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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 580

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION, SUPERVISION AND
PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE, LICENSING, AND
REGISTRATION OF SANITARIANS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sanitary inspectors or sanitarians play an important role in the prevention and control of diseases from spreading in the community. Sanitarians primarily initiate the proper implementation of environmental sanitation making their roles with regard to the health of the community indispensable.

Since sanitarians work closely with the community, they are in a very crucial position to effect change in the sanitary habits and practices of the community. They are also the authority when it comes to addressing the health hazards and dangers that may put the community at risk. Moreover, sanitarians are the ones to translate sanitary principles and theories as well as disseminate and explain health rules to the community. Sadly, there is no government agency tasked to regulate the practice of sanitation and hygiene which may put in jeopardy the health of the public.

This bill seeks to establish a Board under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) professionalizing the practice of sanitation and hygiene. Also, this bill shall institute mechanisms to guarantee the fitness of individuals engaged with the sanitation profession.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

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ARTICLE I
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "The Sanitarians Professionalization Act. "

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of sanitarians in promoting the health and general welfare of the people. Towards this end, the State shall ensure and promote the professionalization of sanitary inspection; and (b) the supervision and licensing of sanitary inspectors/sanitarians.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - The Act has the following objectives: (a) the promotion, development, and professionalization of sanitary inspection; and (b) the supervision and licensing of sanitary inspectors/sanitarians.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) "Sanitation and Hygiene Profession or Practice of Sanitation and Hygiene" - refers to the profession concerned primarily with education, prevention, and control of diseases and other public health concerns using scientific methods and paramedical measures related to sanitation and hygiene.

(b) "Sanitarians" - any person engaged in the practice of Sanitation and Hygiene Profession. This can be used interchangeably with the term "Sanitary Inspector" currently used by the government in the classification of position title.

(c) "Board" - refers to the Board for Sanitarians duly established and constituted under this Act.

(d) "Commission" - refers to the Professional Regulation Commission.

- 1 (b) Prepare a curriculum for the sanitation and hygiene degree to be officially known
2 as the "*Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene*" (BSSH) and prescribe the
3 syllabi of the subjects and their relative weight in the licensure examination;
4
5 (c) Prepare examination questions, and determine and fix the frequency, dates and
6 places of examination, appoint supervisors, proctors and other personnel as
7 needed who shall be entitled a daily allowance as determined by the Board;
8
9 (d) Issue, suspend, or revoke certification of registration for the practice of sanitation
10 and hygiene;
11
12 (e) Promulgate rules and regulations including a Code of Ethics, administrative
13 policies, orders and issuances to carry out the provision of this Act;
14
15 (f) Administer oaths in connection with the administrative of this Act;
16
17 (g) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of professional
18 sanitation in the Philippines;
19
20 (h) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
21
22 (i) Investigate the violations of this Act; and
23
24 (j) Discharge such other powers, duties, and functions as the Board may deem
25 necessary for the practice of the sanitation and hygiene profession and upgrading,
26 enhancement, development, and growth of sanitarians.
27

28 **SEC. 8. *Qualifications of Chairman and Board Members.*** - The Chairman and each
29 member of the Board must at the time of his appointment:
30

- 31 (a) Be a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least five (5)
32 consecutive years;
33
34 (b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity and high moral
35 turpitude;
36
37 (c) Not have been convicted by final judgment of any offense involving moral
38 turpitude;
39
40 (d) Be a holder of degree of Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene (BSSH)
41 from a university, school, college, academy, or institutions duly constituted,
42 recognized, and accredited by the Philippine government: *Provided*, That this
43 provision shall not apply within the first fifteen (15) years after the approval of
44 this Act;
45
46 (e) Be a registered Sanitarian with a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid
47 license to practice sanitation and hygiene;
48
49 (f) Have practiced sanitation and hygiene for a period of not less than ten (10) years
50 prior to his appointment; and

1
2 (g) Not an official member of the faculty, nor have a pecuniary interest in any
3 university, college, school, or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in
4 sanitation and hygiene or its equivalent for at least three (3) years prior to his
5 appointment, nor connected with any review center or with any group where
6 lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted.
7

8 **SEC. 9. *Removal of the Members of the Board.*** - The Chairman and any member of
9 the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of
10 the Commissioner for neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or
11 dishonorable conduct, commission or tolerance of anomalies in the examination, after having
12 been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation.
13

14 **SEC. 10. *Compensation of the Chairman and the Board Members.*** - The Chairman
15 and the members of the Board shall receive compensation comparable to the compensation
16 received by existing regulatory boards under the Professional Regulation Commission,
17 computed in the basis of the number of examinees or candidates.
18

19 **SEC. 11. *Supervision of the Board and Custodian of its Records.*** - The
20 Commissioner shall be the executive officer of the Board and shall conduct the examination
21 given by the Board. He shall designate any subordinate officer of the Commission to act as
22 secretary and custodian of all records including all examination papers and minutes of the
23 deliberations of the Board.

24 **ARTICLE**
25 **EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**
26

27 **SEC. 12. *Examination, Registration and Licensed Required.*** - Except as otherwise
28 specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as
29 professional sanitarian shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be at
30 least once a year in such places and on dates as the Board may determine upon approval by
31 the Commission. A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the
32 Commission shall be required before any person is allowed to practice sanitation and hygiene
33 in the Philippines except as otherwise allowed under this Act.
34

35 **SEC. 13. *Examination Fees.*** - All applicants for written examination for registered
36 sanitary inspectors shall be subject to payment of fees prescribed by the Commission.
37

38 **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** - The examination to be given to the applicants for
39 licensure shall include the Code of Sanitation and its implementing rules and regulations
40 together with topics on Arithmetic, Chemistry, Biology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Bio-
41 Statistics and Epidemiology, Food and Milk Sanitation, Household and Industrial Hygiene,
42 Waste Management, Environmental Health Planning, Pollution Assessment and Control,
43 Occupational Health, Practical Problems and Others determined by the Board.
44

45 **SEC. 15. *Qualification Requirements of Applicants.*** - No applicant shall be admitted
46 to take the examination unless, on the date of filing of the application, he shall have the
47 established to the satisfaction of the members of the Board that he possesses the following
48 qualifications:

- 1 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or an alien whose country has reciprocity with the
2 Philippines in the practice of sanitation and hygiene;
3
4 (b) At least twenty (20) years of age;
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6 (c) In good health and good reputation with high moral values;
7
8 (d) Not finally convicted by final judgment by the court of any offense involving
9 moral turpitude; and
10
11 (e) A holder of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene (BSSH)
12 from a university, college, school, academy or institution duly constituted,
13 recognized and accredited by the Philippine government. Towards this end, all
14 government universities and state colleges are encouraged to offer this course.
15

16 **SEC. 16. Report of Results of Examination.** - The Board shall, within one hundred
17 twenty (120) days after the examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate to the
18 Commission.
19

20 **SEC. 17. Re-examination.** - An applicant, who for the third time fails to pass the
21 examination, shall not be allowed to take another examination, except upon showing to the
22 members of the Board a certificate of attendance of review classes and a certificate of
23 attendance of review classes and a certificate duly signed by the proctors that he obtained at
24 least seventy percent (70%) passing mark of all the review examinations.
25

26 **SEC. 18. Oath.** - All successful candidates in the examination shall be required to
27 take a professional oath before the Board.
28

29 **SEC. 19. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Licenses.** - The
30 registration as a sanitarian shall commence from the date his name is entered in the roll of
31 registrants or licenses for his profession.
32

33 A professional license signed by the Commission and bearing the registration number
34 and date of issuance and date of expiry shall be issued to every registrant who has paid the
35 annual registration fees for three (3) consecutive years. This license shall serve as evidence
36 that the license can lawfully practice his profession until the date of expiry.
37

38 **SEC. 20. Foreign Reciprocity.** - No foreign sanitarian professional shall be given a
39 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be
40 entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign
41 sanitarian professional is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino sanitarian
42 professionals to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or
43 citizens of said country or state.
44

45 **SEC. 21. Continuing Professional Development.** - All sanitarian professionals shall
46 abide by the requirements, rules, and regulation on continuing professional education to be
47 promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, in
48 coordination with the AIPO for sanitarian profession and the representative of duly accredited
49 education institutions. For this purpose, the Board may create a CPD Council to implement
50 the CPD program subject to the guidelines as may be issued by the

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SEC. 22. *Integration of Sanitary Profession.* - The sanitarian profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of sanitarian professionals which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered sanitarian professionals. All sanitarian professionals whose names appear in the Registry Book of Sanitarian Profession shall ipso facto or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of sanitarian profession.

SEC. 23. *Revocation of the Certificate of Registration, Suspension from the Practice of the Sanitary Profession and Cancellation of Temporary or Special Permit.*- The Board shall have the power, upon proper notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the certification of any registrant, to reprimand or to cancel the temporary/special permit to a holder thereof who is exempt from registration, for any of the following causes:

- (a) Conviction for any criminal offense involving moral turpitude by any court of competent authority;
- (b) Immoral, unprofessional and dishonorable conduct;
- (c) Violation of any of the provisions of this Act, rules and regulations and other policies of the Board and the Code of Professional Ethics;
- (d) Declaration by a court of competent authority for being mentally unsound or insane;
- (e) Chronic inebriety or habitual use of drugs; and
- (f) Malpractice of the profession.

The decision of the Board to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be final and executor unless appealed by the respondent to the Commission within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of such decision. The Board's or Commission's decision is appealable by the respondent to the regional trial court of the place where the Board or Commission holds office within twenty (20) days from receipt of said decision or of the denial of the motion for reconsideration filed in due time.

SEC. 24. *Re-issuance of Revoked Certificates and Replacement of Lost Certificate.* - The Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, may after one (1) year after revocation of the Certificate of Registration may re-issue such certificate on the same manner as application for an original one. However, it may exempt the applicant from the necessity of undergoing an examination.

1 A new certificate of registration may be issued to replace any certificate that has been
2 lost destroyed, mutilated, subject to the rules issued by the Board.

3 **SEC. 25. Roster of Professional Sanitarians.** - A roster of professional sanitarians
4 containing the names and addresses of the professional sanitarian, date of registration or
5 issuance of certificate and other date which in the opinion of the Board is pertinent shall be
6 maintained. Copies of the roster shall be provided by the Commission to the Board, the
7 Department of Education, and the integrated and accredited organization of professional
8 sanitarians.

9
10 **ARTICLE IV**
11 **PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF THE SANITARY PROFESSION**
12

13 **SEC. 26. Field of Practice.**- The field of practice for sanitarian shall include the sole
14 authority to sign and seal sanitary plans, etc. and to practice sanitation and hygiene in its full
15 scope as defined in Article I of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 27. Prohibition Against the Practice of the Sanitarian and Hygiene**
18 **Profession.** - Except as otherwise allowed under this Act, no person shall practice or offer to
19 practice the Sanitation and Hygiene Profession in the Philippines without having previously
20 obtained a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the
21 Commission.

22
23 **SEC. 28. Personnel Required.** - Except as otherwise provided in this Act, every
24 industrial plant or factory, commercial establishment or any government institution which
25 shall require the services of a sanitarian, a duly registered sanitarian shall be employed for the
26 purpose to ensure safe operation and safeguard public welfare, health and hygiene.

27
28 **SEC. 29. Enforcement of the Act by Officers of the Law.** - It shall be the duty of all
29 constituted officers of the law of the national government, or any provincial, city or
30 municipal government to prosecute any person violating the provisions of this Act. The
31 Secretary of Justice or his assistant shall act as legal adviser of the Board and render such
32 legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

33
34 **SEC. 30. Penalty Clause.** - Any person who shall violate any provisions of this Act
35 shall be guilty of misdemeanor and shall upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more
36 than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not less than Ten Thousand Pesos
37 (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment for a period of not less than thirty (30) days but not more
38 than two (2) years at the discretion of the court.

39
40 **SEC. 31. Appropriations.** - The sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby
41 initially appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to
42 be disbursed by the Chairman of the Board in accordance with provisions of this Act.
43 Thereafter, it shall be in the General Appropriations Act.

44
45 **SEC. 32. Implementing Guidelines.** - The Board shall formulate and adopt the
46 necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act within
47 ninety (90) days of its approval.

48

1 **SEC. 33. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, orders, issuances, and other regulations
2 pertaining to the examination for sanitarians are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

3 **SEC. 34. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
4 invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

5
6 **SEC. 35. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
7 full publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,