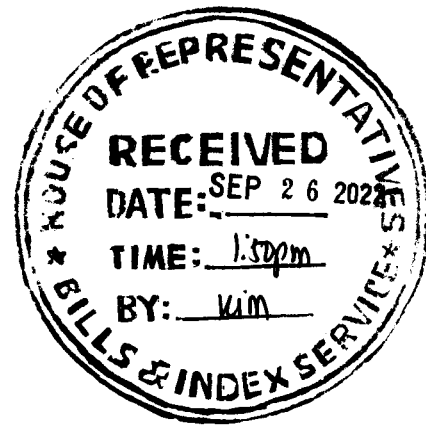


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5153



Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS N. CAMPOS, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Enshrined in Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution is the declaration that the State shall promote the Filipino's right to health. To wit:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them".

Chiropractic is a healthcare discipline that emphasizes the inherent recuperative power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery. The practice of chiropractic focuses on the relationship between structure (primarily the spine) and function (as coordinated by the nervous system) and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health. In addition, doctors of chiropractic recognize the value and responsibility of working in cooperation with other health care practitioners when in the best interest of the patient (*Association of Chiropractic Colleges, 1996*).

In the Philippines there is no board that licenses Chiropractors, neither are there schools that provides a means of producing Filipino Chiropractors. To address such deficiency this bill seeks to establish a body to regulate the chiropractic profession and ensure that Filipinos have access to services that takes care of a vital body part – the spine and the nervous system.

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


LUIS N. CAMPOS, JR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. ~~5153~~

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS N. CAMPOS, JR.

AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE IN THE
PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Chiropractic Act of 2022.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - In recognition of the importance and role of chiropractors in nation-building and development, it shall be the policy of the State to promote and recognize the significance of the chiropractic profession.

SEC. 3 *Definitions.* -

(a) Chiropractic: Chiropractic is a health care profession concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system and the effects of these disorders on general health. There is an emphasis on manual techniques, including joint adjustment and/or manipulation with a particular focus on subluxations.

(b) Chiropractor: Any person who is a graduate of a Doctor of Chiropractic program or its equivalent foreign education shall be considered a chiropractor. The Scope of Practice for Chiropractors is generally and specifically defined by the curriculum taught in accredited chiropractic colleges approved by the Board to be created by this Act.

SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of Board.* - There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Chiropractic Examiners ("hereinafter called the Board"), a collegial body under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission ("the Commission"), which shall be composed of five (5) members, four (4) of which are licensed chiropractors who have met the requirements of this Act and has practiced chiropractic in the Philippines for more than two (2) years. One member of the board shall be a person with no direct financial interest in

the health care industry. They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list submitted by the Commission.

The Board shall be organized not later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and the Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Chiropractic Examiners.* - The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment and for the course of their term, possess the following qualifications:

- (a) A natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- (c) Possess good moral character;
- (d) At least five (5) years of practice in chiropractic care in a duly recognized institution, clinic, or center;
- (e) Be a registered and licensed chiropractor, except the first members of the Board who shall be conferred a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card in chiropractic upon appointment to the Board;
- (f) Shall not be a public official, nor holds any position other than being a member of the integrated and accredited national organization of chiropractors; and
- (g) Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 6. *Term of Office.* - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. Each member of the Board may be reappointed for one (1) full term of three (3) years. The first members of the Board shall hold office for the following terms: the Chairperson for three (3) years; one member for two (2) years; and the other member for one (1) year, which shall be specified in their respective appointments. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to the performance of his/her duties.

SEC. 7. *Powers and Duties.* - The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Administer and implement the provisions of this Act and promulgate as well as revise or update, as necessary, rules and regulations, resolutions and guidelines hereto. Provided, that the policies, resolutions, rules and regulations

issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the Commission;

(b) Supervise and monitor the registration, licensure and practice of chiropractors in the Philippines;

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

(d) Issue, and upon compliance with due process requirements suspend or revoke, and/or reinstate, the certificate of registration and professional identification card for chiropractors;

(e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

(f) Monitor the conditions and circumstances affecting the practice of chiropractic care in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed lawful and proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards of the profession;

(g) Issue permits to and exercise visitorial powers over agencies, institutions, associations, corporations and partnerships to verify that the persons practicing chiropractic care therein are chiropractors with valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards, and that they possess the necessary accreditation, skills and/or facilities to competently carrying out their functions;

(h) Assist the Commission in the formulation and implementation of the guidelines on continuing professional education for chiropractors;

(i) Ensure, in coordination with the CHED, that all educational institutions offering the course/program of chiropractic care strictly comply with the policies, standards and requirements prescribed by CHED for such course/program, especially in the areas of administration, curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

(j) Prepare, adopt, issue and amend, in consultation with CHED, syllabi for the licensure examination subjects;

(k) Investigate and, when warranted, hear administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations as hereinafter promulgated, and any applicable code of ethics and/or code of professional standards. For this purpose, it may issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith: Provided, that the Board's decision, resolution or orders rendered in administrative cases shall be subject to review only on appeal;

(l) Perform such other functions and duties as may be lawfully delegated to it, or as it may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Compensation and Allowances.* - The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive the same compensation and allowances as those received by the chairperson and Members of the existing regulatory boards under the Commission, as provided in the charter of the Commission and in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Removal or Suspension of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Chiropractic Examiners.* - Any member of the Board may, upon the recommendation of the Commission and upon observance of due process and completion of the proper investigation, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause, such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, behavior unbecoming of a chiropractic professional, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, any act of graft and corruption, and participation in the manipulation of or any dishonesty relative to the licensure examinations and/or the registration process.

SEC. 10. *Administrative Supervision over the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision and control of the Commission. All records of the Board, including documents relative to the licensure examinations as well as administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board, shall be kept in the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat with necessary support services to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Examinations Required.* - All applicants for registration to practice chiropractic care shall be required to pass a licensure examination for chiropractors conducted by the Board in such places and dates, and subject to such requirements, prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications of Applicants for Licensure Examination for Chiropractors* - Any person may apply to take the examination for registration and licensure as a chiropractor after furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

(a) is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident, or a citizen of a foreign country with a regulatory body which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;

(b) has a high school education or its equivalent;

(c) has successfully completed at least two academic years of study in a college of liberal arts or sciences or has engaged in the active licensed practice of chiropractic for three of the four years preceding the filing of the application;

(d) is a holder of a degree of Doctor of Chiropractic or its foreign equivalent obtained from a school or college of chiropractic that:

(1) is accredited by or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the board; or

(2) if an accrediting agency under (1) of this paragraph does not exist, requires the completion of a minimum of 4,000 hours of formal education and training in order to graduate, including

(i) 150 hours of chiropractic philosophy or principles;

(ii) 1200 hours of basic sciences, including anatomy, chemistry, physiology, and pathology;

(iii) 1400 hours of preclinical technique, including diagnosis, chiropractic technique, and x-rays; and

(iv) 700 hours of clinical training;

(v) completes 120 hours of formal training in physiological therapeutics;

(e) is of good moral character and has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 13. *Licensure by Credential* - The board may issue a license by credentials to an applicant who pays the appropriate fee and presents satisfactory proof that the applicant:

(a) is a graduate of a school or college of chiropractic that

(1) is accredited by or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the board; or

(2) if an accrediting agency under (a) of this paragraph does not exist, requires the completion of a minimum of 4,000 hours of formal education and training in order to graduate, including:

(i) 150 hours of chiropractic philosophy or principles;

(ii) 1,200 hours of basic sciences, including anatomy, chemistry, physiology, and pathology;

(iii) 1,400 hours of preclinical technique, including diagnosis, chiropractic technique and x-rays; and

(iv) 700 hours of clinical training;

(b) has passed an examination approved by the board that is designed to test the applicant's knowledge of the laws governing the practice of chiropractic and the regulations adopted under those laws; and

(c) has completed 120 hours of formal training in physiological therapeutics or has passed, to the satisfaction of the board, a physiological therapeutics examination as may be required by the board.

SEC. 14. *Examination.* -

(a) Examinations for a license to practice chiropractic may be held in the time and manner fixed by the board.

(b) The examination may include practical demonstration and oral and written examination in those subjects usually taught in accredited chiropractic schools.

(c) A general average rating of 75 percent is a passing grade on the examination.

(d) An applicant may take a reexamination within one year after failing the examination.

The Board shall submit to the Commission an official report detailing the ratings obtained by each examinee within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless such period is extended for just cause.

SEC. 15. *Oath of Chiropractors.* - All successful examinees qualified for registration and all qualified applicants for registration without examination shall be required to take an oath to uphold the profession before any member of the Board or any officer of the Commission authorized to administer oaths, prior to entering into the practice of chiropractic in the Philippines.

SEC. 16. *Issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Card.* Certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to all successful examinees and registrants without examination upon compliance with all the legal requirements, including payment of fees, prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and Members of the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges and concomitant responsibilities appurtenant thereto. The said certificate shall remain in full force and effect until suspended or revoked in accordance with this Act. A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance and validity term of three years, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed registration fee. Upon expiration of the professional identification card, the chiropractors may renew the

same upon proof of compliance with continuing education requirements prescribed by the Board and/or Commission.

SEC. 17. *Disclosure of Registration Information.* - The chiropractor shall be required to indicate his/her registration and professional identification card number and date of issuance, the duration of validity, including the professional tax receipt number on each document signed, used or in connection with the practice of his/her profession.

SEC. 18. *Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.* - The Board shall not register nor issue a certificate of registration or professional identification card to any person convicted of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude; has been found guilty by a judicial or other duly constituted tribunal of immoral or dishonorable conduct; or has been medically diagnosed to be of unsound mind. In the event of non-issuance of the certificate for any reason, the Board shall furnish the applicant a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial, which statement shall be incorporated to the records of the Board.

SEC. 19. *Practice Through Special Temporary Permit.* - Special temporary permits may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of appropriate fees, to the following persons:

- (1) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries who are internationally acknowledged specialists or outstanding experts in chiropractic care, provided that their services are important and necessary either due to the lack or inadequacy of available local specialists/experts or in recognition of their potential contribution to the promotion/advancement of chiropractic care through transfer of technology;
- (2) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries whose services shall be free and offered exclusively to indigent patients in a particular hospital, center or clinic; and
- (3) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries employed as exchange professors to teach chiropractic care in schools, colleges, universities offering chiropractic programs. The permit shall detail the conditions thereof which shall, among other things, include the effectivity period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal, and the specific place of practice such as the clinic, hospital, center, school, college, university offering the course of chiropractic care. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section.

SEC. 20. *Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card or Cancellation of a Special Temporary Permit.* - The Board shall have the power, after notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the certificate of registration and professional identification card or to cancel special temporary permits granted pursuant to this Act on any ground set forth in the instances hereunder:

- (a) Procurement of a certificate of registration and/or professional identification card, or special temporary permit by fraud or deceit;

- (b) Allowing an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the profession by using one's certificate of registration or professional identification card or special temporary permit;
- (c) Violating or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the code of ethics or code of professional standards promulgated hereinafter by the Board;
- (d) Manifest physical or mental incompetence to render chiropractic services with reasonable skill and safety to his/ her clients/patients;
- (e) Professional misconduct or negligence in the performance of duties as a chiropractor; and
- (f) Engaging in the practice of the profession during the period of one's suspension.

SEC. 21. *Reinstatement.* - A chiropractor whose certificate of registration has been revoked may apply to the Board for reinstatement at any time after two (2) years from the date of revocation of said certificate. The application shall be in writing and shall conform to requirements hereinafter prescribed by the Board. No certificate of registration or professional identification card shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good cause exists to warrant such reinstatement. Issuance of a new certificate of registration or professional identification card, or special temporary permit in lieu of one that has been lost, destroyed or mutilated shall be subject to applicable rules prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 22. *Appeal from Judgment.* - The decision of the Board shall become final fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision by the respondent unless an appeal has been filed with the Commission within the same period.

SEC. 23. *Rights of the Respondent.* - The respondent chiropractor shall have the right to be represented by counsel at all stages of the proceedings as well as to speedy disposition of his/her case. He/she shall have the right to confront witnesses against him/her in addition to such other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

SEC. 24. *Integration of the Profession.* - The profession shall hereinafter be integrated by consolidating all practitioners into one national organization of registered and license chiropractors, which shall be recognized and accredited by the Board, subject to approval of the Commission. A chiropractor duly registered and licensed by the Board and the Commission shall automatically become a member of said organization and shall receive the benefits and privileges, as well as be subject to all responsibilities and obligations, appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership in the integrated organization shall not be a bar to membership in any other association of chiropractors.

SEC. 25. *Prohibited Acts.* - No person shall:

- (a) Engage in the professional practice of chiropractic care nor represent himself herself as a professional practicing chiropractor without a valid certificate of registration/valid professional identification card, or a valid special temporary permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
- (b) Represent himself/ herself to be a licensed and authorized practicing chiropractor during the time that his/her certificate of registration has been suspended or revoked or professional identification card without being renewed, or special temporary permit cancelled;
- (c) Allow any other person to use his/her certificate of registration and professional identification card or special temporary permit for any purpose, regardless of whether such act actually enables the unqualified individual to engage in the practice of chiropractic;
- (d) Use, exhibit and/or misrepresent as his/her own the certificate of registration and/or professional identification card or special temporary permit of another; and
- (e) Give any false, inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information to the Board in order to obtain a certificate of registration or professional identification card or special temporary permit. No corporation, partnership, association or entity shall operate a chiropractic office, center, clinic, or otherwise engage in the practice or allow the practice of chiropractic within its premises, without securing a permit therefore from the Board. Such permit shall be issued only after the Board is satisfied that such establishment is competently staffed by a chiropractor and equipped with sufficient and adequate chiropractic-related instruments and facilities.

A violation of any provision of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be penalized accordingly.

SEC. 26. *Penalties.* - Any person who violates any provision of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 100,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the Board.

SEC. 27. *Inculcation.* - The Board may initiate action to enjoin, restrain, and/or prosecute any individual, corporation, association, partnership or entity engaging in the practice of chiropractic in violation of this Act.

SEC. 28. *Funding Provision.* - The Chairperson of the Commission shall immediately hereinafter include in the Commission's programs the prompt implementation of this Act, funding of which shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 29. *Enforcement.* - It shall be the duty of all duly constituted law enforcement agencies and officers of national, provincial, city or municipal governments to uphold and enforce the provisions of this Act and to investigate and prosecute or cause the investigation and prosecution of any person violating the same.

SEC. 30. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days after the constitution of the Board, it shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations, subject to approval of the Commission, to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 31. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid by a competent court, any other provision not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and effective.

SEC. 32. *Repealing Clause.* - Any laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and letters of instruction which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 33. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,