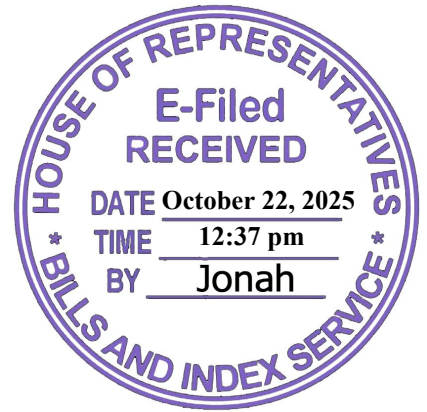


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5665



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

AN ACT
REGULATING THE LICENSURE, EXAMINATION, AND PRACTICE OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The changing health and demographic trends that involve increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases and population aging are already contributing to the rapid increases in the number of people experiencing declines in function globally. This puts to importance the role of physical therapists as movement and rehabilitation experts to examine each person and development a treatment plan to improve their ability to move, reduce or manage pain, restore function, and prevent disability.

Republic Act No. 5680 also known as "An Act Creating the Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists", was enacted on June 21, 1969. As amended, this has been the governing law on standardizing and regulating Physical Therapists for more than 53 years.

Despite Physical Therapy being part of the allied health sciences recognized internationally, being a five-year degree in tertiary education, and being recognized by the Department of Health (DOH) Disease Control and Prevention Bureau for their contributions in health and wellness for persons with disabilities and the elderly, the DOH has yet to list Physical Therapy in the Medicine and Health Services Group or in any group under the Index of Occupational Services (IOS) for local government units.

Many physical therapists in the country have been considering to take independent practice or work abroad because of the lack of competitive salaries, security of tenure, and government positions available. In tertiary hospitals, there are no established physical therapist positions and most physical therapists are given volunteer or admin aide positions.

This bill seeks to institutionalize, update and upgrade the definition, provide a description of the role of physical therapists in local government units, and to align the professions regulatory framework with local and international standards of practice for physical therapy. In turn, this proposed measure shall protect and uphold the welfare of Filipino physical therapists and ensure that they are globally competitive to provide services to those in need.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES
AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*The Philippine Physical Therapy Profession Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of physical therapy and physical therapists in nation-building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, world-class, and globally competitive through inviolable, honest, effective, and credible licensure examinations and through regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their continuing professional growth. The State shall also establish quality standards for physical therapists in linking Primary Health Care to community-based rehabilitation and public health.

SECTION 3. *Objectives.* – The Act provides for and shall govern:

- a) the administration and conduct of licensure examination, and registration and licensing of physical therapists;
- b) the supervision and regulation of the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines; and
- c) the upgrading of the physical therapy profession.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) **Accreditation** — is a type of quality assurance process that utilizes all aspects of review and assessment according to pre-defined standards. Accreditation may be applied to physical therapy education programmes or a programme of physical therapy service delivery;
- b) **Autonomy** — is the ability of a reflective practitioner to make independent judgments; open to initiate, terminate, or alter physical therapy intervention. It means the responsibility of the professional to manage his/her practice independently and to act according to the rules of ethics and the code of professional conduct within a framework of health legislation. Professional autonomy is usually stated in the law, regulation, directives, or rules governing the scope of practice:
 - i. **Clinical autonomy:** Responsibility of the practitioner to decide the programme of intervention and its modalities based on the diagnosis that he/she makes;
 - ii. **Management autonomy:** Responsibility of the professional to manage his/her practice independently;
 - iii. **Professional autonomy:** is usually stated in the law, regulation, directives or rules. It means the responsibility of the professional to make decisions regarding the management of a patient/client based on one's own professional knowledge and expertise to manage his/her practice independently and to act according to the rules of ethics and the code of professional conduct within the framework of health legislation;
- c) **Advanced scope of practice** — physical therapists may develop a scope of practice beyond the usual and customary physical therapist's practice as a result of attaining significant additional education, professional experience, and/or enhanced competencies. Specialization is an example of an advanced scope of practice;
- d) **Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)** – refers to an integrated national organization, association, or society that is granted accreditation by the Board and the Commission as the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization of Physical Therapists;
- e) **Direct access** — the patient/client directly asks the physical therapist to provide services (the patient refers themselves) and the physical therapist freely decides their conduct and takes full responsibility for it. Also, the physical therapist has direct access to patients/clients and determines their need for the physical therapist's

examination/assessment and intervention/treatment without referral from a third party.

- f) **Physical therapy** is the set of services provided by physical therapists to individuals and populations to develop, maintain, and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. The service is provided in circumstances where movement and function are threatened by ageing, injury, pain, diseases, disorders, conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding that functional movement is central to what it means to be healthy.

Physical therapy involves the interaction between the physical therapist, patients/clients, other health professionals, families, caregivers, and communities in a process where movement potential is examined/assessed and goals are agreed upon, using knowledge and skills unique to physical therapists;

- g) **Physical Therapist** is a person who has acquired a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy and is qualified through in-service training and practical experience in the application of carrying out the programs and services within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass physical, psychological, emotional, and social well-being;
- h) **Health promotion** — is the combination of educational and environmental supports for actions and conditions of living conducive to health. The purpose of health promotion is to enable people to gain greater control over the determinants of their own health. 14 Health promotion represents a comprehensive social and political process, it not only embraces actions directed at strengthening the skills and capabilities of individuals, but also actions directed towards changing social, environmental, and economic conditions so as to alleviate their impact on public and individual health. Health promotion, and the associated efforts put into education, community development, policy, legislation, and regulation, are equally valid for prevention of communicable diseases, injury and violence, and mental problems, as they are for prevention of non-communicable diseases;
- i) **Self-referral** — “Patients can refer themselves to a therapist without having to see anyone else first, or without being told to refer themselves by a health professional. This can relate to telephone, IT, or face-to-face service;
- j) **Specialization** — physical therapist specialization is the result of advanced knowledge, skills, and competence attained by a physical therapist qualified in a specific area, within the scope of practice recognized as physical therapy. This usually results from defined training and educational pathways, associated with a formal process for testing and recognizing the advanced level acquired;

- k) **Specialist physical therapist** — is a physical therapist who has formally demonstrated advanced clinical competence in a defined specialty area within the scope of practice recognized as physical therapy. A specialist physical therapist would be expected to practice and/or teach in the specialty area of clinical practice and also to be involved in evaluation and practice/service development and to contribute to the body of knowledge relevant to their practice setting;
- l) **Primary health care** — is the first level of contact of individuals, the family, and community with a nation's health system, bringing health services as close as possible to where people live and work, and constitutes the first element of a continuing health service process. It is an essential health service based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community;
- m) **Scope of Examination** – refers to the range of topics or subjects provided by the Board in the syllabi of the four areas of scope of examination for physical therapy professionals in Sections 9 (m) and 15 of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Scope and Practice of the Physical Therapy Profession.* –

The scope and practice of the Physical Therapy profession is the application of a physical therapist's extensive knowledge of the body and its movement needs and potential, which is central to determining strategies for diagnosis and intervention. The **practice settings** will vary according to whether the physical therapy is concerned with health promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation, or rehabilitation.

The **scope of physical therapist practice** is not limited to **direct patient/client care**, but also includes: public health strategies, advocating for patients/clients and for health, supervising and delegating to others, leading, managing, teaching, research, developing, and implementing health policy at the local, national, and international levels.

Physical therapists operate as **independent practitioners** as well as members of health service provider teams. They can act as first contact practitioners, and patients/clients may seek direct services without referral from another health professional for the following purposes:

- a) **promoting** the health and well-being of individuals and the general public/society, emphasizing the importance of physical activity and exercise;
- b) **preventing** impairments, activity limitations, participatory restrictions, and disabilities in individuals at risk of altered movement behaviours due to health factors, socio-economic stressors, environmental factors, and lifestyle factors;
- c) **providing** interventions/treatment to restore the integrity of body

systems essential to movement, maximize function and recuperation, minimize incapacity, and enhance the quality of life, independent living, and workability in individuals and groups of individuals with altered movement behaviours resulting from impairments, activity limitations, participatory restrictions, and disabilities

- d) **modifying** environmental, home, and work access and barriers to ensure full participation in one's normal societal roles

The education and clinical practice of physical therapists will vary according to the social, economic, cultural, and political contexts in which they practice. However, it is a single profession, and the first professional qualification, obtained in any country, represents the completion of a curriculum that qualifies the physical therapist to use the professional title and to practice as an independent professional.

ARTICLE II

CREATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

SECTION 6. *Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy to be composed of a Chairperson and three (3) Members, each Member representing one of the four (4) fields of specialization listed in Section 15, Article III, hereof, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees of the Professional Regulation Commission for each position chosen from a list of four nominees for each position submitted by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization of physical therapist. Provided, that a member representing a field of specialization has at least a bachelor's degree in that particular field of specialization. The new Board shall be constituted within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act.

The Chairperson and the three (3) Members of the Board must be registered professionals and issued with certificates of registration and professional identification cards at the time of their appointment.

SECTION 7. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board, at the time of their appointment, must possess the following qualifications:

- a) Must be a natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least 5 years;
- b) Must be at least forty years of age;
- c) Must be of proven integrity and of high moral and ethical values in his/her personal as well as professional conduct;
- d) Must not have been convicted by a court in a final judgment of crime involving moral turpitude;
- e) Must be a holder of a Bachelor's degree in the field of physical therapy, or a holder of a Master or Doctorate in the field of physical therapy from a school, college, or university recognized by the Government or abroad,

and has been engaged in the practice of physical therapy profession for at least five (5) years before his/her appointment;

- f) Must not be connected with any school, college, or university granting a degree, or review center, that qualifies graduates of such degree for admission to the licensure examination for physical therapy; and
- g) Must not be an incumbent officer or trustee of the accredited professional organization for physical therapists, and must be in good standing
- h) A duly registered physical therapist under this Act with a valid certificate of registration and professional license, and an identification card.

SECTION 8. *Term of Office.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been qualified and appointed. They may, however, be appointed for a second term. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member shall take an oath of office before the assumption of duties.

The incumbent Chairperson and Members shall continue to serve until their replacements shall have been appointed and qualified.

SECTION 9. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Promulgate, adopt, and issue rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act;
- b) Give and supervise the licensure examination for admission to the practice of the physical therapy profession;
- c) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration, and practice of the physical therapy profession;
- d) Administer the oath of a professional to the successful examinees in the licensure examination for physical therapists in appropriate mass oath-taking ceremonies to be held for the purpose;
- e) Register and issue certificates of registration to successful examinees in licensure examinations for physical therapists and to persons qualified to register as physical therapists without examination;
- f) Suspend or revoke the certificate, reinstatement of registration, license, and professional identification card of a physical therapist for causes provided herein;
- g) Adopt an official seal of the Board as well as the seal of physical therapy;
- h) Adopt and promulgate a Code of Ethics for Physical Therapists and a Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of the Physical Therapy profession; endorsed by the accredited and integrated professional organization of physical therapists;
- i) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of the physical therapy profession and, whenever necessary, adopt measures as may be deemed appropriate for the enhancement or maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the practice of the physical therapy profession;

- j) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all educational institutions offering courses in physical therapy education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities as well as to conform itself with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) necessary for education and training provisions in the conformance towards learning outcomes;
- k) Hear/try and decide administrative cases involving violations of the provisions of this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics for Physical Therapy and Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Physical Therapy Profession and, for this purpose, issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents and to testify in connection herewith;
- l) Enforce compliance with the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016, otherwise known as Republic Act 10912. The CPD law shall be mandatory for all physical therapists in coordination with the accredited national association of physical therapy;
- m) Prepare, adopt, and issue, in consultation with the academe, specialist physical therapists the syllabi or tables of specification of the subjects for the licensure examinations and to amend the same;
- n) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a specific duration of time, and TESDA and DOH certificate of registration and accreditation/recognition for advanced studies, research, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and
- o) Discharge and perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act.
- p) Except for matters which are ministerial in nature, all policies and functions of the Board embodied in resolutions, as well as rules and regulations issued by the Board, shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission.

SECTION 10. *Compensation and Allowance of the Chairperson and Members of the Board.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by the Chairpersons and Members of other Professional Regulatory Boards.

SECTION 11. *Removal and Suspension of the Chairperson and Members of the Board.* – The President may, upon recommendation of the Commission, remove any Member of the Board for any of the following causes:

- a) Negligence;
- b) Incompetence;
- c) Immoral, dishonorable, or unprofessional conduct;
- d) Violation of, or abetting the violation of, the Professional Standards or Code of Ethics for Physical Therapists; and/or
- e) Conviction in a final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.

- a) The right of the respondent to due process and be assisted by counsel in an investigation shall be respected and upheld. The President may, also upon recommendation of the Commission, preventively suspend a Member under administrative investigation.

SECTION 12. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretarial and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the general supervision and administrative control of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases, and other investigations involving examinees and physical therapists, shall be kept and subject to the disposition of the Commission.

The Commission shall provide secretariat and support services to the Board for the efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the Commission of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and make recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade the conditions affecting the practice of the physical therapy profession in the Philippines.

ARTICLE III LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SECTION 14. *Licensure Examination.* – All applicants for registration for the practice of physical therapy shall be required to undergo and pass a written examination as provided in this Act, except those who qualify for registration under Section 26 of this Act. The licensure examination for physical therapy professionals shall be given by the Board in such places and dates the Commission may designate, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

SECTION 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The examination for Physical Therapy professionals shall basically cover the following fields:

- a) Physical Therapy Application 1
- b) Physical Therapy Application 2
 - PT in Special Population
 - PT in Pediatrics
 - PT in Geriatrics
 - PT in CBR and Public Health linking to Primary Health Care
- c) Physical Therapy Application 3
 - Professional Ethics
 - Organization, Management
 - Research
- d) Physical Therapy Application 4

The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, may revise or exclude any of the subjects or add new ones as the need arises, and may

adjust or modify the percentage and in conformity with the latest developments in the profession here and abroad.

SECTION 16. *Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.* – Each applicant for examination shall establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- a) He/she is a citizen of the Philippines subject to the provision on reciprocity as contained hereunder;
- b) He/she is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- c) He/she is a graduate of at least a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree or its equivalent degree as determined by the Board from a school, college, or university established and recognized by the Government, or a recognized university abroad whose physical therapy is recognized by the CHED.

SECTION 17. *Fraudulent Application.* – The Board may suspend or revoke a certificate of registration and professional identification card already issued, if a registrant has been proved or found to have made misrepresentation/s in his application for examination.

SECTION 18. *Rating in the Board Examination.* – To pass the licensure examination for physical therapy professionals, a candidate must obtain a weighted general average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) and have no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given subject. However, if an examinee obtained a general weighted average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but obtained a rating below sixty percent (60%) in any given subject/s, he/she shall be allowed to take the examination in the subject/s where a grade below sixty percent (60%) was obtained.

SECTION 19. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the Commission the rating obtained by each examinee in the licensure examination within a period of ten (10) days after the examination in the last subject unless extended by the Commission for just and valid cause/s.

SECTION 20. *Report on the Performance of Examinees in Licensure Examination.* – The Board, through the Commission, may recommend to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) the following:

- a) The schools, colleges or universities whose successful examinees in three (3) consecutive licensure examination for Physical Therapist is less than eight percent (8%) of the total number of its candidates who took the licensure examinations shall be recommended for close monitoring of their Physical Therapy program; and
- b) The names of schools, colleges, or universities whose successful examinees in five (5) successive licensure examination for Physical Therapy is less than eight percent (8%) of the total number of its examinees in each of the licensure examination taken, and their physical therapy course/ program shall be recommended for closure.

SECTION 21. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional*

License, and Identification Card. – A certificate of registration shall be issued to examinees who passed the licensure examination for physical therapists, as well as to a person who qualified to register as a physical therapist without examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of Registration and professional license, which indicates that the person named therein is entitled to practice as a physical therapist with all the benefits and privileges pertaining thereto, shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the seal of the Commission and the Board. The Certificate of Registration and professional license shall remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number and date of issuance shall be renewed every three (3) years and upon satisfying the requirements of the Board and the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016 or RA 10912.

SECTION 22. *Initials.* – The initials PTRP, which stand for Physical Therapists Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the profession.

SECTION 23. *Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.* – The Board shall not register and issue a Certificate of Registration to any successful examinee that has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

SECTION 24. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card, or Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit.* – The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card of physical therapist or suspend him/her from the practice of the profession or cancel the special temporary permit of a foreign national for unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, negligence, incompetence, or violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards for physical therapist, and Code of Good Governance.

SECTION 25. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance, or Replacement of Certificate of Registration, Professional License, and Identification Card.* – The Board may, after two (2) years from the date of revocation of Certificate of Registration, reinstate any revoked Certificate of Registration and reissue a Professional License and Identification Card, Provided, that the cause of disqualification or revocation has already ceased to exist.

A new certificate of registration, professional license, or special permit, to

replace lost, destroyed, or mutilated ones, may be issued subject to the rules as implemented by the Board.

SECTION 26. Continuing Professional Development. – All physical therapists shall abide by the requirements, rules, and regulations in the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016 or RA 10912 to be promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO for physical therapy and the representative of duly accredited education institutions. For this purpose, the Board may create a CPD Council to implement the CPD program, subject to the guidelines as may be issued by the Board.

SECTION 27. Registration and Accreditation of Physical Therapy without Examination. – Upon approval of the application and payment of the prescribed fees, a certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to the applicant for registration without examination who can prove to the satisfaction of the Board that items a, b, or c below have been met:

- a) He/she has at least a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from a school, college or university established or recognized by the Government; Provided, That the applicant has passed any of the civil service examination in physical therapy, or has been granted equivalent to second level eligibility by the Civil Service Commission by virtue of PD 907, or passed the Career Service (Professional) examination given by the Civil Service Commission; Provided further, That the applicant has served the physical therapy industry in public or private capacity for five (5) years before the effectivity of Republic Act 8550;
- b) He/she has a graduate degree (master or doctorate) in physical therapy, or closely related fields such as community development, public health, public administration and management from a school, college or university, established or recognized by the Government: Provided, That the applicant has served the health and social industry in public or private capacity for at least ten (10) years; Provided further, That the applicant has published five (5) research and highly technical papers in reputable journals, books and proceedings within the ten-year service in physical therapy;
- c) He/she is a graduate of at least a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from a school, college, or university, established or recognized by the Government; *Provided*, That the applicant has served the company (private sector) for a total of ten (10) years;

Provided further, that he/she can show proof of achievements, awards, commendations, or promotions for deserving performance and has published at least two (2) technical papers in physical therapy.

The applicants are given one (1) year after the approval and publication of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act to register as physical therapists without examination.

SECTION 28. *Roster of Physical Therapists.* – The Board, in coordination with the Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization, shall prepare, update, and maintain a Roster of physical therapists, their residence and office addresses, dates of registration or issuance of certificate, and other data which the Board may deem relevant.

The roster shall be open to the public, copies of which shall be made available to any party subject to the guidelines which may be prescribed by the Commission.

SECTION 29. *Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.* – Upon application and payment of the required fee and subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board may issue special temporary permits to physical therapists from foreign countries whose services are urgently needed in the absence or inadequacy of physical therapists for the purpose of promoting or enhancing the practice of the physical therapy profession in the Philippines to the following persons:

- a) Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified purpose that is deemed essential to national development: Provided, That the practice shall be limited only for the particular work being engaged: Provided, further, That there is no Filipino therapist qualified for such consultation or purpose;
- b) Foreign-licensed physical therapist whose service shall be free and who is highly needed under particular settings;
- c) Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics in fields essential to occupational therapy education in the Philippines, whose engagement is limited to teaching only; and
- d) Foreign-licensed physical therapist recognized as an expert or specialist whose service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

The permit shall, among other things, include these limitations and conditions: valid only for a period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal; the branch or specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, center, school/college/university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this particular section.

SECTION 30. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign physical therapist shall be given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign physical therapy is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino physical therapists to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

SECTION 31. *Seal and Use of Seal.* – Every Physical Therapist shall obtain

a seal of such design as the Board shall adopt and approve, which shall be impressed upon all documents, records, papers, and/or instruments prepared by/or under the direct supervision of or issued by a registered Physical Therapist only during the period of the validity of his professional identification card.

SECTION 32. *Indication of Number, Certificate of Registration, Professional Tax Receipt, and APO Membership Official Receipt.* – Every registered physical therapist shall be required to indicate the number of his certificate of registration, professional license and identification card, the date of issuance and expiration of said card including the number of his professional tax receipt, its date and place of issue, and APO Membership Official Receipt Number on any and all documents that he signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of the physical therapy.

ARTICLE IV PRACTICE OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPY

SECTION 33. *Oath.* – All successful examinees and those qualified for registration without examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any officer of the Commission authorized by it, or any person authorized by law to administer oaths prior to entering into the practice of the physical therapist.

SECTION 34. *Acts Constituting the Practice of the Physical Therapist.* – Any single act or transaction embraced within the provision of Section 5 hereof shall constitute an act of engaging in the practice of physical therapy.

SECTION 35. *Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of the Physical Therapist.* – No person shall practice the physical therapy in the Philippines or offer himself/herself as physical therapist, or use the title, word, letter, figure or any sign tending to convey the impression that one is a Physical Therapist, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that one is qualified to practice the profession, unless he/she has satisfactorily passed the Board licensure examination for physical therapy, or registered as a physical therapist without examination, except as otherwise provided in this Act, and is a holder of a valid Certificate of Registration and a Professional Identification Card or a valid special temporary permit duly issued to him/her by the Board and the Commission.

SECTION 36. *Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.* – The practice of physical therapy is a professional service, admission to which shall be determined on the basis of individual and personal qualification. No firm, company, or association may be registered or licensed as such for the practice of physical therapy.

SECTION 37. *Protection of Title.* – No person shall practice or offer to be a physical therapist, or use the title or word, letter, or any sign tending to convey impression of being a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any

manner whatsoever to be qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without passing the licensure examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this Act:

- a) Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing himself/herself as a physical therapist without a valid registration, professional license, or a valid temporary/special permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
- b) Represent to be a physical therapist during the time that his/her professional license is not valid or that his/her certificate of registration has been suspended or revoked, or that his/her temporary/special permit has been cancelled;
- c) Allow anybody to use his/her certificate of registration and/or professional license and/or temporary /special permit as a physical therapist to enable such an unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;
- d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration, professional license, or temporary/special permit of another person; and
- e) Violate any provision of the Code of Ethics as recommended by the accredited national organization of physical therapists.

SECTION 38. *Prohibition Against Hiring an Unlicensed Physical Therapist.* – Government agencies, educational institutions, private corporations/ companies, and entrepreneurs in physical therapy are prohibited from hiring an unlicensed physical therapist whose work is defined in Section 5 of this Act.

SECTION 39. *Integration of Physical Therapists.* – 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 (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered physical therapists. All physical therapists whose names appear in the Registry Book of Physical Therapists shall ipso facto or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of the physical therapy profession.

SECTION 40. *Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.* – The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and the Code of Professional Standards for Physical Therapists, which shall be issued by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Physical Therapists.

SECTION 41. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Physical Therapists.* – All physical therapists who are registered and licensed under

Resolution at the time this Act takes effect shall automatically be registered as physical therapists.

ARTICLE V PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 42. *Penal Provisions.* – Any violation of this Act, including the violations of the Implementing Rules and Regulations thereof, shall be meted the penalty of a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) or more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, or both upon the discretion of the court.

SECTION 43. *Appropriation.* – The Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act and thereafter.

SECTION 44. *Transitory Provision.* – The existing Professional Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy shall continue to function in the interim without another appointment until such time that the new and separate Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy shall have been constituted pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 45. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for physical therapists, in coordination with other relevant stakeholders as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 46. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other part of this Act.

SECTION 47. *Repealing Clause.* The provisions of other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 48. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,