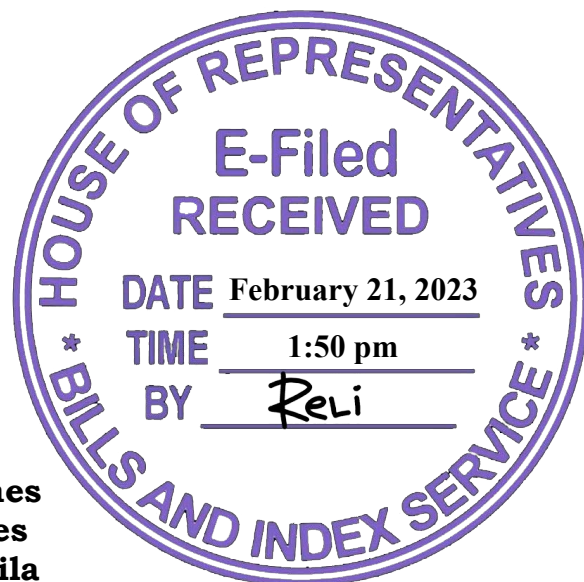




**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7262



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to develop competent, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists through education, training, licensure examinations, regulatory measures, programs, and activities. Among the salient provisions of the bill are the following items, among others:

- Education and training requirements to become a licensed physical therapist. These requirements include completing the necessary degree program in physical therapy, passing the national licensure exam, and completing ongoing continuing education requirements to maintain licensure.
- Licensure or Certification Processes for obtaining and renewing a license or certification to practice physical therapy. Including demonstrating a certain level of competency and maintaining continuing education requirements.
- The bill also establishes standards of professional conduct for physical therapists, outlining the ethical principles and behaviors of individuals practicing in this profession. These standards include guidelines on handling professional misconduct.

Overall, the purpose of the bill is to regulate the profession of physical therapy to ensure that individuals seeking physical therapy receive safe and effective care from qualified professionals who adhere to established standards of practice and conduct.

Hence, this representation seeks the passage of this measure.


RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



**Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7262

Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

**AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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”.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. – The State recognizes the importance of physical therapists in nation building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, and globally competitive, resulting not only from their education and training but through, honest, effective, and credible licensure examinations, regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their continuing professional growth.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act.

- a. *Physical Therapy* refers to 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 and function are threatened by aging, injury, pain, diseases, disorders, conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding that functional movement

1 is central to healthy and well-being. Physical therapy is also known as
2 physiotherapy.

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

7 **SEC. 4. Scope and Nature of the Practice of Physical Therapy.** – The
8 practice of physical therapy shall include identifying and maximizing quality of life and
9 movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment,
10 intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass
11 physical, psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing. Physical therapists are
12 qualified and professionally required to:

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

23 The scope of physical therapy practice is not limited to direct patient or client
24 care, but also includes: formulating and implementing responsive public health
25 strategies; advocating for patients' or clients' health; supervising and delegating to
26 others; leading; managing; teaching; researching and developing and implementing
27 health policy at the local, national, and international levels.

28 **ARTICLE II**

29 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

30 **SEC. 5. Creation and Composition of the Members of the Board.** – There is
31 hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, hereafter referred
32 to as the Board, under the administrative supervision of the Professional Regulation
33 Commission (PRC), composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Members appointed by the
34 President of the Philippines within six (6) months from the enactment of this Act and
35 upon the recommendation of the PRC from among physical therapists recognized and
36 nominated by the accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO) of physical
37 therapists.

38 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Members of the Board.** – The Board
39 shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- b. Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
- c. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- d. Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- e. Maintain a roster of physical therapists indicating therein the basic information about the registered professionals;
- f. Issue, reinstate, suspend or cancel the registration and license, or special permits for the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
- g. Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;
- h. Work in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or its equivalent, to ensure that all educational institutions offering education comply with the prescribed policies, standards, and guidelines;
- i. Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical therapists as endorsed by the AIPO organization of physical therapists;
- j. Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, code of ethics, and ethical standards of practice, and for this purpose,
- k. Issue *subpoena duces tecum* or *subpoena ad testificandum*, or both, to ensure the appearance of witnesses, and the production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided, That* the decision of the Board shall become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision unless appealed to the PRC;
- l. Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;
- m. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score, and rate the examination papers, and submit the results to the PRC within the period provided for in the rules of the PRC;
- n. Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- o. Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
- p. Grant an application for registration without examination subject to the approval of the PRC;
- q. Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and

1 r. Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out
2 the objectives of this Act.

3 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders, or decisions issued or
4 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the PRC.

5 **SEC. 7. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.** – The members of the
6 Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- 7 a. Has resided in the Philippines for at least (5) years;
- 8 b. Is a duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid certificate of
9 registration and professional license;
- 10 c. Has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for at least ten (10) years, with
11 the last five (5) years as a continuous period immediately preceding the
12 appointment;
- 13 d. Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in one
14 professional practice as a physical therapist;
- 15 e. Is a member of good standing of the AIPO of physical therapists, and not an officer
16 thereof;
- 17 f. Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving moral
18 turpitude; and
- 19 g. Has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any school, college, or university
20 or institution conferring an academic degree for admission to the practice of
21 physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure
22 examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or
23 administration thereof.

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

32 **SEC 9. Removal of the Members of the Board.** – Any member of the Board
33 may upon the recommendation of the PRC after due process of law and investigation,
34 be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such as gross neglect
35 of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or
36 dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude,
37 manipulation of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and
38 confidential information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said
39 examination, or tampering of grades.

1 **SEC. 16. Ratings in the Examination.** – To be qualified as having passed the
2 licensure examination for physical therapists, a candidate must have obtained a
3 general average of seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty percent
4 (60%) in any of the examination subjects.

5 **SEC 17. Report of Ratings.** – The Board shall submit to the PRC the ratings
6 obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination,
7 unless extended for just cause.

8 **SEC 18. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional License,**
9 **and Professional Identification Card.** – The certificate of registration and
10 professional identification card shall be issued to examinees who passed the licensure
11 examination for physical therapist subject to payment of fees prescribed by the PRC.
12 The certificate of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the PRC
13 and the Chairperson and Members of the Board, stamped with the official seals of the
14 PRC and the Board respectively, indicating that the person named therein is entitled
15 to practice the physical therapy profession, with all the benefits and privileges
16 appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in full force and effect
17 until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

18 The professional identification card bearing the registration number, and dates of
19 issuance and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the PRC shall likewise be
20 issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The professional
21 identification card shall be renewed every three (3) years, upon compliance with the
22 Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and submission of a certificate of good
23 standing from the AIPO, and other requirements of the Board and the PRC.

24 **SEC 19. Initials PTRP.** – The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist
25 Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical
26 therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the
27 profession.

28 **SEC. 20. Refusal to Register.** – The Board shall refuse to register any
29 successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of
30 any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or
31 dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of
32 unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

33 **SEC. 21. Cancellation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and**
34 **Special Permit.** – The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party
35 concerned, cancel the practitioner's certificate of registration and professional
36 identification card, or be suspended from the practice of the profession; or cancel the
37 special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 29 of this Act or
38 for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation of any of the
39 provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Ethical
40 Standards of Practice for physical therapists.

1 **SEC. 22. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of**
2 **Registration and Professional Identification Card.** – Two (2) years after the date
3 of revocation, the Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and
4 sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of registration or professional license. A
5 new certificate of registration or professional identification card, or special temporary
6 permit may be issued to replace lost, destroyed, or mutilated ones, subject to the rules
7 as implemented by the Board.

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

13 **SEC 24. Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.** – All physical
14 therapists shall be required to indicate on the documents they sign, use or issue in
15 connection with the practice of their profession, their registration, or professional
16 license number and date of issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license,
17 and the privilege tax receipt number issued to them.

18 **SEC 25. Roster of Physical Therapists.** – The Board shall prepare, update, and
19 maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name of each
20 registered physical therapist, their residence and office addresses, the date of
21 registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the board may deem
22 pertinent.

23 **SEC 26. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.** – A special temporary
24 permit may be issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the AIPO of physical
25 therapists, subject to the approval by the PRC and payment of the prescribed fee to
26 the following persons:

- 27 a. Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified
28 purpose that is deemed essential to national development, the practice shall
29 be limited only for the particular work being: *Provided That* there is no Filipino
30 physical therapist qualified for such consultation or purpose;
- 31 b. Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free of charge and
32 who are highly needed under particular settings;
- 33 c. Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics
34 in fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines, whose
35 engagement is limited to teaching only; and
- 36 d. Foreign-licensed physical therapists recognized as experts or specialists
37 whose service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the
38 Philippines.

39 The special temporary permit shall include these limitations and conditions:
40 validity for a period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal; the branch or

1 specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific
2 place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, therapy center, school, college, or
3 university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval
4 by the PRC, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this
5 particular section.

6 **ARTICLE IV**

7 **PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

8 **SEC. 27. *Delivery of Physical Therapy Service.*** – Physical therapists shall work
9 in partnership with other health service providers or health professionals, patients or
10 clients, families, and communities in the delivery of services in the most effective, cost
11 efficient, and client-centered service.

12 **SEC. 28. *Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy.*** – No person shall
13 practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical therapist, or
14 use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression of being
15 a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever to be
16 qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without passing the licensure
17 examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

18 **SEC. 29. *Prohibited Acts.*** – No person shall:

- 19 a. Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing oneself as a
20 physical therapist without a valid certificate of registration, professional
21 identification card, or a valid temporary or special permit granted by the
22 Board pursuant to this Act;
- 23 b. Represent oneself as a physical therapist during the time that the
24 professional license is not valid or that the certificate of registration has
25 been suspended or revoked, or that the special temporary permit has been
26 cancelled;
- 27 c. Allow anybody to use the certificate of registration or professional license,
28 or both and special temporary permit as a physical therapist to enable such
29 unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;
- 30 d. Use the certificate of registration, professional identification card, or special
31 temporary permit of another person; and
- 32 e. Violate the provision of the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice
33 as recommended by the AIPO of physical therapists.
- 34 f. Violate the minimum base pay of physical therapists and the incentives and
35 benefits that should be accorded them.

36 **SEC. 30. *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists.***
37 – The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of
38 Practice for physical therapists as prescribed and issued by the AIPO of physical
39 therapists. All licensed physical therapist shall abide by the principles and standards
40 embodied in the Code.

SEC. 31. Continuing Professional Development Program. – All physical therapists shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on continuing professional development to be promulgated by the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, subject to the approval of the PRC, in coordination with the AIPO of physical therapists or the recognized representative of duly accredited education institutions, or both. For this purpose, the Board shall create a CPD Council to implement a CPD program guided by qualifications framework and career progression principles, subject to the guidelines as may be prescribed by the PRC.

SEC. 32. *Integration of the Professional Organization.* – The physical therapy profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of physical therapists, which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Board, subject to the approval by the PRC, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only accredited integrated professional organization of registered physical therapists. All physical therapists whose names appear in the current Roster of Physical Therapists shall *ipso facto* become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required membership fees and dues. Membership in the accredited integrated professional organization shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of physical therapists.

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

SEC. 34. *Salary.* — In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and professionalism of physical therapists, the minimum base pay of physical therapists working in the public health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 15 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the “Compensation and Classification Act of 1989”: Provided, That for physical therapists working in local government units, adjustments to their salaries shall be in accordance with Section 10 of the said law.

ARTICLE V

PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 35. Penal Provisions. – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board, subject to the approval of the PRC, shall upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) nor more than Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than two years nor more than five years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

1 **SEC. 36. Appropriations.** – The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately
2 include in the Commission’s program, the implementation of this Act, the funding of
3 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

4 **SEC. 37. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – To implement the provisions
5 of this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the PRC, promulgate the rules
6 and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for
7 physical therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

8 **SEC. 38. Transitory Provisions.** – The existing Board of Physical and
9 Occupational Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that
10 the new and separate Board for Physical Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to this
11 Act.

12 **SEC. 39. Separability Clause.** – If any part, portion, section, or provision of this
13 Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other
14 part, portion, section, or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be in
15 force and effect.

16 **SEC 40. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 5680, otherwise known as the
17 “Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law” is hereby repealed. All other laws,
18 decrees, orders, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions
19 of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or repealed.

20 **SEC 41. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,
23