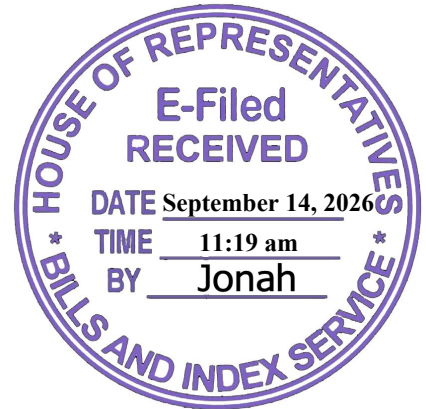


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11285**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a more comprehensive nursing education framework that formally recognizes both basic and advanced nursing education programs. It amends Republic Act (RA) No. 9173, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Nursing Act of 2002*", and integrates master's and doctoral degree pathways into the nursing education system. It enhances faculty qualification standards and aligns the preparation of Filipino nurses with the evolving demands of healthcare delivery and higher education.

The Philippine healthcare system continues to face increasing demand for highly trained nursing professionals capable of assuming advanced clinical, research, academic, and leadership roles. According to the World Health Organization¹, nurses constitute the largest segment of the global health workforce. Yet, many countries continue to experience shortages of highly skilled nursing professionals capable of delivering specialized care and strengthening health systems. Nursing students are presented with limited opportunities for structured career progression and constrains the country's capacity to expand nursing research, improve evidence-based practice, and strengthen healthcare leadership.

The proposed measure establishes a legal framework for advanced nursing programs that cultivate expertise in clinical practice, research, health policy, leadership, and nursing education, while raising qualification standards for faculty engaged in graduate instruction. It likewise institutionalizes community-oriented learning and research that respond to the healthcare needs of underserved and vulnerable populations. These reforms require legislative action because they redefine the structure of nursing education under Republic Act No. 9173 and establish enduring national standards that cannot be achieved through administrative issuances alone.

Filipino nurses have long carried the country's reputation for excellence in

¹ World Health Organization. (2025). *State of the world's nursing 2025: Investing in education, jobs, leadership and service delivery*. World Health Organization. Accessed from: <https://www.who.int/publications/b/78362>. Accessed on July 25, 2026.

healthcare through their competence and dedication to patients both locally and around the world. Providing them with opportunities for advanced professional education will develop a new generation of nurse leaders, researchers, educators, and healthcare innovators who can strengthen patient care, contribute to evidence-based health policies, and respond effectively to emerging public health challenges.

More importantly, the measure creates pathways for highly skilled nurses to further their careers within the country, allowing their expertise and experience to directly benefit Filipino communities, particularly those who remain underserved. Supporting advanced nursing education is therefore not only an investment in the nursing profession but also a commitment to building a stronger, more resilient, and more responsive healthcare system for future generations.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **11285**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9173, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002”, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section. 1. Section 25, Article V of Republic Act (RA) No. 9173, otherwise known as the “*Philippine Nursing Act of 2002*”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. *Nursing Education Program.* – The nursing education [program shall provide sound general professional foundation for the practice of nursing.] **REFERS TO THE FORMAL LEARNING AND TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF NURSING PROVIDED BY COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DULY RECOGNIZED AND ACCREDITED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED). THE SCIENCE OF NURSING INCLUDES THE FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES IN THE PHYSICAL CARE OF PATIENTS, AND A COMBINATION OF DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES THAT BOTH ACCELERATE THE PATIENT’S RETURN TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS, AND NORMALCY OF LIFE, AND HELP MAINTAIN IT.**

“[The learning experiences shall adhere strictly to specific requirements embodied in the prescribed curriculum as promulgated by the Commission on Higher Education’s policies and standards of nursing education.] **THE NURSING EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES SHALL CONSIST OF BASIC AND ADVANCED PROGRAMS WHEREBY THE FORMER IS COMPLETED THROUGH A FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND THE LATTER, THROUGH A MASTER’S DEGREE AND A POST-DOCTORAL DEGREE. THE AFOREMENTIONED LEVELS**

OF EDUCATION IN NURSING SHALL BE INSTITUTED, MANAGED, AND/OR IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1994".

SEC. 2. A new Section 26 shall be inserted after the amended Section 25 of the same Act to read as follows:

"SEC. 26. BASIC NURSING EDUCATION. - THE BASIC NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL CONSIST OF NO LESS THAN FOUR (4) YEARS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES THAT WILL EQUIP STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND OVERALL COMPETENCY FOR ENTRY-LEVEL NURSING PRACTICE OF REPUTABLE QUALITY.

"ADMISSION TO THE BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING SHALL REQUIRE A PASSING SCORE IN A NATIONAL NURSING ADMISSION TEST, AS SET BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

"THE CURRICULUM FOR BASIC NURSING EDUCATION SHOULD INCLUDE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND IMMERSION FOCUSING ON THE MARGINALIZED SECTORS SUCH AS WOMEN, CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE URBAN AND RURAL POOR, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AMONG OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS OF PERSONS."

SEC. 3. A new Section 27 shall be inserted after the new Section 26 of the same Act to read as follows:

"SEC. 27. ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION. - THERE SHALL BE AN ADVANCE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE FORM OF A MASTER'S, AS WELL AS OF A POST-DOCTORAL DEGREE IN NURSING.

"THE ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE ADVANCED THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT SKILLS, ROLE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE IN A SELECTED SPECIALIZATION, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRITIQUE AND APPLY NURSING THEORY AND RESEARCH AS A SCIENTIFIC BASE FOR NURSING PRACTICE. THE ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION CURRICULA SHALL INCLUDE CORE COURSES SUCH AS HEALTH ASSESSMENT, HEALTH PROMOTION, COMMUNITY/PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY, THEORY AND ETHICS, AS WELL AS RESEARCH. SPECIALTY, LEADERSHIP, AND

ELECTIVE COURSES SHALL ALSO BE INTEGRATED GRADUALLY IN THEIR CURRICULUM.

“THE PHD PROGRAM SHALL PREPARE THE POST-GRADUATE STUDENT TO DEVELOP AND CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT ADVANCES THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATION OF NURSING PRACTICE AND HEALTHCARE DELIVERY, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY HEALTH. THE PROGRAM SHALL BE DESIGNED TO PREPARE NURSES FOR CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, IN THE ACADEME OR IN ESSENTIAL AND RELEVANT ROLES IN GOVERNMENT WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF USING AND UTILIZING SUCH KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE MARGINALIZED SECTORS SUCH AS WOMEN, CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND THE URBAN AND RURAL POOR, AMONG OTHERS.”

SEC. 4. Section 26 of the same Act shall be renumbered as Section 28.

SEC. 5. Section 27 of the same Act shall be renumbered as Section 28, and be amended to read as follows:

SEC. [27] **28. *Qualifications of the Faculty.*** - [A member of the faculty in a college of nursing teaching professional courses must:] **(1) IN THE BASIC/UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSING, THE FACULTY MEMBER MUST:**

“(a) Be a registered nurse in the Philippines;

“(b) Have at least one (1) year of clinical practice in a field of specialization;

“(c) Be a member of good standing in the accredited professional organization of nurses; and

“(d) Be a holder of a master’s degree in nursing, education, or other allied medical and health sciences conferred by a college or university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

In addition to the aforementioned qualifications, the dean of a college must have a master's degree in nursing. He/she must have at least five (5) years of experience in nursing.

“(2) IN THE ADVANCED/GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSING, THE FACULTY MEMBER MUST:

**“(A) POSSESS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS MENTIONED
IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**“(B) BE A HOLDER OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN
NURSING CONFERRED BY A COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR
HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION DULY RECOGNIZED BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

SEC. 6. Section 28 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 30, and all succeeding Sections of this Act shall be renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,