

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session

04 JUN 30 P8:16

SENATE

S. No. 605

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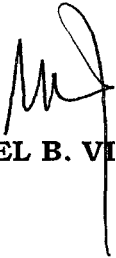
INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is sad to note that amidst the advances in health and technology there are still some sectors of society that do not have access to oral and dental health care. In rural areas especially, with only one or two dentists taking care of the people's oral hygiene in barangay health centers, it just not enough.

Consistent with the State policy to provide basic health services to the underprivileged, sick and elderly, this bill seeks to provide free dental services in rural areas. For this purpose, graduates of dental schools who have taken the licensure exam shall render free dental services, while waiting for their licenses.

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


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL DENTISTS TO GIVE FREE DENTAL SERVICES IN RURAL
AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 4419 ALSO KNOWN AS THE
PHILIPPINE DENTAL ACT OF 1965, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 2, Article II of RA 4419 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

“SECTION 2. Objectives - This Act provides for:

- a. The regulation, control, and supervision of the practice of dentistry in the Philippines;
- b. The giving of licensure examinations to graduates of recognized dental schools for the purpose;
- c. The regulation and standardization of dental education;
- d. The promotion and development of dental research in the country; [and]
- e. THE CONDUCTING OF FREE DENTAL SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS AS ANOTHER PRE-REQUISITE FOR DENTISTRY GRADUATES, IN ADDITION TO SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION; AND,
- f. The stipulation of penalties for infractions or violations of this Act.”

SECTION 2. Section 9 is amended as follows:

“SECTION 9. Powers Vested in Board. - The Board of Dental Examiners is vested with authority, conformably with the provisions of this Act, to issue, suspend or revoke certificates of registration for the practice of dentistry, or to reissue the same, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines. The Board shall have the power to administer oaths, to investigate violations for this Act or other laws and regulations within the jurisdiction of the Board, and for this purpose, it may, under the hand of its chairman and seal of the Board, issue a summons, *subpoena* or *subpoena duces tecum* to alleged violators of this Act and witnesses thereof, and thereby compel their attendance. The Board shall also have the power to visit dental schools to determine whether the minimum requirements prescribed by law and or the Council on Dental Education are complied with. THE BOARD SHALL OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY ALL GRADUATES OF DENTAL SCHOOLS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THEIR LICENSE. The Board shall exercise the power conferred upon it by this Act, shall from time to time look into the conditions affecting the practice of dentistry in the Philippines, and whenever necessary, adopt or recommend such

measures, or discharge such duties, as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession, the maintenance of accepted ethical and technical standards, and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.”

SECTION 3. A new Section 13 is inserted to read as follow:

“SECTION 13. FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS. - ALL GRADUATES OF DENTAL SCHOOLS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION, PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF SAID LICENSE, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO RENDER FREE DENTAL SERVICE IN THE RURAL AREAS FOR THREE MONTHS. THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATION TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PROGRAM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.”

The succeeding provisions shall be re-numbered accordingly.

SECTION 4. A new section 40 shall be inserted to read as follows:

“SECTION 40. - APPROPRIATION FOR THE FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION, THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATION SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.”

The succeeding provisions shall likewise be re-numbered accordingly.

SECTION 5. All laws, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,