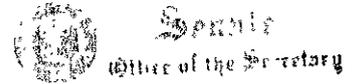


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 AUG 13 P12:00

SENATE

S. B. No. 2356

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1286, KNOWN AS THE "NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DECREE OF 1977", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHERS PURPOSES.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was conceived in recognition of the important role of registered nutritionist-dietitians (RND) in human development and seeks to improve the practice of the profession. The measure seeks to institute reforms ensuring the welfare, protection and improvement of the RND profession as this representation believes that promoting good nutrition is an investment in human resource and is key to a strong and healthy citizenry which is essential for the development of a productive population.

Through the years, many factors in the environment have adversely affected the quality of living which threatens the health, and consequently, the nutrition of the population especially the at-risk population groups (young children, pregnant women and the elderly). Among these are climate changes, and the pollution of air and water.

Moreover, globalization has also brought about lifestyle changes such as consumption of high fat, high calorie foods and reduced physical activity which have resulted in an increase prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. Improvement in the practice of proper nutrition and dietetics is critical to counter these phenomena.

Further, poor nutrition in early childhood causes high morbidity and mortality in the young population. Malnutrition causes poor performance in school and results in school repeaters or drop-outs. Lack of education, coupled with poor nutrition undermines the quality of manpower resource which is critical for the achievement of the country's goal of economic development. Additionally, the escalating prevalence of non-communicable diseases increases the government's expenditure for education, health and other social services, and puts a strain on the country's limited resources.

It is hoped that the guidelines and regulations provided for in this measure will effectively promote the efficient and effective practice of the profession. It hopes to put the country at par, if not with the first world countries, at least with other Asian counterparts in terms of the practice of nutrition and dietetics.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is therefore earnestly prayed for.

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

1 **ARTICLE I**

2 **TITLE**

3
4 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Nutrition and Dietetics Law of 2014*".
5
6

7 **ARTICLE II**

8 **General Provisions**

9
10 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the important role of registered
11 nutritionist-dietitians (RNDs) in nation-building and human development through adequate
12 nutrition. Towards this end, it promotes the sustained development of RND whose competence
13 has been determined by honest and credible licensure examinations and whose standards of
14 professional service and practice are internationally recognized and considered world-class
15 brought about by regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster growth and
16 advancement of the profession.
17

18 **SEC. 3.** *Objectives.* – This Act shall govern:

- 19 (a) The examination, registration and licensure of nutritionist-dietitians;
20 (b) The supervision, control, and regulation of the practice of nutrition and
21 dietetics;
22 (c) The development of the professional competence of nutritionist-dietitians
23 through continuing professional development (CPD);
24 (d) The integration of the nutrition-dietetics profession.

1 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.**

- 2
- 3 (a) Profession is the science and art or discipline of nutrition and dietetics
- 4 combined.
- 5 (b) "Nutritionist-dietitian" refers to a registered and licensed person who holds a
- 6 valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card
- 7 issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act.
- 8 (c) "Board" refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Nutrition and
- 9 Dietetics.
- 10 (d) "Commission" refers to the Professional Regulation Commission created
- 11 under R.A. No. 8981, known as the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000".
- 12 (e) APO refers to the accredited professional organization of nutritionist-dietitians
- 13 that the Board has accredited, subject to the approval by the Commission, as
- 14 the one and only accredited national organization of nutritionist-dietitians.
- 15 (f) "Nutrition" refers to the science dealing with foods, nutrient composition,
- 16 eating habits, nutritional status, and health and diseases of individuals and
- 17 populations. Nutrition is also concerned with social, economic, cultural,
- 18 political, and psychological implications of food and eating.
- 19 (g) "Dietetics" refers to the science and art of applying the principles of nutrition
- 20 to the planning and preparation of foods and regulation of the diet in relation
- 21 to both health and disease. It also refers to the promotive, preventive,
- 22 therapeutic, and administrative aspects of the delivery of nutritional services
- 23 in hospitals, foodservice institutions and other health care
- 24 institutions/facilities.
- 25

26 **SEC. 5. The Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics.** – A person is deemed to be in the

27 practice of nutrition and dietetics within the meaning and intent of this law when he or she, for a

28 fee, salary or other reward or compensation, paid to the individual or through another person or

29 even without such rewards or compensation, renders or offers to render professional services in

30 nutrition and dietetics.

31

32 *Scope of Practice.* – The practice of nutrition and dietetics may include, but not be

33 limited to, the following areas:

34

- 35 (a) Academe – teachers/instructors of nutrition, dietetics and foodservice courses.
- 36 (b) Business and industry – professionals working in the business and industry
- 37 doing work requiring nutrition and dietetics background; include private
- 38 practitioners and consultants in nutrition.

- 1 (c) Food production and product development – professionals involved in
2 developing and producing new food products following the principles of food
3 and nutrition.
- 4 (d) Foodservice – consultants and managers in food service establishments
5 engaged in institutional food production, recipe development and
6 standardization, implementation of food safety and sanitation practices,
7 delivery and evaluation of services.
- 8 (e) Hospital – clinical dietitians, therapeutic dietitians, administrative dietitians,
9 food service managers and/or nutrition support unit heads in hospital settings.
- 10 (f) Community and public health nutrition – professionals involved in food and
11 nutrition policy formulation, community assessment, planning,
12 implementation, monitoring, evaluation of nutrition programs and advocacy;
13 consultants and technical advisers on nutrition.
- 14 (g) Food and nutrition research – professionals in basic and applied food and
15 nutrition research.
- 16 (h) Wellness and sports nutrition – professionals and consultants involved in
17 nutrition aspects in wellness and sports programs.
- 18

19 The Board subject to approval by the Commission may revise the scope of practice as the need
20 arises.

21

22

23 **ARTICLE III**

24 **NUTRITION AND DIETETICS EDUCATION PROVISION**

25

26 **SEC. 6.** *Nutrition and Dietetics Education Program* – The Nutrition and Dietetics
27 education program shall provide sound general and professional foundation for the practice of
28 nutrition.

29

30 The learning experiences shall adhere strictly to specific requirements embodied in the
31 prescribed curriculum as promulgated by the Commission on Higher Education's policies and
32 standards of Nutrition and Dietetics education.

33

34 **SEC. 7.** *Requirement for Inactive Nutritionist-Dietitians Returning to Practice.* –
35 Nutritionist-Dietitians who have not actively practiced the profession for five (5) consecutive
36 years are required to attend and pass a refresher's course and complete a related practicum both
37 offered by an institution accredited by the APO.

- 1 (f) A holder of a post-graduate degree in nutrition and dietetics or a related field as
2 determined by PRC from an institution recognized by the Commission on Higher
3 Education (CHED);
4 (g) Have at least five years of continuous practice of the profession prior to his/her
5 appointment;
6 (h) A member in good standing of the APO;
7 (i) Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where a review
8 course in nutrition and dietetics is offered at the time of appointment;
9 (j) Not an owner or member/staff of any review school or center;
10 (k) Not an officer, board member or trustee of the APO and APO foundation.

11 Provided that, any person who is appointed as Chairman or member of the Board shall
12 automatically resign from any teaching position in any school, college or university and/ or
13 review program for the local nutrition-dietetics board examinations or in any office or
14 employment in the Government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including
15 government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries. He/She shall not have any
16 pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any institution offering nutrition and
17 dietetics programs, including review classes

18
19 **SEC. 11. *Term of Office.*** – The chairman and members of the Board shall hold office for
20 a term of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have
21 qualified and been appointed. They may be reappointed to the same office for another term of
22 three (3) years immediately after the expiry of their term; provided, the holding of such position
23 or office shall not be more than two (2) terms or not more than six (6) years. Vacancy of the
24 position of the chairman shall be occupied in acting capacity or as officer-in-charge by the most
25 senior member until the chairman shall have been appointed. The chairman and the members
26 shall duly take their oath of office.

27
28 **SEC. 12. *Compensation, Allowances and other Benefits.*** – The chairperson and members
29 of the Board shall receive compensation, allowances, and other benefits comparable to those that
30 the chairperson and members of other professional regulatory boards under the Commission
31 enjoy as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

32
33 **SEC. 13. *Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.*** – The Board shall
34 exercise executive/administrative, rule-making, and *quasi-judicial* powers in carrying out the
35 provisions of this Act. It shall be vested with the following specific powers, functions, duties,
36 and responsibilities:

1 *Regulatory functions:*

- 2
- 3 (a) Issue and promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of
4 this Act;
- 5 (b) Adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good Governance, and the
6 Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics;
- 7 (c) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 8 (d) Conduct regular consultation with members and other concerned organizations on
9 enhancing the professional development of nutritionist dietitians
- 10 (e) Enter together with the Commission into a Memorandum of Agreement with the
11 CHED in ensuring that all higher educational instructions and offerings of degree,
12 course or program comply with the policies, standards, and requirements of the
13 course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library, and
14 facilities;
- 15

16 *Licensure Functions*

- 17
- 18 (f) Prescribe and promulgate the tables of specifications syllabi for the subjects in the
19 licensure examination/s in consultation with the academe and the Commission on
20 Higher Education (CHED);
- 21 (g) Prepare questions for the subjects in the licensure examinations, give and correct
22 the said examinations, and release their results;
- 23 (h) Evaluate and approve applications for licensure examination/s;
- 24 (i) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the Certificate of Registration for the practice
25 of the nutrition and dietetics;
- 26 (j) Register qualified persons for the practice of nutrition and dietetics and issue
27 thereto Certificates of Registration and professional identification cards
28 (rephrase);
- 29 (k) Administer oaths in the performance of its functions;
- 30 (l) Monitor the conditions of affecting the practice of nutrition and dietetics as may
31 be deemed proper for the maintenance of professional, ethical and technical
32 standards;
- 33 (m) Reissue or reinstate revoked/suspended certificate of registration and unexpired
34 professional identification card to respondent's holder thereof; Provided, the
35 revoked certificate of registration shall only be reissued after the lapse of the
36 period provided in this Act; Provided, further, the Board shall issue a resolution
37 thereon subject to approval by the Commission, after he/she shall have established
38 his/her fitness to practice anew his/her nutrition and dietetics and, provided,

1 furthermore, the suspended certificate of registration shall only be reissued upon
2 the decision of the Board;

3
4 *Administrative Functions*

- 5
6 (n) Hear and investigate cases on violations of this Act, its implementing rules and
7 regulations, the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good Governance, the Code of
8 Technical Standards for the practice of profession, and other policies; and for this
9 purpose, to issue summons, subpoena and subpoena *ducestecum* to alleged
10 violators and/or witnesses to compel their attendance in such hearings or
11 investigations;
- 12 (o) Delegate the hearing or investigation of cases against the alleged violators;
13 Provided, hearing or investigation of cases wherein the issue or question involved
14 strictly concerns the technical practice of nutrition and dietetics shall be presided
15 over by at least one (1) member of the Board assisted by a Legal or Hearing
16 Officer of the Commission;
- 17 (p) Endorse cases involving criminal violations of this Act and other laws, its rules
18 and regulations, and other policies to the Prosecution Office for investigation and;
19 at the discretion of the Board file a complaint with the same;
- 20 (q) Decide administrative cases against examinees or registered Nutritionist-
21 Dietitians; Provided, if they are guilty, to cancel their examination papers and/or
22 debar them from taking another licensure examination, or to revoke/suspend their
23 certificate of registration; Provided, further, the effectivity of the penalty shall
24 only commence from the date of surrender of the said certificates together with
25 the professional identification cards; Provided, furthermore, the decision of the
26 Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and executor after
27 fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;
- 28 (r) Conduct through the Legal or Hearing Officers summary proceedings on minor
29 violation of this Act, its IRR, any of the Codes afore-mentioned, the General
30 Instructions to Examinee committed by examinees, and to render summary
31 judgment thereon which shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final
32 and executor after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of judgment or
33 decision;
- 34 (s) Prepare an annual report of accomplishment, programs, projects, and activities of
35 the Board during the year of submission to the Commission after the close of each
36 calendar year and to make appropriate recommendations on issues or problems
37 affecting the profession to the Commission; and

1 (t) Discharge other implied, incidental, necessary powers, duties, functions, and
2 responsibilities for the effective carrying out of the provisions of this Act and its
3 policies or measures and the achievement of its objectives.
4

5 **SEC. 14.** *Grounds of Removal or Suspension of Board Chairman/Member.* – The
6 President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after giving the
7 chairman or the member of the Board an opportunity to defend himself/herself in an
8 administrative investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend him/her on
9 any of the following grounds:
10

11 (a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of his/her duty;

12 (b) Violation of the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices,
13 and other laws;

14 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the results of the licensure examination for
15 nutritionist-dietitians, disclosure of secret and confidential information on the
16 examination questions prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of grades.
17

18 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by Sec. 7 (s) of
19 R.A. No. 8981, the rules on administrative investigation, and the applicable provisions of the
20 New Rules of Court.
21

22 **SEC. 15.** *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Office of the Secretary,*
23 *Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the
24 administrative supervision of the Commission. The Commission shall keep all records of the
25 Board including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of
26 deliberation, and administrative cases. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the
27 Board who shall be a staff member in the Office, Secretary, Professional Regulatory Boards and
28 shall provide the other support services to the board in order to implement the provisions of this
29 Act.
30

31 **ARTICLE V**

32 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE**

33
34
35 **SEC. 16.** *Passing of Licensure Examination Requirement.* – Except as otherwise
36 specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the practice of nutrition and
37 dietetics shall be required to pass a Board licensure examination for nutritionist-dietitians as
38 provided for in this Act in such places and dates as the Commission may designate in the

1 Resolution thereof on the Master Schedules for all licensure examinations in accordance with
2 Sec. 7 (d) of R.A. No. 8981.

3

4 **SEC. 17. *Qualifications of Applicants.*** – An applicant for the licensure examination for
5 nutritionist-dietitian shall satisfactory proves that he/she possesses the following qualifications:

6

7 (a) Citizen of the Philippines;

8 (b) Of good moral character;

9 (c) A holder of a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics or its equivalent duly
10 recognized or accredited by the CHED and conferred by a
11 school/college/university duly authorized by the government.

12 (d) Not convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent
13 jurisdiction.

14

15 **SEC. 18. *Subjects for Licensure Examination.*** – The licensure examination/s for
16 nutritionist- dietitian shall include, but not be limited to the following:

17

18 (a) Nutrition and Dietetics

19 (b) Foods and Foodservice Systems

20 (c) Community and Applied Nutrition

21

22 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise or exclude any of the
23 subjects and their tables of specifications syllabi, and add new ones as the need arises to conform
24 to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.

25

26 **SEC. 19. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.*** – To pass the licensure examination for
27 nutritionist-dietitian, a candidate must obtain a general or weighted average rating of seventy five
28 percent (75%), with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject, Provided, that an
29 applicant who fails to obtain a passing average but who obtained at least seventy five percent
30 (75%) in each of at least one-half of the total subjects given in the examinations, may be
31 permitted to take within two (2) years from the date of his/her examination, another examination,
32 on the subjects in which he/she obtained a grade below seventy five percent (75%). Should the
33 examinee fail in the set of subjects repeated in the second examinations, he shall be required to
34 take all the subjects in the next examinations.

35

36 **SEC. 20. *Report of Rating.*** – The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings
37 obtained by the candidate not later than ten (10) days after the last day of the examination, unless
38 it is extended for a valid cause.

1 **SEC. 21.Oath.** – All successful candidates in the licensure examination shall take their
2 oath of profession before the chairman or any member of the Board; or any authorized officer of
3 the Commission, prior to entering the practice of nutrition and dietetics.

4
5 **SEC. 22.Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.** – A
6 certificate of registration shall be issued to those who are registered subject to payment of fees
7 prescribed by the Commission. It shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the commission
8 and the chairperson and members of the board, indicating that the person named therein is
9 entitled to the practice of the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. Until
10 withdrawn, revoked, or suspended in accordance with this Act, the certificate of registration shall
11 remain in full force and effect.

12
13 A professional identification card bearing the registration number and date, its validity
14 and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to every
15 registrant who has paid the prescribed fee. It shall be reissued after every three (3) years upon
16 payment of the prescribed fees therefor and compliance with the CPD requirement.

17
18 **SEC. 23.Automatic Registration of Nutritionist-Dietitians.** – All nutritionist-dietitians
19 whose names appear at the roster of nutritionist-dietitians shall be automatically or ipso facto
20 registered as nutritionist-dietitians under this Act upon its effectivity upon payment of the
21 prescribed fees.

22
23 **SEC. 24.Refusal to Register.** – The Board shall not register any successful examinee who
24 has been:

- 25
26 (a) Convicted by final judgment of an offense involving moral turpitude by a
27 court of competent jurisdiction;
28 (b) Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions to
29 Examinees by the Board; and
30 (c) Declared of unsound mind by the court of competent jurisdiction.

31
32 In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth
33 the reasons therefore and shall file a copy thereof in its records.

34
35 **SEC. 25.Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and Cancellation of**
36 **Temporary/Special Permit.** – The Board shall have the power, after due process, to revoke or
37 suspend the certificate of registration or to cancel a temporary/special permit upon any of the
38 following grounds:

- 1 (a) Violation of any of the causes in the preceding, Section except (c)
2 (b) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, Code of Good
3 Governance, standards for the practice of nutrition and dietetics, policy, and
4 measures of the Board and/or the Commission;
5 (c) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining his/her certificate of registration,
6 professional identification card, temporary/special permit;
7 (d) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting in death, injury or
8 damage;
9 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive
10 years;
11 (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and licensed person
12 by allowing him/her to use his certificate of registration and/or professional
13 identification card or his/her special/temporary permit;
14 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during his/her suspension from the practice
15 thereof;
16 (h) Addicted to a drug or alcohol abuse impairing his/her ability to practice
17 his/her profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of a competent
18 jurisdiction.
19

20 The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and revise or exclude
21 or add new ones as the need arises subject to approval by the Commission.
22

23 Any person, may file charge/s against any registrant in accordance with the provision of
24 this Section. Affidavit-complaint shall be filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other
25 documentary evidence with the Board through the Legal and Investigation Office.
26

27 Provided that, the Board, may, on its own recommend an investigation of any RND for
28 violation of any of the above-mentioned causes. The *motu proprio* move to recommend an
29 investigation shall be embodied in a resolution to be signed by at least majority of the members
30 of the Board. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern
31 the hearing or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, R.A. No. 8981 and
32 suppletorily the Rules of Court.
33

34 **SEC. 26. Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration, Replacement of lost or**
35 **Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or Temporary/Special**
36 **Permit.** – The Board may, upon petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked certificate of registration
37 after two (2) years from the effectivity of the period for revocation, which is the date of surrender
38 of the said certificate and/or the professional identification card if still valid to the Board and/or

1 the Commission. The Board may not require the holder thereof to take another licensure
2 examination. The petitioner shall prove to the Board that he/she has valid reason/s to practice
3 his/her profession. For the grant of his/her petition, the Board shall issue a Board Resolution
4 subject to approval by the Commission.

5
6 Duplicate copy of lost certificate of registration, professional identification card or
7 temporary/special permit may be reissued in accordance with the rules thereon and upon
8 payment of the prescribed fee thereof.

9
10 **SEC. 27. *Non-Payment of the Annual Registration Fees.*** – The Board shall suspend a RD
11 from the practice of his/her profession for non-payment of the annual registration fees for five
12 (5) consecutive years from its last or previous year of payment. The resumption of his/her
13 practice shall take place only upon payment of the delinquent fees plus surcharges and interest
14 and in accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of the five-year period may be
15 interrupted upon written notice about the discontinuance of his practice and surrender of his/her
16 certificate of registration to the Board and/or the Commission.

17
18 **SEC. 28. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration.*** – All nutritionist-dietitians registered at
19 the effectivity of this Act shall automatically be registered hereunder, subject to the provisions
20 herein set forth as to future requirements.

21
22 **Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification Cards or Temporary/Special**
23 **Permits held by such persons in good standing at such effectivity shall have the same force and**
24 **effect as though they were issued on or after the said effectivity.**

25 26 27 **ARTICLE VI**

28 **PRACTICE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS**

29
30 **SEC. 29. *Lawful Practitioners of Nutrition and Dietetics.*** The natural persons and
31 juridical persons who shall be authorized to practice nutrition and dietetics:

32
33 **(a) Natural persons**

- 34 1) Duly registered and licensed as nutritionist-dietitian and holders of valid
35 certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards
36 issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act; and
37 2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board and the
38 Commission to foreign-licensed nutritionist-dietitian pursuant to this Act.

1 (b) Juridical persons

- 2 1) Single proprietorship refers to owner of manpower-employing staff who
3 are registered and licensed nutritionist-dietitians;
- 4 2) Partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission
5 (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the Civil Code and
6 composed of all partners who are all duly registered and licensed
7 nutritionist-dietitians;
- 8 3) Corporation duly registered with the SEC as engaged in the practice of
9 nutrition and dietetics and with officers, Board of Directors who are all
10 registered and licensed nutritionist-dietitians;
- 11 4) Association duly registered with the SEC as not-for-profit and non-stock
12 corporation whose officers, Board of Trustees, and members are all
13 registered and licensed nutritionist-dietitians.

14
15 These juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and the
16 Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations thereon.

17
18 **SEC. 30. *Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics.***—Plantilla positions, whose titles bear
19 “nutritionist-dietitian”, “nutritionist” or “dietitian” as well as positions requiring the expertise of
20 RNDs shall be occupied by RNDs. These include but not limited to nutrition program officers,
21 hospital nutritionist-dietitians, food service managers in hospitals; foodservice institutions and
22 business and industry; except those in practice before the enactment of the law.

23
24 (a) No person shall offer himself in the Philippines, as or use the title “Nutritionist-
25 Dietitian” or any word, letter, figure, or sign whatsoever, tending to convey the
26 impression that he or she is a nutritionist-dietitian, or advertise or indicate in any
27 manner that he or she is qualified to perform the work of a nutritionist-dietitian
28 without holding a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional
29 identification card as issued by the Board in accordance with this law and/or
30 covered by reciprocity, unless exempt from registration as provided under Section
31 15 thereof.

32 (b) Hospitals—All hospitals whether government or private with 10 to 25 bed
33 capacity shall employ a minimum of one full-time RND; 26 to 75 bed capacity, a
34 minimum of two (2) full time RND; 76-100 bed capacity, a minimum of three
35 (3) full-time RND; 101 to 150, four (4) full-time RND; 151-200 bed capacity, a
36 minimum of (5) five full-time RND; 201 to 300 bed capacity, a minimum of six
37 (6) full-time RND; 301 to 400 bed capacity, a minimum of eight (8) full-time
38 RND; 401 to 500 bed capacity, a minimum of ten (10) full-time RND; 501 to 750

1 bed capacity, a minimum of fifteen (15) full-time RND; 751 to 1000 bed capacity,
2 a minimum of twenty (20) full-time RND, 1001 to 1200 bed capacity, a minimum
3 of twenty-four (24) full-time RND; 2001 to 1500 bed capacity, a minimum of
4 thirty (30) full-time RND; and above 1500 bed capacity, a minimum of forty (40)
5 full-time registered nutritionist-dietitians. *Provided*, that no person shall be
6 employed as nutritionist-dietitian in any hospital without having been registered
7 in accordance with the provisions of this Law; and with updated professional
8 identification card in the duration of employment. Hospitals with less than 10 bed
9 capacity should hire the services of an RND consultant. Specialty Hospitals and
10 clinics shall employ more than the minimum required number of fulltime
11 RND. The provisions of this section shall be complied with within one year from
12 the date of effectivity of this Law.

- 13 (c) Nutrition agencies/local government units (LGUs). All these agencies whether
14 government or private shall employ RNDs. All LGUs shall be required to have at
15 least one (1) nutritionist-dietitian per 25,000 population for each province,
16 city/municipality and rural health unit.
- 17 (d) Foodservice Managers/positions in hospitals and in foodservices in healthcare
18 institutions should be headed by RNDs.
- 19 (e) Foodservices in Institutions school cafeteria in elementary, high school, colleges
20 and universities; industrial cafeterias should preferably be occupied by RNDs. In
21 the absence of a full time RND, a consultant RND shall be availed of.
- 22 (f) Teaching of nutrition courses in allied fields, e.g., Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery,
23 Dentistry, Human Kinetics, Physical Education, Hospitality, Culinary, Hotel and
24 Restaurant Management—Tourism should be done only by RNDs.
- 25 (g) In addition to the required faculty qualifications, all schools, colleges,
26 professional subjects required for licensure examinations shall be taught by
27 persons who are holders of valid certificates of registration and valid professional
28 identification card.
- 29 (h) All wellness centers, sports clinics, fitness centers must employ the services of at
30 least one (1) fulltime or part time RNDs.
- 31 (i) Nutrition support units in hospitals should include RNDs to provide nutrition
32 assessment and counselling.
- 33 (j) *Salary*. - In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and
34 professionalism of nutritionist-dietitians the minimum entry salary grade of RNDs
35 working in the public health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 16.
36 *Provided*, that for RNDs working in the private sector, their minimum salary shall
37 be equivalent to the amount corresponding to salary grade 16 in the public sector.
38

1 **SEC. 31. Practice Through Temporary/Special Permit.** – Special/temporary permit may
2 be issued by the Board subject to approval by the Commission and payment of fees the latter has
3 prescribed and charged thereof to the following:

4
5 (a) Licensed nutritionist-dietitians from foreign countries/states whose services are
6 either for a fee or free;

7
8 1) If they are internationally known nutritionist-dietitians or experts in any
9 branch or specialty of nutrition and dietetics; and

10 2) If their services are urgently and importantly necessary for lack of inadequacy
11 of available local specialists or experts for the promotion of advancement of
12 the practice of nutrition and dietetics through transfer of technology.

13
14 (b) Licensed nutritionist-dietitians from foreign countries/states employed services
15 shall be free and limited to indigent patients in a particular hospital, center or
16 clinic.

17
18 (c) Licensed nutritionist-dietitians from foreign countries/states employed as
19 exchange professors in a branch or specialty of nutrition and dietetics in schools,
20 colleges or universities offering the course of nutrition and dietetics.

21
22 The permit shall, among other things, contain these limitations and conditions for a period of no
23 more than one (1) year subject to renewal, the branch or specialty of nutrition and dietetics, and
24 the specific place of practice such as clinic, hospital, center, school, college or university offering
25 the course of nutrition and dietetics. The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall
26 promulgate rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section.

27
28 **SEC.32. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program.** All nutritionist-
29 dietitians shall abide by the requirements, rules and regulation on continuing professional
30 education to be promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the
31 Commission, in coordination with the APO for nutrition and dietetics or any duly accredited
32 education institutions. For this purpose, a CPD Council is hereby created to implement the CPD
33 program.

34
35 **SEC. 33. Indication of Numbers.** Certificate of Registration and Professional
36 Identification Card, Professional Tax Receipt (PTR), APO Membership and Official Receipt
37 (O.R.). – The nutritionist-dietitian shall be required to indicate his/her Certificate of Registration
38 Number and date of issuance, and the expiry of his/her current professional identification card,

1 PTR Number, APO Membership Number and O.R. Number on the documents he/she signs, uses,
2 or issues in connection with the practice of nutrition and dietetics.

3
4 **SEC. 34. *Roster of Nutritionist-Dietitians.*** A roster of nutritionist-dietitians shall be
5 prepared by the Commission during the month of August every year, commencing on the year
6 following that in which the Law shall become effective. This roster shall contain the name and
7 address of each RND, date of registration or issuance of certificates and other dates, which in the
8 opinion of the Board may appear pertinent. The roster shall be opened for public inspection, and
9 copies thereof shall be on file in the records of the Commission. Other bureaus or government
10 agencies and the public may be given a copy upon request.

11
12 **SEC. 35. *Posting of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card or***
13 ***Temporary/Special Permit.*** – The Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification of
14 Nutritionist-Dietitians or Temporary/Special Permit in original or authentic/authenticated copies
15 shall be posted in a conspicuous place or kept on file in his/her office. Those previously
16 registered in accordance to PD 1286 shall retain their registration certification numbers.

17
18
19 **ARTICLE VII**

20 **NUTRITION AND DIETETICS HUMAN RESOURCE PRODUCTION,**
21 **UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

22
23 **SEC. 36. *Studies for Nutrition and Dietetics Manpower Needs, Production, Utilization***
24 ***and Development.*** – The Board, in coordination with the accredited professional organization
25 and appropriate government or private agencies shall initiate, undertake and conduct studies on
26 nutrition and dietetics human resource production, utilization and development.

27
28 **SEC. 37. *Comprehensive Nutrition and Dietetics Specialty Program.*** – Within ninety (90)
29 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in coordination with the accredited professional
30 organization, recognized specialty organizations and the Department of Health is hereby
31 mandated to formulate and develop a comprehensive nutrition and dietetics specialty program
32 that would upgrade the level of skills and competence of nutritionist-dietitians specialists in the
33 country, such as but not limited to the areas of diabetes management, cardiovascular disease
34 management, renal disease management, oncology, nutrition support, weight management,
35 obstetrics, paediatrics, dental medicine, and such other areas as may be determined by the Board.

36
37 **SEC. 38. *Penal Provision.*** – Any person who shall commit any of the following acts,
38 shall, upon conviction, be fined in accordance with existing laws the amount to be specified in the

1 IRR, or imprisoned for no less than six (6) months or more than two (2) years or be meted with
2 both at the discretion of the court.

- 3
- 4 (a) Practicing nutrition and dietetics without a valid certificate of registration
5 and/or a valid professional identification card or a valid temporary/special
6 permit;
- 7 (b) Attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and/or professional
8 identification card of a RND or temporary/special permit issued to foreign
9 nutritionist-dietitian;
- 10 (c) Abetting the illegal practice of nutrition and dietetics by an unregistered or
11 unauthorized person;
- 12 (d) Securing through false information or fraudulent means certificate of
13 registration and/or professional identification card or, temporary special
14 permit;
- 15 (e) Impersonating a RND or a holder of a special/temporary permit, and
16
17

18 **ARTICLE VIII**
19 **FINAL PROVISIONS**
20

21 **SEC. 39. *Enforcement.*** – In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Board shall be
22 assisted by the Commission, the APO, duly constituted government agencies and authorities, and
23 private organizations in the industry. A memorandum of agreement between agencies or
24 organizations may be executed.
25

26 **SEC. 40. *Funds.*** – The funds or budget of the implementation of this Act shall be
27 included in the Annual Appropriations Act for the Commission, provided that the amount
28 incurred for its initial implementation shall be charged against the Commission's current year's
29 appropriation.
30

31 **SEC. 41. *Transitory Provisions.*** – The incumbent Board shall, in an interim capacity,
32 continue to operate or function by carrying out the provisions of the Act without new
33 appointments of the chairman and members thereof until the first Board created under this Act
34 shall have been constituted or organized pursuant thereto.
35

36 **SEC. 42. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Board of Nutrition and Dietetics,
37 subject to approval by the Commission, shall prescribe, promulgate, and issue a Board
38 Resolution on the implementing rules and regulations of this Act after consultation with the

1 APO, other agencies, and private organizations concerned in the industry within ninety (90) days
2 from the effectivity of this Act.

3

4 **SEC. 43. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be
5 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
6 other provisions, sections or parts hereof, but shall be merely confined to the provision, section,
7 or part thereof that is directly involved in the issue upon which such judgment has been rendered.

8

9 **SEC. 44. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 1286 is hereby repealed. Laws,
10 decrees, orders, letters of instructions, rules and regulations, or other issuances, and parts thereof
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise accordingly repealed or modified.

12

13 **SEC. 45. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the
14 publication in the Official Gazette or any major daily newspaper or general circulation in the
15 Philippines.

Approved,