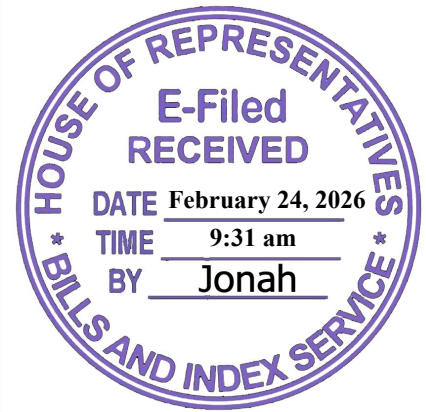


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8026

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MICROBIOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to confront serious microbial and disease-related threats, as demonstrated by the gastroenteritis outbreak in Baguio in 2024¹ and the cases of leptospirosis in 2025 that reached 4,859 patients². In a country where infectious diseases remain persistent and food safety challenges endure, microbiologists provide the critical scientific expertise required to detect, monitor, and control microorganisms that affect human, animal, and environmental health. Their work underpins disease surveillance, outbreak response, food quality assurance, and environmental microbiological monitoring—functions that directly safeguard Filipino lives and livelihoods.

At present, universities and colleges offer the foundational academic preparation and technical training necessary to develop competent microbiologists. However, differences in educational philosophy, insufficient laboratory facilities, and lack of training resources lead to uneven levels of graduate preparedness. Consequently, this institutional variability underscores the need for consistent professional standards and regulatory oversight to ensure that all practitioners possess the competencies required to address the nation's increasingly complex scientific and public health challenges³.

¹ <https://outbreaknewstoday.substack.com/p/gastroenteritis-outbreak-declared>

² <https://outbreaknewstoday.substack.com/p/philippines-reports-nearly-4900-leptospirosis>

³ <https://ejournals.ph/article.php?id=26387>

In recognition of the profession's vital role in public health, food safety, environmental protection, and scientific innovation, this bill seeks to regulate the practice of microbiology in the Philippines—a field that has evolved significantly and contributed to national development for more than five decades. Specifically, the measure aims to ensure that microbiological practice is carried out by qualified professionals who adhere to standardized competencies and ethical principles.

At the same time, the bill allows other licensed professionals—such as Doctors of Medicine, Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, and Medical Technologists—whose regulated functions inherently involve microbiological work to perform these functions without the need for separate registration under this measure.



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Microbiology Act of
2 2026."
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy and Objective.*** - The State recognizes the important role
5 of microbiologists in national development. It is the object of this Act to institute a regulatory
6 system that guarantees the delivery of technical services in a manner that ensures food safety,
7 quality of manufactured goods and responsive health and environmental care and prevents the
8 rapid spread of microbially-caused diseases in human and animal populations.
9

10 **ARTICLE II**
11 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

12
13 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For purposes of this Act:
14

15 **a. Microbiology** - shall refer to a multi-disciplinary study of the diversity, evolution, and
16 ecology microscopic organisms such as bacteria, archaea, viruses, fungi, algae, and protozoa.
17 It covers several branches of specialization such as biochemistry, physiology, cell and
18 molecular biology, genetics, evolutionary biology, and many others in order to study the nature

19 and function of these microorganisms and how they affect Earth's processes and other
20 organisms.

21

22 **b. Practice of the microbiology profession** - shall refer to the profession requiring the
23 application of the fundamental and known principles of microbiology pertinent to the
24 conditions and requirements of food safety and manufacturing standards, responsive healthcare
25 and disease prevention, and environmental protection and quality management and shall
26 include, but will not be limited to the following: (1) Consultation, valuation, investigation and
27 management services on the identification of microbial agents in food, feed, human, plant and
28 animal diseases and in environmental impact assessments; (2) Management or supervision and
29 the preparation of designs, plans, specifications, project studies and estimates for microbial-
30 based processes and related manufacturing and waste management facilities; (3) Conduct of
31 research and development, training and extension work, and consultancy services on the
32 various areas of microbiology such as general microbiology, food microbiology, agricultural
33 microbiology, industrial, veterinary, medical, aquatic and environmental microbiology and on
34 microbiological facilities/services, systems and technologies; (4) Microbiological testing and
35 inspection of food, pharmaceutical, agricultural, fishery and forest products; (5) Management,
36 manufacturing and/or marketing of microbial and microbial-based products; (6) Quality control
37 in the manufacture of foods, food additives, flavors, feeds, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, biofuels
38 and biofertilizers; (7) Teaching microbiology subjects and offering microbiology degrees and
39 training courses in institutions of higher learning in the Philippines; and (8) Employment with
40 the government or private institution/agency, provided such item or position requires the
41 knowledge and expertise of a microbiologist.

42

43 **c. Certified Microbiologist** - shall refer to a natural person who has been issued a Certificate
44 of Registration by the Board of Microbiology and has taken the oath of profession of
45 microbiologists.

46

47 **d. Fields in Microbiology** - shall include Bacteriology, Virology, Protozoology, Phycology,
48 and Mycology.

49

50 **e. Bacteriology** - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that specifically deals with the
51 biochemistry, physiology, morphology, evolution, genetics, and ecology of bacteria—a large
52 domain of single-celled prokaryotic microorganisms. Bacteriology also deals with the study of

medically- and industrially-significant bacteria, such as those which cause major infectious diseases, food spoilage, and those which are able to ferment food or produce valuable antibiotics and enzymes.

f. Virology - refers to the branch of microbiology that specifically deals with viruses—sub-microscopic obligate intracellular parasites—and virus-like particles, and subviral particles such as prions and viroids, which usually cause disease in animals, plants, and humans. Virology studies the taxonomic classification and ultrastructure of these agents, their genetic make-up, mode of infection, as well as their interactions with their respective hosts.

g. Protozoology - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies protozoa, a diverse group of eukaryotic, heterotrophic microorganisms. It is concerned with the taxonomy, physiology, evolution, biochemistry, and metabolism of protozoans. As several protozoans are disease-causing, protozoology is also concerned with studying their modes of infection, transmission, life cycles, as well as their interaction with their host organisms.

h. Phycology - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies algae, which is a large group of chiefly aquatic macroscopic and microscopic unicellular organisms similar to plants in terms of metabolism and structure. Phycology studies the ultrastructure, biochemistry, metabolism, and ecology of these algae, such as different species of seaweeds, phytoplankton, and a vast number of others.

i. Mycology - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies yeast, molds, and mushrooms, which are collectively referred to as fungi. It is concerned with the physiology, taxonomy, biochemistry, ecology, and genetic properties of fungi. Mycology also deals with the significance and application of fungal species in medicine and industry, as several species could cause disease and can produce antibiotics as well as other valuable secondary metabolites.

j. Related fields in Microbiology - shall include cell biology, helminthology, immunology, molecular microbiology, parasitology, and plant pathology.

87 **ARTICLE III**

88 **BOARD OF MICROBIOLOGY**

89
90 **SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.*** - A Board of Microbiology Is hereby
91 created, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of a Chairman and two (2) Members,
92 two of whom with at least five (5) years of teaching experience in microbiology, who shall be
93 appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from recommendees of the
94 Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, from five (5)
95 nominees recommended and endorsed from the Philippine Academy of Microbiology of the
96 Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc. The Board shall be organized not later than six (6)
97 months from the effectivity of this Act.

98
99 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall be vested with the
100 following powers and functions:

- 101
102 a. Adopt and enforce a Code of Ethics for the practice of microbiology;
103 b. Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
104 provisions of this Act, in accordance with the Charter of the Commission;
105 c. Prepare the contents of licensure examinations;
106 d. Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of microbiology in the
107 Philippines;
108 e. Administer oaths and issue Certificate of Registration;
109 f. Maintain a roster of microbiologists indicating therein the basic information about the
110 registered professionals;
111 g. Recommend measures necessary for the upgrading, enhancement, development and
112 growth of Microbiology in the Philippines;
113 h. Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of microbiology and adopt such measures
114 as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the profession and/or maintenance
115 of high professional, ethical and technical standards;
116 i. Investigate violations of set professional standards and adjudicate administrative and
117 other cases against erring registrants;
118 j. Issue, reinstate, suspend or revoke the Certificate of Registration for the Practice of
119 Microbiology;

120 k. Approve registration of microbiologists without examination, subject to review by the
121 Commission;

122 l. Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of microbiology for a specific
123 duration, and certification of recognition to Microbiologist for graduate degree,
124 outstanding researches, highly specialized training courses and accomplishments that
125 contribute to the enrichment of the profession;

126 m. Submit an annual report at the close of each fiscal year on the proceedings and
127 accomplishments of the Board during the year as well as any recommendations of the
128 same Commission with the end of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting
129 the practice of Microbiology in the Philippines. The policies and resolutions, rules and
130 regulations, orders, or decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to
131 the review and approval of the Commission:
132

133 *Provided*, That the decisions, resolutions, and orders rendered by the Board which are
134 interlocutory in an administrative case shall be subject to review on appeal.
135

136 **SEC. 6. *Qualifications of the Chairman and Members of the Board.*** - The Chairman
137 and Members of the Board shall at the time of appointment, possess the following
138 qualifications:
139

140 a. Must be a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines;

141 b. Must be of proven integrity and with high moral values as evidenced by his/her past
142 professional conduct and must not have been convicted of any offense;

143 c. Must be a holder of a bachelor's degree, preferably advanced degrees in
144 Microbiology or any related field with at least 24 units in Microbiology;

145 d. Must be a Diplomat or Fellow of the Philippine Academy of Microbiology and a
146 member of good standing of the Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc., who has
147 at least ten (10) years of practice in microbiology either in government or in any
148 private institution;

149 e. Not an investor, consultant or a person financially involved directly or indirectly in
150 any school, college, university or institution conferring an academic degree for
151 admission to the practice of microbiology or where review classes in preparation
152 for the licensure examination are being offered or conducted.
153

154 **SEC. 7. *Tenure of Office.*** - The Chairman and Members of the first appointed Board
155 shall serve the following terms:

- 156
- 157 a. one (1) Member as Chairman for three (3) years;
- 158 b. one (1) Member for two (2) years; and
- 159 c. one (1) Member for one (1) year. The Chairman and Members of the Board may be
160 reappointed for another term but in no case shall he/she serve continuously for more
161 than six (6) years. They shall take the proper oath of office prior to assumption of office.

162

163 **SEC. 8. *Meetings of the Board.*** - The Board shall hold annual regular meetings and
164 other such regular meetings at such times as the rules of the Board may provide but not less
165 than four times a year. Special meetings may also be held upon the call of the Chairman or
166 request by two (2) of its Members. Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given in the
167 manner prescribed by the rules of the Board.

168

169 **SEC. 9. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board.*** - The Chairman and Members
170 of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances equivalent to those being received by
171 the Chairman and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided
172 for in the General Appropriations Act.

173

174 **SEC. 10. *Vacancy and Removal of Board Members.*** - Any vacancy in the Board shall
175 be filled only for the remaining unexpired portion of the term. The Chairman or any member
176 of the Board may be suspended or removed from office by the President of the Republic of the
177 Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence,
178 malpractice, commission or tolerance of irregularities in any examination given by the Board,
179 unprofessional or unethical conduct, after due notice and hearing where his/her right to be
180 heard, to defend him/herself and to be assisted by counsel is respected in a proper
181 administrative investigation: *Provided,* That during the process of investigation the
182 Commission shall have the power to suspend such member under investigation. The
183 Commission shall appoint a temporary member to take his/her place. The Commission's
184 decision may be appealed within fifteen (15) days to the President of the Republic of the
185 Philippines whose decision shall be final and executory.

187 **SEC. 11. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of the Records, Secretariat and***
188 ***Support Services.*** - The Board shall be under the general supervision and administrative control
189 of the Commission. The Commission shall keep all records of the Board, including applications
190 for examination papers and results, minutes of deliberations, administrative cases and other
191 investigative cases involving microbiologists.

192
193 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide secretariat with
194 support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

195
196 **ARTICLE IV**
197 **EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**

198
199 **SEC. 12. *Licensure Examination.*** - Every applicant seeking to be registered and
200 licensed as Microbiologist shall undergo and pass a written technical examination to be given
201 by the Board at least once a year in such places and dates as the Commission may designate.

202
203 **SEC. 13. *Qualifications for Examination.*** - Any person applying for admission to the
204 licensure examination for Microbiologist shall establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- 205 a. He/she is a citizen of the Philippines;
206 b. He/she is of good moral character;
207 c. He/she has not been convicted by a competent court of any offense involving moral
208 turpitude; and
209 d. He/she has earned at least twenty-four (24) units in Microbiology and holds a
210 baccalaureate or post graduate degree in Microbiology or any related field.

211
212 **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** - The Board shall base the licensure examination on
213 six (6) subjects with the following weights:

- 214 a. General Microbiology (20%)
215 b. Microbial Physiology (20%)
216 c. Microbial Genetics (20%)
217 d. Microbial Ecology (15%)
218 e. Applied microbiology (Food, Industrial, and Medical Microbiology) (15%)
219 f. Philippine Microbiology Act of 2017, Code of Ethics, and History of PSM (10%)

221 **SEC. 15. Release of the Results of Examination.** - The Board and the Commission
222 shall correct and release the licensure examination results within fifteen (15) days after the said
223 examination.
224

225 **SEC. 16. Rating in Examination.** - An examinee shall be deemed to have successfully
226 passed the examination if he/she has obtained an average of at least seventy percent (70%);
227 Provided, That in no case should the rating in any subject be less than fifty percent (50%);
228 Provided, further, That an examinee who fails to obtain at least a 50% grade in any subject
229 shall retake the subject for a maximum of three (3) times; Provided, finally. That if the grade
230 on the third retake is still below 50%, he/she will then be required to retake all six (6) subjects.
231

232 **SEC. 17. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration.** - A Certificate of Registration
233 shall be issued to examinees who pass the licensure examination for Microbiology. The
234 Certificate of Registration shall have the signature of the Chairman of the Commission and the
235 Members of the Board, stamped with the official seal, indicating that the person named therein
236 is entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto.
237

238 This Certificate shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or
239 revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
240

241 A Certificate of Registration valid for three (3) years, duly signed by the Chairman of
242 the Commission, bearing the registration number, date of issuance, and expiry date, shall
243 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the required registration fee. This Certificate
244 of Registration shall serve as evidence that the microbiologist can lawfully practice his/her
245 profession until the expiration of its validity.
246

247 **SEC. 18. Certification Without Examination.** - The Board shall issue a Certificate of
248 Registration without the necessity of undergoing and passing the licensure examination for
249 Microbiology, to any applicant who, together with his/her application for registration shall
250 present evidence or proof satisfactory to the Board that:

- 251 a. He/she is a Filipino citizen;
- 252 b. He/she is a person of good moral character;
- 253 c. He/she is a member of good standing of the Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc.;

- 254 d. He/she is a Diplomat or Fellow of the Philippine Academy of Microbiology, or is
255 accredited by the Philippine Academy of Microbiology as Registered or Specialist
256 microbiologist; or
257 e. He/she has been granted a doctorate in Microbiology from a Philippine or foreign
258 graduate institution.

259
260 **SEC. 19. *Refusal to Register.*** - The Board shall refuse to issue the Certificate of
261 Registration to any person who has been convicted by a Court of competent jurisdiction of any
262 crime involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct
263 after due investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The record
264 of refusal shall be set forth in writing and shall be incorporated with the records of the Board.

265
266 **SEC. 20. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration.*** - The Board
267 may, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned, suspend or permanently
268 revoke the practitioner's Certificate of Registration, thereby inhibiting him/her from the
269 practice of the profession for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation
270 of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations or upon conviction for the
271 commission of any crime.

272
273 **SEC. 21. *Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificate of Registration.*** -
274 The Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate and
275 reissue any suspended Certificate of Registration, or replace lost, destroyed or mutilated
276 documents subject to the rules implemented by the Board.

277
278 **SEC. 22. *Renewal of Certificate of Registration.*** - The Certificate of Registration shall
279 be renewed every three (3) years upon satisfying the requirements imposed by the Board, such
280 as compliance with a continuing education program and payment of the corresponding fees as
281 may be prescribed by the Board in accordance with the schedule of fees fixed by the
282 Commission.

283
284 **SEC. 23. *Roster of Microbiologists.*** - The Board shall keep a roster of duly registered
285 and licensed microbiologists, indicating their names, registration numbers, nature of work, and
286 other pertinent information. The Board shall regularly update such roster and make it available
287 to all interested parties.

SEC. 24. Practice of Microbiology in Other Professions Registered with the Professional Regulatory Commission. - Other professionals registered with the Philippine Regulatory Commission where microbiology is an essential component of their practice such as Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Medical Technologist who have specialization in microbiology may continue to practice without registering under this Act.

SEC. 25. Issuance of Temporary or Special Permits. - Without prejudice to the existing laws on the practice of professions by foreigners in the Philippines, the following may be issued temporary or special permits to practice Microbiology in the Philippines:

- a. Foreign registered and/or licensed Microbiologist or recognized as experts in microbiology, called in by the Philippine government or private institutions for consultation or for any specific activity; and
- b. Foreign registered and/or licensed Microbiologist who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of specialization and who are either directly hired or employed as professors/lecturers/instructors in Microbiology by Philippine schools, colleges, universities or research institutions: *Provided*, That their practice of the profession shall be limited to the particular work for which they have been commissioned; *Provided*, *further*, That the said temporary or special permit shall be valid only for one (1) year subject to renewal every year.

ARTICLE V

PRACTICE OF MICROBIOLOGY

SEC. 26. Prohibitions and Limitations in the Practice of Microbiology. - No person shall offer him/herself in the Philippines as a microbiologist, or make use of any word, letter, figure or sign whatsoever, tending to convey the impression that he/she is a microbiologist, or advertise that he/she is qualified to perform the work as such, without holding a valid Certificate of Registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act, except as provided under Sections 24 and 25 hereof.

SEC. 27. Professional Oath. - All successful candidates in the examination or registration shall be required to take a professional oath at such place and time as the Board

may schedule or before any member of the Board or any person duly authorized by the Commission, prior to the practice of the profession.

SEC. 28. Code of Ethics. - The Board shall adopt the Code of Ethics for Microbiology promulgated by the Philippine Academy of Microbiology of the Philippine Society for Microbiology, Inc.

SEC 29. Foreign Reciprocity. - No foreign Microbiologist shall be admitted to the examination and be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country in which he/she is a citizen specifically permits Filipino microbiologists to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the citizens of such foreign state or country.

ARTICLE VI MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 30. Funding Provisions. - The savings from any item of appropriations of the Professional Regulatory Commission shall be utilized for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 31. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations, including the Code of Ethics for Microbiologist, to carry out the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective thirty (30) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) major newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 32. Penal Provisions. - Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations shall, upon conviction, be imposed with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than five (5) years, or both at the discretion of the Court.

353 **SEC. 33. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
354 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
355 force and effect.

356
357 **SEC. 34. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
358 or parts thereof which are in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
359 modified accordingly.

360
361 **SEC. 35. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
362 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

363
364 *Approved,*