

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1260



Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Psychology Act of 2009 (RA 10029) significantly advanced the practice of psychology in the country. However, the Philippines continues to face a severe shortage of mental health professionals. As of August 2023, there are only 2,030 licensed psychologists and 31,433 psychometricians¹—equating to just 0.69 psychologists per 100,000 Filipinos.

Mental health challenges remain widespread. A 2018 UNICEF report showed that 10–15% of Filipino children aged 5 to 15 suffer from mental health issues.² In 2022, the WHO reported that 16.8% of Filipino adolescents aged 13 to 17 had attempted suicide.³ The Department of Health estimates that around 3.6 million Filipinos experienced mental health issues during the pandemic.⁴

The enactment of the Philippine Mental Health Act of 2018 (RA 11036), along with the DOH's 8-Point Agenda and the Philippine Council for Mental Health Strategy Map (2023–2028), emphasizes the government's commitment to expanding access to integrated, community-based mental health services.

This bill proposes amendments to RA 10029 to align it with RA 11036, international standards, and evolving national priorities. It introduces the term “registered associate psychologists” in place of “psychometricians,” reflecting their expanded roles under proper regulation. It also updates training requirements, internship hours, and licensure exam content to ensure that professional competencies meet actual practice demands.

These amendments are essential to strengthen the delivery of mental health care and ensure the psychology profession remains responsive to the growing needs of the Filipino people.

¹ PRC Professional Registry Division

² <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/556/file>

³ https://www.who.int.ncds/surveillance/gshs/PIH2015_fact_sheet.pdf

⁴ <https://news.abs.cbn.com/spotlight/05/19/21/at-least-36-million-filipinos-battling-mental-health-issues-amid-pandemic-doh>

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcelino R. Teodoro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARCELINO R. TEODORO

Representative

First District, Marikina City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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Introduced by **REP. MARCELINO R. TEODORO**

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 "***Philippine Psychology Professionalization Act.***"

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. The State recognizes that psychologists have an important role in nation-building and development. It also acknowledges the diverse specializations of psychologists and the distinct functions specific to the varied specializations, including those that do not involve the professional practice of psychology or the delivery of psychological services. It further acknowledges the need to protect the public by preventing unqualified individuals from engaging in psychological practice or offering psychological services. Hence, it shall nurture competent, upright, and diligent registered professional psychologists whose standards of practice and service shall be

1 excellent and globally competitive through the administration of inviolable, effective,
2 and credible licensure examinations and the imposition and promotion of regulatory
3 measures, programs, and activities that enhance their professional growth and well-
4 being.

5 ARTICLE III 6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

7 SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

8 a) *Practice of Psychology* refers to the delivery of psychological services that involve
9 the application of psychological principles and procedures to describe, understand,
10 and influence the behavior of individuals or groups to assist in the attainment of
11 optimal human growth and functioning. The delivery of psychological services
12 includes:

13 1) Psychological Assessment. - A systematic process that uses a
14 combination of techniques and methods, such as tests, inventories,
15 interviews, and observations, to evaluate various psychological and
16 behavioral characteristics, such as traits and capabilities of an individual
17 or group of individuals; and

18 2) Psychological Interventions. A deliberate and structured process with an
19 expected outcome based on psychological theories or models to facilitate
20 psychological changes in an individual, group, community, organization, or
21 system. These psychological services may be provided through
22 telecommunication technologies: *Provided*, That service providers comply
23 with all legal requirements and ethical standards and regulations when
24 providing telepsychology services to patients across jurisdictional and
25 international borders.

26 b) *Psychologist* refers to a person with postgraduate training in psychology who
27 engages in teaching, research, and professional practice of psychology. A
28 psychologist may not be a registered psychologist.

29 c) *Psychology* refers to the scientific study of human behavior. It involves
30 applying scientific methods to inquire into the biological, cognitive, affective,
31 developmental, personality, social, cultural, and individual dimensions of
32 human behavior.

33 d) *Registered Psychologist* refers to a natural person duly registered and holds a
34 valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as a
35 professional registered psychologist issued by the Professional Regulatory Board
36 of Psychology and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) pursuant to
37 this Act to deliver the following psychological services:

38 1) Psychological assessment for diagnosis, providing mental health status
39 clearance, developing psychological interventions, aiding in decision- making
40 for court cases, hiring and promotion, and licensing of firearms, among others;

2) Psychological interventions such as psychological counseling, psychotherapy, psychosocial support, psychological coaching, psychological debriefing, group therapy, and all other psychological interventions for clinical populations involving the application of psychological principles to improve the psychological functioning of individuals, families, groups, and organizations. These interventions also develop, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the psychological programs for individuals or groups;

3) Supervision of the practices mentioned above;

4) Teaching of subjects covered in the licensure examination for registered psychologists, as well as equivalent course titles: *Provided*, That they have met the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) requirements;

5) All services and activities that registered psychology associates can do; and

6) All psychological services and functions that mental health associates or professionals can do.

e) *Registered Psychology Associate* refers to a natural person who holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as a registered psychology associate issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychologists and the PRC pursuant to this Act. As such, they shall be authorized to do any of the following:

1) Psychological screening on risk assessment and behavioral assessment;

2) Psychological evaluation of non-clinical populations for hiring, school admission, and among others;

3) Intake interviews for non-clinical populations;

4) Needs assessment for groups, organizations, or communities;

5) Psychosocial support for which they have the appropriate training, not requiring graduate or specialist training;

6) Training, learning, and development programs for which they have the appropriate training;

7) Psychoeducation for mental health literacy;

8) Provision of human resource management services in organizations and communities;

9) Development, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of wellness programs for organizations and communities;

10) Teaching of subjects covered in the licensure examination for registered psychology associates, as well as equivalent course titles: *Provided*, That they have met the CHED requirements;

11) Assistance for the registered psychologist in psychological assessment

and interventions for clinical populations; and

12) All psychological services and functions that mental health associates or professionals can perform for non-clinical populations except counseling and psychotherapy.

f) *Clinical populations* refer to individuals who exhibit psychological symptoms, cognitive impairments, neurologic conditions, traumatic stress reactions, significant distress and impaired functioning, and chronic problem behaviors that require specialized assessment and interventions by a registered psychologist.

ARTICLE IV

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

SEC. 4. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology. There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the administrative control and supervision of the PRC, which shall be composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) nominees for each position. The accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO) of psychologists shall submit nominees to the PRC. The Board shall be organized not later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology. The chairperson and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a) A natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- c) Of good moral character;
- d) A holder of a doctorate in psychology conferred by a university, college, or school in the Philippines or abroad duly recognized or accredited by the CHED;
- e) Have at least ten (10) years of practice in psychology in a duly recognized institution, clinic, or center, as well as at least five (5) years of teaching experience in the field of psychology;
- f) A registered psychologist, without the requirement of separate registration as registered psychology associate, except in the case of the first members of the Board who shall automatically be conferred a valid certificate of

1 registration and a valid professional identification card as a Registered
2 Psychologist and Registered Psychology Associate upon appointment of the
3 Board;

4 g) Neither an officer, trustee, nor member of the faculty of any university,
5 college, institute, or school where a regular course in psychology is offered or
6 taught or review classes conducted and shall not have any pecuniary interest,
7 direct or indirect, in any such institution;

8 h) Not an officer nor hold any position other than being a member of the AIPO
9 of psychologists; and

10 i) Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

11
12 **SEC. 6. Term of Office.** The chairperson and the members of the Board shall have
13 a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly
14 qualified: *Provided*, That the Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall
15 hold office for the following terms: the chairperson for three (3) years; one (1) member
16 for two (2) years; and the other member for one (1) year, which shall be specified in
17 their respective appointments.

18
19 Each member of the Board may be reappointed for one (1) full term of three (3) years
20 only. The member serving the last year of their term shall automatically become the
21 chairperson of the Board and shall not be able to succeed themselves immediately
22 after the expiration of the term of office so that the term of one member shall be due to
23 expire every year: *Provided, however*, That all appointments for chairperson shall be
24 approved by the President of the Philippines: *Provided further*, That an appointment for
25 any existing vacancy or vacancies shall be made within one month from the time the
26 vacancy occurred and shall be for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member
27 of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office before the performance of
28 duties.

29
30 **SEC. 7. Powers and Duties.** The Board shall have the following powers and
31 duties:

32 a) Administer and implement the provisions of this Act and promulgate, revise,
33 or update the rules and regulations, resolutions, and guidelines as
34 necessary: *Provided*, That the policies, resolutions, rules and regulations
35 issued or promulgated by the Board shall subject to review and approval of
36 the PRC;

37 b) Supervise and monitor the registration, licensure, and practice of
38 registered psychologists and registered psychology associates in the
39 Philippines;

40 c) Administer oaths of profession in connection with the administration of this
41 Act;

- 1 d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate, upon compliance with due process
2 and requirements, the certificate of registration and professional identification
3 card for registered psychologist and registered psychology associate;
- 4 e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 5 f) Monitor the conditions and circumstances affecting the practice of
6 psychology in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed
7 lawful and proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high
8 professional, ethical, and technical standards of the profession after
9 thorough and extensive consultations with stakeholders, such as the
10 AIPO and its practice divisions, CHED, higher educational institutions
11 (HEIs), chartered and autonomous from CHED, and among others;
- 12 g) Issue permits and exercise visitorial powers over institutions,
13 associations, corporations, and partnerships to verify that the persons
14 practicing psychology therein are registered psychologists and registered
15 psychology associates with valid certificates of registration and valid
16 professional identification cards;
- 17 h) Assist the PRC in the formulation and implementation of the guidelines
18 on continuing professional education for registered psychologists and
19 registered psychology associates;
- 20 i) Ensure that all educational institutions under CHED's purview that offer the
21 course or program in psychology comply with the policies, standards, and
22 requirements strictly prescribed by the CHED for such course or program,
23 especially in the areas of administration, curriculum, faculty, library, and
24 facilities;
- 25 j) Prepare, adopt, issue, and amend the syllabi for the licensure
26 examination subjects after thorough consultations with stakeholders, such as
27 the AIPO, CHED, and HEIs classified as autonomous by CHED and by
28 charter. This function does not extend to any curricular matters beyond
29 the syllabi for the licensure examination subjects;
- 30 k) Investigate and, when warranted, hear administrative cases involving
31 violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations as hereinafter
32 promulgated, and any applicable code of ethics or code of professional
33 standards. For this purpose, it may issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and
34 *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the
35 production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That the
36 Board's decision, resolution, or orders rendered in administrative cases shall
37 be subject to review only on appeal; and
- 38 l) Perform such other functions and duties as may be lawfully delegated, or as it
39 may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act, and going through
40 extensive consultation with various stakeholders, such as the AIPO,

CHED, other HEIs classified as autonomous by CHED and by charter.

SEC. 8. Compensation and Allowances. The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation or honorarium similar to those obtained by the chairperson and members of the existing regulatory boards, subject to the prevailing government issuances and rules and regulations on the matter.

SEC. 9. Removal or Suspension of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology. Any member of the Board in observance of due process and completion of the proper investigation may be suspended or removed by the President from office upon the recommendation of the PRC for causes such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, behavior unbecoming of a psychology 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 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 PRC. 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 PRC. The PRC shall designate the secretary of the Board and provide the secretariat with necessary support services to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

ARTICLE V

LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

SEC. 11. Examinations Required. All applicants for registration to practice psychology must pass the licensure examination for registered psychologists and registered psychology associates, which the Board shall conduct at such places and dates and subject to such requirements prescribed by the PRC.

SEC.12. Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination for Registered Psychologists. An applicant for the licensure examination for registered psychologist shall meet the following qualifications:

a) Must be a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident, or a citizen of a foreign State, which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;

b) Must be at least a master's degree holder in psychology conferred by a university, college, or school in the Philippines or abroad accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examinations;

c) Must have undergone a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervised practicum or clinical experience pertinent to the services delineated

in Section 3(d) of this Act, which shall be conducted under the supervision and guidance of a registered psychologist or another duly licensed mental health professional;

d) Must be of good moral character; and

e) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC.13. Qualifications of Applicants for the Licensure Examination for Registered Psychology Associates. An applicant for the licensure as a registered psychology associate shall meet the following qualifications:

a) Must be a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident, or a citizen of a foreign State which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;

b) Must have at least a bachelor's degree holder in psychology conferred by a university, college, or school in the Philippines or abroad accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examinations;

c) Must have undergone a minimum of fifty (50) hours to no more than one hundred (100) hours of supervised practicum or internship experience related to services enumerated in Section 3 (e) of this Act and under the auspices of a registered psychologist or other licensed mental health professional. The number of hours applies until CHED increases this number based on their guidelines and after thorough consultation with relevant stakeholders such as HEIs, autonomous or chartered HEIs, and the AIPO and its practice divisions;

d) Must be of good moral character; and

e) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 14. Examination Subjects for Registered Psychologists. The licensure examination for registered psychologist shall cover the following subjects or their respective equivalent course titles:

a) Advanced Theories of Personality

b) Advanced Abnormal Psychology

c) Advanced Psychological Assessment

d) Counseling and Psychotherapy

SEC. 15. Examination Subjects for Registered Psychology Associates. The

1 licensure examinations for registered associate psychologists shall cover the
2 following subjects or their respective equivalent course titles:

- 3 a) Developmental Psychology
- 4 b) Abnormal Psychology
- 5 c) Work and Organizational Psychology
- 6 d) Psychological Assessment

7 The Board may recluster, rearrange, modify, add or exclude and prescribe subjects
8 for registered psychologists and registered psychology associates as the need arises,
9 but only after extensive consultation with various stakeholders such as the AIPO,
10 CHED, and HEIs classified as autonomous by CHED and by charter.

11 **SEC. 16. Registration Without Examination for Registered Psychologists.** A
12 person who possesses the qualifications required to take the examination for
13 registration as a psychologist pursuant to the provisions of this Act may be
14 registered without examination: *Provided*, That an applicant files with the Board within
15 three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, an application for registration and
16 issuance of certificate of registration and professional identification card by
17 submitting credentials satisfactory to the Board that the applicant had, on or before
18 the first Board Licensure Examination for Psychologists and Psychometricians
19 (BLEPP) in 2014, fulfilled the requirements under either subparagraphs a) or b)
20 herein:

- 21 a) Obtained a doctoral degree in psychology and had accumulated three (3) years
22 of work experience in the practice of psychology; or
- 23 b) Obtained a master's degree in psychology and accumulated a minimum of five
24 (5) years of work experience in the practice of psychology.

25 **SEC.17. Registration Without Examination for Registered Psychology**
26 **Associates.** A person who possesses the qualifications required to take the
27 examination for registration as a registered associate psychologist may be
28 registered without examination: *Provided*, That an applicant files with the Board within
29 three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act an application for registration and
30 issuance of a certificate of registration and professional identification card by
31 submitting credentials satisfactory to the Board that the applicant had, or before the
32 effectivity of this Act obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology and accumulated
33 at least seven (7) years of full-time work experience in any functions attributed to
34 a registered psychology associate as defined in Art III Sec. 3 (e) of this Act.

35 **SEC.18. Ratings in the Examination.** To qualify as having passed the licensure
36 examination for registered psychologists and registered psychology associates,
37 a candidate must have obtained a weighted general average of at least seventy-five
38 percent (75%) for all subjects, with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any
39 given subject.

1 An examinee who obtains a weighted general average of 75% or higher but obtains
2 a rating below 60% in any given subject may retake such subjects within the next
3 two (2) years, and upon obtaining a rating of at least 75% in each such subject,
4 shall then be deemed to have passed the licensure examination.

5
6 **SEC. 19. Report of Ratings.** The Board shall submit to the PRC an official report of
7 the ratings obtained by each examinee within ten (10) calendar days after the
8 examination unless such period is extended for just cause.

9
10 **ARTICLE VI**
11 **REGISTRATION**
12

13 **SEC. 20. Oath of Profession for Registered Psychologists and Registered**
14 **Psychology Associates.** All successful examinees and qualified applicants for
15 registration without examination shall be required to take an oath to uphold the
16 profession before any member of the Board or any officer of the PRC authorized to
17 administer oaths before entering into the practice of psychology in the Philippines.

18
19 **SEC. 21. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification**
20 **Card.** A certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued
21 to all successful examinees and registrants without examination upon compliance
22 with all the legal requirements, including payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The
23 certificate of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the PRC and
24 members of the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice
25 the profession with all the privileges and responsibilities appurtenant thereto.
26 The certificate shall remain in full force and effect until suspended in accordance with
27 this Act.

28
29 A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance,
30 and validity term of three (3) years, duly signed by the Chairperson of the PRC, shall
31 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed registration fee. Upon
32 expiration of the professional identification card, the registered psychologist and
33 registered psychology associate may renew the same upon proof of compliance
34 with continuing education requirements prescribed by the Board or PRC.

35
36 **SEC. 22. Disclosure of Registration Information.** The registered psychologist or
37 registered psychology associate shall indicate the registration and professional
38 identification card number, date of issuance, duration of validity, and professional
39 tax receipt number on each document signed, used, or issued in connection with the
40 practice of the profession.

41 **SEC. 23. 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 stating the reasons for such denial, which shall be incorporated into the records of the Board.

SEC. 24. Foreign Reciprocity. No foreigner shall be admitted to the licensure examination for registered psychologists or registered psychology associates unless they prove that the State of which they are a citizen either:

- a) Admits Filipino citizens to the practice of psychology without the need for registration and issuance of a certificate of registration and professional identification card;
- b) Allows Filipino citizens to practice psychology without restriction; or
- c) Allows Filipino citizens to practice after an examination on strict and absolute equality with nationals of said State.

SEC. 25. Practice through a Special Temporary Permit. The Board may issue, subject to the approval of the PRC and payment of appropriate fees, a special temporary permit to the following persons:

- a) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign States are internationally acknowledged specialists or outstanding experts in psychology: *Provided*, That their services are essential and necessary either due to the lack or inadequacy of available local specialists or experts or in recognition of their potential contribution to the promotion and advancement of the practice of psychology through transfer of technology;
- b) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign States whose services shall be free and offered exclusively to indigent patients in a particular hospital, center, or clinic; and
- c) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign States are employed as exchange professors to teach psychology in schools, colleges, and universities offering psychology courses or programs. The special temporary permit shall detail its conditions, which include an effectivity period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal, and the specific place of practice, such as a clinic, hospital, center, school, college, or university offering psychology. The Board shall prescribe rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section, subject to the approval of the PRC.

SEC. 26. Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Registration and

Professional Identification Card or Cancellation of a Special or 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 the special temporary permit granted under this Act on any ground provided in Section 34 of this Act or any of the instances hereunder:

- a) Procurement of a certificate of registration or professional identification card and 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 and 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 psychological services with reasonable skill and safety to the clients or patients;
- e) Professional misconduct or negligence in the performance of duties as a registered psychologist or a registered psychology associate; and
- f) Engaging in the practice of the profession during the period of the suspension.

SEC. 27. Reinstatement. A registered psychologist or registered psychology associate 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 conform to the Board's requirements. No certificate of registration, professional identification card, or special temporary permit shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good cause exists to warrant such reinstatement. Issuance of a new certificate of registration, professional identification card, and special temporary permit in lieu of the one lost, destroyed, or mutilated shall be subject to applicable rules prescribed by the PRC.

SEC. 28. Appeal from Judgement. The decision of the Board shall *ipso facto* become final fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision by the respondent unless an appeal has been filed with the PRC within the same period. The PRC's decision on appeal may be further appealed before the Court of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

SEC. 29. Rights of the Respondent. The respondent, a registered psychologist or registered psychology associate, shall have the right to be represented by counsel at all stages of the proceedings and to the speedy disposition of their case.

1 They shall have the right to confront witnesses against them and other rights
2 guaranteed by the Constitution.

3 ARTICLE VII

4 PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONALS IN GOVERNMENT

5 **SEC. 30. Creation of Plantilla Positions for Registered Psychology**
6 **Associates and Registered Psychologists.** The Civil Service Commission (CSC)
7 is mandated to create the position of registered psychologists and registered
8 psychology associates in the Index of Occupational Services, Occupational Groups,
9 Classes, and Salary Grades under the Medicine and Health Services Occupational
10 Group.

11 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall determine the appropriate
12 salary grade based on the requirements of RA No. 6758 and Joint Congress
13 Resolution No. 4, s. 2029. The CSC and DBM shall consult with stakeholders in
14 psychology practice, including the AIPO and its practice divisions, to understand the
15 nature and complexity of psychological practice and to be guided in determining
16 appropriate job descriptions, ranks and salary grades that represent fair and just
17 compensation. Pursuant to Chapters 4 and 5 of RA 11036, otherwise known
18 as the "Mental Health Act," the following are mandated to create plantilla positions for
19 registered psychology associates and registered psychologists based on a thorough
20 assessment of workload demands, service requirements, and organizational
21 objectives:

- 22 a) Local government units (LGU) at the city, municipal, and barangay levels;
- 23 b) Regional, provincial, and tertiary hospitals, including private hospitals
24 rendering service to paying patients;
- 25 c) All public and private educational institutions, such as schools, colleges,
26 universities, and technical schools; and
- 27 d) All workplaces.

28 ARTICLE VIII

29 PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

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31
32 **SEC. 31. Rights to Privileged Communication for Registered Psychologists and**
33 **Registered Psychology Associates.** A registered psychologist or registered
34 psychology associate, without the consent of the client or patient, cannot be
35 examined on any communication or information disclosed in the course of giving
36 psychological or mental health services to such client. The protection accorded herein
37 shall extend to all pertinent records and be available to the secretary, clerk, or other
38 staff of the registered psychologist or registered psychology associate. Any evidence
39 obtained violating this provision shall be inadmissible of any purpose in any proceeding.

1 **SEC. 32. Integration of the Profession.** The profession shall hereinafter be
2 integrated into one national organization of registered psychologists and registered
3 psychology associates, which shall be recognized and accredited by the Board,
4 subject to the approval of the PRC. A registered psychologist or registered psychology
5 associate shall automatically become a member of said organization, receive the
6 benefits and privileges, and perform all responsibilities and obligations appurtenant
7 upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not be a
8 bar to membership in any other association of registered psychologists or registered
9 psychology associates.
10

11 **SEC. 33. Code of Ethics and Code of Practice for Registered Psychologists and**
12 **Registered Psychology Associates.** The Board shall adopt and promulgate the
13 Code of Ethics and Code of Practice for registered psychologists and registered
14 psychology associates prescribed and issued by the AIPO of psychologists.

15 **ARTICLE IX**

16 **PROHIBITED ACTS, PENALTIES, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ACT**

17 **SEC. 34. Prohibited Acts.**

18 a) No person shall:

- 19 1) Engage in the professional practice of psychology nor represent themselves as a
20 registered psychologist or registered psychology associate without a valid
21 certificate of, registration, valid professional identification card, and a valid
22 special temporary permit granted by the Board under this Act;
- 23 2) Represent oneself to be a licensed and authorized registered psychologist or
24 registered psychology associate during the time that the certificate of
25 registration or special temporary permit has been suspended or revoked or the
26 professional identification card expired;
- 27 3) Allow any other person to use the certificate of registration and professional
28 identification card and special temporary permit for any purpose, regardless of
29 whether such enables the unqualified individual to engage in the practice of
30 psychology;
- 31 4) Use, exhibit, or misrepresent as the owner of the certificate of registration or
32 professional identification card or special temporary permit of another; and
- 33 5) Give any false, inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete information to the Board
34 to obtain a certificate of registration, professional identification card, and special
35 temporary permit.
- 36 6) No corporation, partnership, association, or entity shall operate a psychology
37 office, center or clinic, or otherwise engage in the practice of psychology
38 that involves clinical populations within its premises without being headed by
39 a registered psychologist with at least three (3) years of clinical experience.

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

SEC. 35. Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this Act and 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 (P10,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 36. Injunction. The Board may initiate action to enjoin, restrain, or prosecute any individual, corporation, association, partnership, or entity engaging in the practice of psychology in violation of this Act.

SEC. 37. 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.

ARTICLE X

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 38. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 39. Transitory Provisions. (a) A Salary Grade and Item Allocation Review Committee in coordination with relevant government agencies and institutions shall be established. This committee will determine the salary grade and qualifications of the registered psychology associate and registered psychologist; (b) The current PRB shall remain as interim members no later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, or until a new set of members is organized; (c) Existing licenses and registrations as Registered Psychologist and Registered Psychometrician under RA 10029 shall remain in force until their respective expiration dates, at which point they may be renewed in accordance with the provisions of this Act; and (d) in all statutes, regulations, and legal documents where the term 'registered psychometrician' is used, such term shall be construed to refer to 'registered psychology associate' for the purposes of this legislation.

This interpretation shall apply retroactively to all relevant contexts in which the term 'psychometrician' appears.

SEC. 40. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Subject to the approval of the PRC and within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall adopt and promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 41. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration

1 shall remain in full force and effect.

2 **SEC. 42. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with
3 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 43. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
5 publication in the Official Gazette and in a newspaper of general circulation.

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Approved,