

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10727**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Physical therapy is concerned with identifying and maximizing quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation and rehabilitation.¹ More often than not, it is confused to be identical with occupational therapy. Although both therapies focus on improving a patient's quality of life, they serve distinct purposes.

Like any other profession, physical therapy is an established and regulated profession, with specific professional aspects of clinical practice and education, indicative of diversity in social, economic, cultural, and political contexts² which warrants its recognition as a distinct and separate occupation.

Following the enactment of Republic Act No. 11241 (R.A. No. 11241), otherwise known as "The Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018," which formally recognized Occupational Therapy as an independent medical profession from Physical Therapy, along with developments in the standards of practice of Physical Therapy and in the field of healthcare, both locally and internationally, there is a need to revise and refurbish the regulatory framework of the Physical Therapy profession.

This measure does not only establish a modern and comprehensive regulatory framework governing registration, licensing, and practice of physical therapy, but also, and most importantly, recognize the expanding role and significance of physical therapists in contemporary healthcare.

By strengthening the standards for education, licensure, and continuing professional development, this measure ensures that physical therapists are equipped with the competencies necessary to meet the evolving demands of patient care. Moreover, it affirms the vital contribution of physical therapists not only in rehabilitation but also in injury prevention, chronic

¹"The Profession." *Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc.*, Philippine Physical Therapy Association, Inc., www.philpta.org/the-profession. Accessed 27 July 2026.

² *id.*

disease management, and the promotion of overall wellness. In doing so, this measure paves the way for a more responsive and patient-centered healthcare system, one that fully recognizes and harnesses the expertise of physical therapists as indispensable partners in the delivery of quality health services.

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



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

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

TITLE I
CHAPTER 1
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “**Philippine Physical Therapy Regulation Law.**”

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

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- (a) ***Physical Therapy***, also known as physiotherapy, refers to a health professional concerned with providing relevant services to individuals and populations to develop, maintain, and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. Such services are provided in circumstances where movement and function are threatened by aging, injury, pain, diseases, disorders, conditions, or environmental functions, and with the understanding that functional

movement is central to what it means to be healthy; and

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

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

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

Physical therapists are guided by the universal principles of ethics and professional ethics as expressed in their own code of ethics.

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

TITLE II
CHAPTER 1
THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD
OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

SECTION 5. *Creation and Composition of the Members of the Board.* - There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy (PRB of PT), hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision of the PRC, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members appointed by the President of the Philippines within six (6) months from the enactment of this Act and upon the recommendation of the Commission from among physical therapists recognized and nominated by the accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO) of physical therapists, academe, and other professional organizations.

SECTION 6. *Powers and Functions of the Members of the Board.* - The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- (b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
- (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- (d) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- (e) Maintain a roster of physical therapists indicating therein the basic information about the registered professionals;
- (f) Issue, reinstate, suspend, or cancel the registration and license, or special permits for the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
- (g) Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;
- (h) Work in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or its equivalent, to ensure that all educational institutions offering physical therapy education comply with the prescribed

policies, standards, and guidelines;

- (i) Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists, as endorsed by the AIPOs;
- (j) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, code of ethics, and ethical standards of practice;
- (k) Issue *subpoena duces tecum* or *subpoena ad testificandum*, or both, to ensure the appearance of witnesses, and the production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That the decision of the Board shall become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision unless appealed to the Commission;
- (l) Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;
- (m) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score, and rate the examination papers, and submit the results to the Commission within the period provided for in their rules;
- (n) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- (o) Adopt a program for the full computerization or digitalization of the licensure examination;
- (p) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and
- (q) Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

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

SECTION 7. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* - The members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- (a) Has resided in the Philippines for at least five (5) years;
- (b) Is a duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid certificate of registration and professional license;
- (c) Has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for at least ten (10) years, with the last 5 years as a continuous period immediately preceding the appointment;
- (d) Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in one professional practice as a physical therapist;
- (e) Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving moral turpitude; and
- (f) Has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any school, college, university, or educational institution conferring an academic degree for admission to the practice of physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or administration thereof.

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

A successor to a member whose term of office has expired shall be appointed for the full term of three (3) years from the date of expiration of terms of office from which the predecessor was appointed.

SECTION 9. *Removal of the Members of the Board.* - Any member of the Board, may, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after due process of law and investigation conducted by the Commission, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulating or rigging of the licensure examination results, disclosure of

secret and confidential information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examinations, or tampering of grades.

SECTION 10. *Compensation and Allowances of the Members of the Board.* - The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission, as provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat, and Support Services.* - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision 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 physical therapists, shall be kept by the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Annual Report.* - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the Commission, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year, and recommending measures to be adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and improving conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

CHAPTER 2

LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SECTION 13. *Examination Required.* - All applicants for registration for the practice of physical therapy shall be required to undergo a licensure examination to be given by the Board in such places and dates as the Commission may designate, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the same.

SECTION 14. *Qualifications for Examinations.* - An applicant for the licensure examination for physical therapists shall establish, to the satisfaction of the Board, that the following qualifications are met:

- (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has a formal reciprocity agreement with the Philippines;

- (b) Is of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- (c) A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree or its equivalent degree as determined by the Board from a school, college, or university in the Philippines or abroad whose physical therapy program is recognized by the CHED.

SECTION 15. *Scope of Examination.* - The scope of examination shall, after the necessary stakeholder consultation, be determined by the Board, subject to approval of the Commission. The Board shall take into consideration the minimum curriculum standards for physical therapy, the current scope of practice, and the latest developments in the profession, locally and globally, that affect the practice and delivery of physical therapy services in the country.

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

SECTION 17. *Report of Ratings.* - The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless extended for just cause.

SECTION 18. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional License, and Professional Identification Card.* - A certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to examinees who pass the licensure examination for physical therapists, subject to payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Members of the Board, stamped with the official seal of the Commission and the Board respectively, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the physical therapy profession, with all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto. The said certificate of registration shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended, or revoked in accordance with this Act.

A professional identification card bearing the registration number, and dates of issuance and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of the prescribed fees.

SECTION 19. *Physical Therapist Registered Philippines (PTRP).* - The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist 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 20. *Refusal to Register.* - The Board shall refuse to register any successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonest 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 21. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and Special Permit.* - The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the practitioner's Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card of physical therapist; or be suspended from the practice of the profession; or cancel the special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 29 or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical therapists.

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

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

SECTION 24. *Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.* - All physical therapists shall be required to indicate on the document they sign, use, or issue in connection with the practice of their profession, their registration, or professional license number and date of

issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license, and the professional tax receipt number issued to them.

SECTION 25. *Roster of Physical Therapists.* - The Board shall prepare, update, and maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the names of each registered physical therapist, their residence and office addresses, the date of registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the Board may deem pertinent.

SECTION 26. *Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.* - A special temporary permit may be issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the AIPO of physical therapists, subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of the prescribed fee to the following persons:

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

The special temporary permit shall include these limitations and conditions: validity 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, therapy center, school, college, or university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this particular section.

CHAPTER 3

PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

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

SECTION 28. *Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy.* - No person shall practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical therapist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the 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.

SECTION 29. *Prohibited Acts.* - No person shall:

- (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 or special permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
- (b) Represent to be a physical therapist during the time his/her professional license is not valid or that his/her certificate of registration has been suspended;
- (c) Allow anybody to use his/her certificate of registration and/or professional license and/or temporary or special permit as a physical therapist to enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;
- (d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration, professional license, or temporary or 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.

TITLE III
CHAPTER 1
PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 30. *Penal Provisions.* - Any violation of this Act, including the violations of its implementing rules and regulations, be punished with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) nor more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 31. *Appropriations.* - 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 32. *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 32. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical therapists, in coordination with other relevant and appropriate government agencies as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 33. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 34. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, proclamations, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent or in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 35. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,