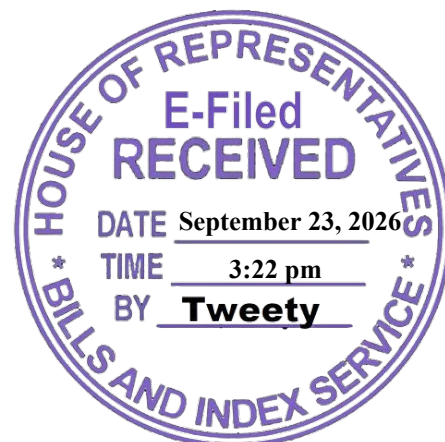




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11455

Introduced by Representative Jernie Jett V. Nisay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When a Filipino seeks psychological help, the person should be able to find a professional who is properly trained for the kind of help that is needed. This need becomes more pressing in light of the limited number of mental health professionals in the country. The World Health Organization's Mental Health Atlas 2024 reports only 0.3 psychologists per 100,000 population, or approximately 3 psychologists for every 1,000,000 Filipinos.

With so few professionals available, it becomes even more important that the psychology profession is properly structured and that available professionals are able to perform the functions for which they are trained.

Republic Act No. 10029, or the Philippine Psychology Act of 2009, established the regulation of psychologists and psychometricians. Now, this proposed measure seeks to update this framework by replacing the psychometrician classification with the Registered Psychology Associate, giving it a broader and clearly defined scope of practice, while reserving specialized clinical assessment and intervention for Registered Psychologists.

The proposed measure also recognizes that psychology professionals should have a rightful place in the institutions where their services are needed. It mandates the creation of plantilla positions for Registered Psychologists and Registered Psychology Associates in local government units, hospitals, educational institutions, and workplaces, with appropriate job descriptions, ranks, and salary grades that reflect the training, responsibilities, and value of their work.

A stronger psychology profession means better protection for the people who need help and better support for those who provide it.

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

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REP. JERNIE JETT V. NISAY
Pusong Pinoy Partylist



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10029, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE “PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGY ACT OF 2009”,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the *"Philippine Psychology Professionalization Act"*.

ARTICLE II
STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. The State recognizes that psychologists have an important role in nation-building and development. It also acknowledges the diverse specializations of psychologists and the distinct functions specific to the varied specializations, including those that do not involve the professional practice of psychology or the delivery of psychological services. It further acknowledges the need to protect the public by preventing unqualified individuals from engaging in psychological practice or offering psychological services. Hence, it shall nurture competent, upright, and diligent registered professional psychologists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent and globally competitive through the administration of inviolable, effective, and credible licensure examinations and the imposition and promotion of regulatory measures, programs, and activities that enhance their professional growth and well-being.

ARTICLE III
DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2) Psychological interventions such as psychological counseling, psychotherapy, psychosocial support, psychological coaching, psychological debriefing, group therapy, and all other psychological

1 interventions for clinical populations involving the application of
2 psychological principles to improve the psychological functioning of
3 individuals, families, groups, and organizations. These interventions also
4 develop, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the psychological
5 programs for individuals or groups;

6 3) Supervision of the practices mentioned above;

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

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

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

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

20 1) Psychological screening on risk assessment and behavioral
21 assessment;

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

24 3) Intake interviews for non-clinical populations;

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

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

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

30 7) Psychoeducation for mental health literacy;

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

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

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

11) Assistance for the registered psychologist in psychological assessment and interventions for clinical populations; and

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

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

ARTICLE IV

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

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

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

a) A natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;

b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;

c) Of good moral character;

d) A holder of a doctorate in psychology conferred by a university, college, or school in the Philippines or abroad duly recognized or accredited by the CHED;

e) Have at least ten (10) years of practice in psychology in a duly recognized institution, clinic, or center, as well as at least five (5) years of teaching experience in the field of psychology;

f) A registered psychologist, without the requirement of separate registration as registered psychology associate, except in the case of the first members of the Board who shall automatically be conferred a valid certificate of registration and

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

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

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

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

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

16 Each member of the Board may be reappointed for one (1) full term of three (3)
17 years only.

18 The member serving the last year of their term shall automatically become the
19 chairperson of the Board and shall not be able to succeed themselves immediately after
20 the expiration of the term of office so that the term of one member shall be due to expire
21 every year: Provided, however, That all appointments for chairperson shall be approved
22 by the President of the Philippines: Provided further, That an appointment for any
23 existing vacancy or vacancies shall be made within one month from the time the
24 vacancy occurred and shall be for the unexpired portion of the term only.

25 Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office before
26 the performance of duties.

27 **SEC. 7. Powers and Duties.** The Board shall have the following powers and
28 duties:

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

33 b) Supervise and monitor the registration, licensure, and practice of registered
34 psychologists and registered psychology associates in the Philippines;

35 c) Administer oaths of profession in connection with the administration of this
36 Act;

1 d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate, upon compliance with due process and
2 requirements, the certificate of registration and professional identification card
3 for registered psychologist and registered psychology associate;

4 e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

5 f) Monitor the conditions and circumstances affecting the practice of psychology
6 in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed lawful and
7 proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical, and
8 technical standards of the profession after thorough and extensive consultations
9 with stakeholders, such as the AIPO and its practice divisions, CHED, higher
10 educational institutions (HEIs), chartered and autonomous from CHED, and
11 among others;

12 g) Issue permits and exercise visitorial powers over institutions, associations,
13 corporations, and partnerships to verify that the persons practicing psychology
14 therein are registered psychologists and registered psychology associates with
15 valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards;

16 h) Assist the PRC in the formulation and implementation of the guidelines on
17 continuing professional education for registered psychologists and registered
18 psychology associates;

19 i) Ensure that all educational institutions under CHED's purview that offer the
20 course or program in psychology comply with the policies, standards, and
21 requirements strictly prescribed by the CHED for such course or program,
22 especially in the areas of administration, curriculum, faculty, library, and facilities;

23 j) Prepare, adopt, issue, and amend the syllabi for the licensure examination
24 subjects after thorough consultations with stakeholders, such as the AIPO,
25 CHED, and HEIs classified as autonomous by CHED and by charter. This
26 function does not extend to any curricular matters beyond the syllabi for the
27 licensure examination subjects;

28 k) Investigate and, when warranted, hear administrative cases involving
29 violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations as hereinafter
30 promulgated, and any applicable code of ethics or code of professional
31 standards. For this purpose, it may issue subpoena ad testificandum and
32 subpoena duces tecum to secure the appearances of witnesses and the
33 production of documents in connection therewith: Provided, That the Board's
34 decision, resolution, or orders rendered in administrative cases shall be subject
35 to review only on appeal; and

36 l) Perform such other functions and duties as may be lawfully delegated, or as it
37 may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act, and going through
38 extensive consultation with various stakeholders, such as the AIPO, CHED,
39 other HEIs classified as autonomous by CHED and by charter.

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

SEC. 9. Removal or Suspension of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Psychology. Any member of the Board in observance of due process and completion of the proper investigation may be suspended or removed by the President from office upon the recommendation of the PRC for causes such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, behavior unbecoming of a psychology professional, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, any act of graft and corruption, and participation in the manipulation of or any dishonesty relative to the licensure examinations or the registration process.

SEC.10. Administrative Supervision over the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat, and Support Services. The Board shall be under the administrative supervision and control of the PRC. All records of the Board, including documents relative to the licensure examinations as well as administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board, shall be kept in the custody of the PRC. The PRC shall designate the secretary of the Board and provide the secretariat with necessary support services to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

ARTICLE V

LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

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

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

- a) Must be a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident, or a citizen of a foreign State, which extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
- b) Must be at least a master's degree holder in psychology conferred by a university, college, or school in the Philippines or abroad accredited by the CHED and has obtained sufficient credits for the subjects covered in the examinations;
- c) Must have undergone a minimum of two hundred (200) hours of supervised practicum or clinical experience pertinent to the services delineated in Section 3 (d) of this Act, which shall be conducted under the supervision and guidance of a registered psychologist or another duly licensed mental health professional;

1 d) Must be of good moral character; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 d) Must be of good moral character; and

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

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

25 a) Advanced Theories of Personality

26 b) Advanced Abnormal Psychology

27 c) Advanced Psychological Assessment

28 d) Counseling and Psychotherapy

29 **SEC. 15. Examination Subjects for Registered Psychology Associates.** The
30 licensure examinations for registered associate psychologists shall cover the following
31 subjects or their respective equivalent course titles:

32 a) Developmental Psychology

33 b) Abnormal Psychology

1 c) Work and Organizational Psychology

2 d) Psychological Assessment

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

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

16 a) Obtained a doctoral degree in psychology and had accumulated three (3)
17 years of work experience in the practice of psychology; or

18 b) Obtained a master's degree in psychology and accumulated a minimum of
19 five (5) years of work experience in the practice of psychology.

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

30 **SEC.18. Ratings in the Examination.** To qualify as having passed the licensure
31 examination for registered psychologists and registered psychology associates, a
32 candidate must have obtained a weighted general average of at least seventy-five
33 percent (75%) for all subjects, with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given
34 subject. An examinee who obtains a weighted general average of 75% or higher but
35 obtains a rating below 60% in any given subject may retake such subjects within the
36 next two (2) years, and upon obtaining a rating of at least 75% in each such subject,
37 shall then be deemed to have passed the licensure examination.

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

4 **ARTICLE VI**
5 **REGISTRATION**

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

11 **SEC. 21. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification**
12 **Card.** A certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to
13 all successful examinees and registrants without examination upon compliance with all
14 the legal requirements, including payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The certificate
15 of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the PRC and members of
16 the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession
17 with all the privileges and responsibilities appurtenant thereto. The certificate shall
18 remain in full force and effect until suspended in accordance with this Act. A
19 professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance, and
20 validity term of three (3) years, duly signed by the Chairperson of the PRC, shall likewise
21 be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed registration fee. Upon
22 expiration of the professional identification card, the registered psychologist and
23 registered psychology associate may renew the same upon proof of compliance with
24 continuing education requirements prescribed by the Board or PRC.

25 **SEC. 22. Disclosure of Registration Information.** The registered psychologist or
26 registered psychology associate shall indicate the registration and professional
27 identification card number, date of issuance, duration of validity, and professional tax
28 receipt number on each document signed, used, or issued in connection with the
29 practice of the profession.

30 **SEC. 23. Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional**
31 **Identification Card.** The Board shall not register nor issue a certificate of registration
32 or professional identification card to any person convicted of a criminal offense involving
33 moral turpitude, has been found guilty by a judicial or other duly constituted tribunal of
34 immoral or dishonorable conduct, or has been medically diagnosed to be of unsound
35 mind. In the event of non-issuance of the certificate for any reason, the Board shall
36 furnish the applicant a written statement stating the reasons for such denial, which shall
37 be incorporated into the records of the Board.

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

1 a) Admits Filipino citizens to the practice of psychology without the need for
2 registration and issuance of a certificate of registration and professional
3 identification card;

4 b) Allows Filipino citizens to practice psychology without restriction; or

5 c) Allows Filipino citizens to practice after an examination on strict and absolute
6 equality with nationals of said State.

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

10 a) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign
11 States are internationally acknowledged specialists or outstanding experts in
12 psychology: Provided, That their services are essential and necessary either due
13 to the lack or inadequacy of available local specialists or experts or in recognition
14 of their potential contribution to the promotion and advancement of the practice
15 of psychology through transfer of technology;

16 b) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign
17 States whose services shall be free and offered exclusively to indigent patients
18 in a particular hospital, center, or clinic; and

19 c) Registered psychologists or registered psychology associates from foreign
20 States are employed as exchange professors to teach psychology in schools,
21 colleges, and universities offering psychology courses or programs.

22 The special temporary permit shall detail its conditions, which include an effectivity
23 period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal, and the specific place of
24 practice, such as a clinic, hospital, center, school, college, or university offering
25 psychology. The Board shall prescribe rules and regulations on the implementation of
26 this particular section, subject to the approval of the PRC.

27 **SEC. 26. Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Registration and**
28 **Professional Identification Card or Cancellation of a Special or Temporary Permit.**

29 The Board shall have the power, after notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the
30 certificate of registration and professional identification card or to cancel the special
31 temporary permit granted under this Act on any ground provided in Section 34 of this
32 Act or any of the instances hereunder:

33 a) Procurement of a certificate of registration or professional identification card and
34 special temporary permit by fraud or deceit;

35 b) Allowing an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the profession by using
36 one's certificate of registration or professional identification card and special temporary
37 permit;

- 1 c) f) Violating or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this Act, its implementing
2 rules and regulations, the code of ethics or code of professional standards promulgated
3 hereinafter by the Board;
- 4 d) Manifest physical or mental incompetence to render psychological services with
5 reasonable skill and safety to the clients or patients;
- 6 e) Professional misconduct or negligence in the performance of duties as a registered
7 psychologist or a registered psychology associate; and
- 8 f) Engaging in the practice of the profession during the period of the suspension.

9 **SEC. 27. Reinstatement.** A registered psychologist or registered psychology
10 associate whose certificate of registration has been revoked may apply to the Board for
11 reinstatement at any time after two (2) years from the date of revocation of said
12 certificate. The application shall be in writing and conform to the Board's requirements.
13 No certificate of registration, professional identification card, or special temporary permit
14 shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good cause exists to warrant
15 such reinstatement. Issuance of a new certificate of registration, professional
16 identification card, and special temporary permit in lieu of the one lost, destroyed, or
17 mutilated shall be subject to applicable rules prescribed by the PRC.

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

23 **SEC. 29. Rights of the Respondent.** The respondent, a registered psychologist or
24 registered psychology associate, shall have the right to be represented by counsel at
25 all stages of the proceedings and to the speedy disposition of their case. They shall
26 have the right to confront witnesses against them and other rights guaranteed by the
27 Constitution.

28 **ARTICLE VII**

29 **PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONALS IN GOVERNMENT**

30 **SEC. 30. Creation of Plantilla Positions for Registered Psychology Associates**
31 **and Registered Psychologists.** The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is mandated to
32 create the position of registered psychologists and registered psychology associates in
33 the Index of Occupational Services, Occupational Groups, Classes, and Salary Grades
34 under the Medicine and Health Services Occupational Group. The Department of
35 Budget and Management (DBM) shall determine the appropriate salary grade based on
36 the requirements of RA No. 6758 and Joint Congress Resolution No. 4,s.2029. The
37 CSC and DBM shall consult with stakeholders in psychology practice, including the
38 AIPO and its practice divisions, to understand the nature and complexity of
39 psychological practice and to be guided in determining appropriate job descriptions,

1 ranks and salary grades that represent fair and just compensation. Pursuant to
2 Chapters 4 and 5 of RA 11036, otherwise known as the "Mental Health Act," the
3 following are mandated to create plantilla positions for registered psychology
4 associates and registered psychologists based on a thorough assessment of workload
5 demands, service requirements, and organizational objectives:

6 a) Local government units (LGU) at the city, municipal, and barangay levels;

7 b) Regional, provincial, and tertiary hospitals, including private hospitals
8 rendering service to paying patients;

9 c) All public and private educational institutions, such as schools, colleges,
10 universities, and technical schools; and d) All workplaces.

11 **ARTICLE VII**

12 **PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION**

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

21 **SEC. 32. Integration of the Profession.** The profession shall hereinafter be
22 integrated into one national organization of registered psychologists and registered
23 psychology associates, which shall be recognized and accredited by the Board, subject
24 to the approval of the PRC. A registered psychologist or registered psychology
25 associate shall automatically become a member of said organization, receive the
26 benefits and privileges, and perform all responsibilities and obligations appurtenant
27 upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not be a
28 bar to membership in any other association of registered psychologists or registered
29 psychology associates.

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

34 **ARTICLE IX**

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

36 **SEC. 34. Prohibited Acts.**

37 a) No person shall:

1) Engage in the professional practice of psychology nor represent themselves as a registered psychologist or registered psychology associate without a valid certificate of registration, valid professional identification card, and a valid special temporary permit granted by the Board under this Act;

2) Represent oneself to be a licensed and authorized registered psychologist or registered psychology associate during the time that the certificate of registration or special temporary permit has been suspended or revoked or the professional identification card expired;

3) Allow any other person to use the certificate of registration and professional identification card and special temporary permit for any purpose, regardless of whether such enables the unqualified individual to engage in the practice of psychology;

4) Use, exhibit, or misrepresent as the owner of the certificate of registration or professional identification card or special temporary permit of another; and

5) Give any false, inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete information to the Board to obtain a certificate of registration, professional identification card, and special temporary permit.

6) No corporation, partnership, association, or entity shall operate a psychology office, center or clinic, or otherwise engage in the practice of psychology that involves clinical populations within its premises without being headed by a registered psychologist with at least three (3) years of clinical experience.

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

SEC. 35. Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years or a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

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

SEC. 37. Enforcement. It shall be the duty of all duly constituted law enforcement agencies and officers of national, provincial, city, or municipal governments to uphold and enforce the provisions of this Act and to investigate and prosecute or cause the investigation and prosecution of any person violating the same.

ARTICLE X
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

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

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

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

SEC. 41. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

Approved,