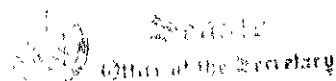


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE

S. B. No. 2582

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Prepared by the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and
Finance with Senators Trillanes IV, Villar and Escudero as authors

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 OTHER RELATED PURPOSES.

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 TITLE

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Nutrition and Dietetics*
4 *Law of 2015*”.

5 ARTICLE II

6 GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

15 (a) The examination, registration and licensure of nutritionist-dietitians;

- 1 (b) The supervision, control, and regulation of the practice of nutrition and
2 dietetics;
- 3 (c) The development of the professional competence of nutritionist-dietitians
4 through continuing professional development (CPD);
- 5 (d) The integration of the nutrition-dietetics profession.

6 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.***

- 7 (a) "*Profession*" refers to the practice of the science and art or discipline of
8 nutrition and dietetics combined.
- 9 (b) "*Nutritionist-dietitian*" refers to a registered and licensed person who
10 holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional
11 identification card issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to
12 this Act.
- 13 (c) "*Board*" refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Nutrition and
14 Dietetics.
- 15 (d) "*Commission*" refers to the Professional Regulation Commission created
16 under R.A. No. 8981, also known as the "PRC Modernization Act of
17 2000".
- 18 (e) "*APO*" refers to the accredited professional organization of nutritionist-
19 dietitians that the Board has accredited, subject to the approval of the
20 Commission, as the one and only accredited national organization of
21 nutritionist-dietitians.
- 22 (f) "*Nutrition*" refers to the science dealing with foods, nutrient composition,
23 eating habits, nutritional status, and health and diseases of individuals and
24 populations. Nutrition is also concerned with social, economic,

1 environmental, cultural, political, and psychological implications of food
2 and eating.

3 (g) "*Dietetics*" refers to the science and art of applying the principles of
4 nutrition to the planning and preparation of foods, and regulation of the
5 diet in relation to both health and disease. It also refers to the promotive,
6 preventive, therapeutic, and administrative aspects of the delivery of
7 nutritional services in hospitals, food service institutions and other health
8 care institutions/facilities.

9 **SEC. 5. *The Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics.*** – A person is deemed to be in the
10 practice of nutrition and dietetics within the meaning and intent of this law when he or she,
11 for a fee, salary or other reward or compensation, paid to the individual or through another
12 person or even without such rewards or compensation, renders or offers to render
13 professional services in nutrition and dietetics.

14 *Scope of Practice.* – The practice of nutrition and dietetics may include, but not be
15 limited to, the following areas:

- 16 (a) *Academe* – teachers/instructors of nutrition, dietetics and foodservice
17 courses.
- 18 (b) *Business and industry* – professionals working in the business and industry
19 doing work requiring nutrition and dietetics background; including private
20 practitioners and consultants in nutrition.
- 21 (c) *Food production and product development* – professionals involved in
22 developing and producing new food products following the principles of
23 food and nutrition.
- 24 (d) *Food service* – consultants and managers in food service establishments
25 engaged in institutional food production, recipe development and

1 standardization, implementation of food safety and sanitation practices,
2 delivery and evaluation of services.

3 (e) Hospital – clinical dietitians, therapeutic dietitians, administrative
4 dietitians, food service managers and/or nutrition support unit heads in
5 hospital settings.

6 (f) Community and public health nutrition – professionals involved in food
7 and nutrition policy formulation, community assessment, planning,
8 implementation, monitoring, evaluation of nutrition programs and
9 advocacy; including consultants and technical advisers on nutrition.

10 (g) Food and nutrition research – professionals in basic and applied food and
11 nutrition research.

12 (h) Wellness and sports nutrition – professionals and consultants involved in
13 nutrition aspects in wellness and sports programs.

14
15 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise the scope of practice specified
16 above as the need arises in order to keep the same aligned with local and international
17 developments and attuned with the times.

18 **ARTICLE III**

19 **NUTRITION AND DIETETICS EDUCATION PROVISION**

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

23 The learning experiences shall adhere strictly to specific requirements embodied in the
24 prescribed curriculum as promulgated by the Commission on Higher Education’s policies and
25 *standards of Nutrition and Dietetics education.*

1 chosen and submitted by the Commission thereto from a list of five (5) nominees for every
2 position endorsed by the accredited professional organization (APO).

3 **SEC. 10. *Qualification of Chairman and Members of the Board.*** – The Chairman or
4 member shall, at the time of his/her appointment, possess all the following requirements.

5 (a) A citizen and a resident of the Philippines;

6 (b) At least 35 years of age;

7 (c) Of good moral character;

8 (d) Not convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of an offense involving
9 moral turpitude;

10 (e) A registered and licensed nutritionist-dietitian with a valid certificate of
11 registration and a valid license;

12 (f) A holder of a post-graduate degree in nutrition and dietetics or a related field
13 as determined by the Commission from an institution recognized by the
14 Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

15 (g) Have at least five (5) years of continuous practice of the profession prior to
16 his/her appointment;

17 (h) A member in good standing of the APO;

18 (i) Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where a
19 review course in nutrition and dietetics is offered at the time of appointment;

20 (j) Not an owner or member/staff of any review school or center;

21 (k) Not an officer, board member or trustee of the APO and APO foundation.

22 *Provided,* That, any person who is appointed as Chairman or member of the Board shall
23 automatically resign from any teaching position in any school, college or university and/or
24 review program for the local nutrition-dietetics board examinations or in any office or
25 employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof,

1 including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries. He/She shall
2 not have any pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any institution offering
3 nutrition and dietetics programs, including review classes.

4 **SEC. 11. *Term of Office.*** – The Chairman and members of the Board shall hold office
5 for a term of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have
6 qualified and been appointed. They may be reappointed to the same office for another term
7 of three (3) years immediately after the expiry of their term; *Provided*, That the holding of
8 such position or office shall not be more than two (2) terms or not more than six (6) years.
9 Vacancy of the position of the Chairman shall be occupied in acting capacity or as officer-in-
10 charge by the most senior member until the Chairman shall have been appointed. The
11 Chairman and the members shall duly take their oath of office.

12 **SEC. 12. *Compensation, Allowances and other Benefits.*** – The Chairperson and
13 members of the Board shall receive compensation, allowances, and other benefits comparable
14 to those that the Chairperson and members of other professional regulatory boards under the
15 Commission enjoy as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

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

20 *Regulatory functions:*

- 21 (a) Issue and promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of
22 this Act;
- 23 (b) Adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good Governance, and
24 the Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics;
- 25 (c) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

1 (d) Conduct regular consultation with members and other concerned organizations
2 on enhancing the professional development of nutritionist dietitians;

3 (e) Enter, together with the Commission, into a Memorandum of Agreement with
4 the CHED in ensuring that all higher educational instructions and offerings of
5 degree, course or program comply with the policies, standards, and
6 requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum,
7 faculty, library, and facilities;

8 *Licensure Functions*

9 (f) Prescribe and promulgate the tables of specifications syllabi for the subjects in
10 the licensure examination/s in consultation with the academe and the
11 Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

12 (g) Prepare questions for the subjects in the licensure examinations, give and
13 correct the said examinations, and release their results;

14 (h) Evaluate and approve applications for licensure examination/s;

15 (i) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the Certificate of Registration for the
16 practice of nutrition and dietetics;

17 (j) Register qualified persons for the practice of nutrition and dietetics, and issue
18 thereto Certificates of Registration and professional identification cards;

19 (k) Administer oaths in the performance of its functions;

20 (l) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of nutrition and dietetics as may
21 be deemed proper for the maintenance of professional, ethical and technical
22 standards;

23 (m) Reissue or reinstate revoked/suspended certificate of registration and
24 unexpired professional identification card to respondents holder thereof;
25 *Provided, That the revoked certificate of registration shall only be reissued*

1 after the lapse of the period provided in this Act; *Provided, further,* That the
2 Board shall issue a resolution thereon, subject to approval by the Commission,
3 after he/she shall have established his/her fitness to practice anew his/her
4 nutrition and dietetics and, *Provided, furthermore,* That the suspended
5 certificate of registration shall only be reissued upon the decision of the Board;

6 *Administrative Functions*

7 (n) Hear and investigate cases on violations of this Act, its implementing rules
8 and regulations, the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good Governance, the Code
9 of Technical Standards for the practice of profession, and other policies; and
10 for this purpose, to issue summons, subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to
11 alleged violators and/or witnesses to compel their attendance in such hearings
12 or investigations;

13 (o) Delegate the hearing or investigation of cases against the alleged violators;
14 *Provided,* That the hearing or investigation of cases wherein the issue or
15 question involved strictly concerns the technical practice of nutrition and
16 dietetics shall be presided over by at least one (1) member of the Board
17 assisted by a Legal or Hearing Officer of the Commission;

18 (p) Endorse cases involving criminal violations of this Act and other laws, its
19 rules and regulations, and other policies to the Prosecution Office for
20 investigation and, at the discretion of the Board, file a complaint with the
21 same;

22 (q) Decide administrative cases against examinees or RNDs; *Provided,* That if
23 they are guilty, THE BOARD SHALL to cancel their examination papers
24 and/or debar them from taking another licensure examination, or to
25 revoke/suspend their certificate of registration; *Provided, further,* That the

1 effectivity of the penalty shall only commence from the date of surrender of
2 the said certificates together with the professional identification cards;
3 *Provided, furthermore,* That the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to
4 the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from
5 receipt of notice of judgment or decision;

6 (r) Conduct, through the Legal or Hearing Officers, summary proceedings on
7 minor violations of this Act, its IRR, any of the Codes aforementioned, the
8 General Instructions to Examinee committed by examinees, and to render
9 summary judgment thereon which shall, unless appealed to the Commission,
10 become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of
11 judgment or decision;

12 (s) Prepare an annual report of accomplishment, programs, projects, and activities
13 of the Board during the year of submission to the Commission after the close
14 of each calendar year and to make appropriate recommendations on issues or
15 problems affecting the profession to the Commission; and

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

19 **SEC. 14.** *Grounds for Removal or Suspension of Board Chairman/Member.* – The
20 President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after giving the
21 Chairman or the member of the Board an opportunity to defend himself/herself in an
22 administrative investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend him/her
23 on any of the following grounds:

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

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

3 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the results of the licensure examination for
4 nutritionist-dietitians, disclosure of secret and confidential information on
5 the examination questions prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of
6 grades.

7 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by Sec. 7 (s) of
8 R.A. No. 8981 otherwise known as the “PRC Modernization Act of 2000”, the rules on
9 administrative investigation, and the applicable provisions of the New Rules of Court.

10 **SEC. 15.** *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Office of the Secretary,*
11 *Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs) and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the
12 administrative supervision of the Commission. The Commission shall keep all records of the
13 Board including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of
14 deliberation, and administrative cases. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the
15 Board who shall be a staff member in the Office, Secretary, Professional Regulatory Boards
16 and shall provide the other support services to the board in order to implement the provisions
17 of this Act.

18 **ARTICLE V**

19 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE**

20 **SEC. 16.** *Passing of Licensure Examination Requirement.* – Except as otherwise
21 specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the practice of nutrition and
22 dietetics shall be required to pass a Board licensure examination for nutritionist-dietitians as
23 provided for in this Act in such places and dates as the Commission may designate in the
24 Resolution thereof on the Master Schedules for all licensure examinations in accordance with
25 Sec. 7 (d) of R.A. No. 8981 otherwise known as the “PRC Modernization Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 17. *Qualifications of Applicants.*** – An applicant for the licensure examination
2 for nutritionist-dietitian shall satisfactory prove that he/she possesses the following
3 qualifications:

4 (a) Citizen of the Philippines;

5 (b) Of good moral character;

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

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

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

13 (a) Nutrition and Dietetics;

14 (b) Foods and Foodservice Systems; and

15 (c) Community and Applied Nutrition.

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

19 **SEC. 19. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.*** – To pass the licensure examination
20 for nutritionist-dietitian, a candidate must obtain a general or weighted average rating of
21 seventy five percent (75%), with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject,
22 *Provided*, That an applicant who fails to obtain a passing average but who obtained at least
23 seventy five percent (75%) in each of at least one-half of the total subjects given in the
24 examinations, may be permitted to take within two (2) years from the date of his/her
25 examination, another examination, on the subjects in which he/she obtained a grade below

1 seventy five percent (75%). Should the examinee fail in the set of subjects repeated in the
2 second examinations, he shall be required to take all the subjects in the next examinations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (a) Convicted by final judgment of an offense involving moral turpitude by
4 a court of competent jurisdiction;

5 (b) Adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions to Examinees
6 by the Board; and

7 (c) Declared of unsound mind by the court of competent jurisdiction.

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

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

14 (a) Violation of any of the causes in the preceding section except (c);

15 (b) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, Code of Good
16 Governance, standards for the practice of nutrition and dietetics, policy,
17 and measures of the Board and/or the Commission;

18 (c) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining his/her certificate of registration,
19 professional identification card, temporary/special permit;

20 (d) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting in death, injury or
21 damage;

22 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5)
23 consecutive years;

1 (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and licensed
2 person by allowing him/her to use his certificate of registration and/or
3 professional identification card or his/her special/temporary permit;

4 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during his/her suspension from the
5 practice thereof;

6 (h) Addicted to a drug or alcohol abuse impairing his/her ability to practice
7 his/her profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of a
8 competent jurisdiction.

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

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

14 *Provided, That, the Board, may, on its own, recommend an investigation of any RND*
15 *for violation of any of the above-mentioned causes. The motu proprio move to recommend an*
16 *investigation shall be embodied in a resolution to be signed by at least the majority of the*
17 *members of the Board. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission*
18 *shall govern the hearing or investigation, subject to applicable provisions of this Act, R.A.*
19 *No. 8981 otherwise known as the “PRC Modernization Act of 2000”, and suppletorily the*
20 *Rules of Court.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **ARTICLE VI**

23 **PRACTICE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS**

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

1 (a) Natural persons

- 2 1) Duly registered and licensed as nutritionist-dietitian and holders of
3 valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification
4 cards issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act;
5 and
6 2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board and the
7 Commission to foreign-licensed nutritionist-dietitian pursuant to this
8 Act.

9 (b) Juridical persons

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

22 These juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and the
23 Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations thereon.

24 **SEC. 30. Practice of Nutrition and Dietetics.** – Plantilla positions, whose titles bear
25 “nutritionist-dietitian”, “nutritionist” or “dietitian” as well as positions requiring the expertise

1 of RNDs shall be occupied by RNDs. These include, but are not limited to, nutrition program
2 officers, hospital nutritionist-dietitians, food service managers in hospitals; food service
3 institutions and business and industry; except those in practice before the enactment of the
4 law.

5 (a) No person shall offer himself in the Philippines, as or use the title
6 “Nutritionist-Dietitian” or any word, letter, figure, or sign whatsoever, tending
7 to convey the impression that he or she is a nutritionist-dietitian, or advertise
8 or indicate in any manner that he or she is qualified to perform the work of a
9 nutritionist-dietitian without holding a valid certificate of registration and a
10 valid professional identification card as issued by the Board in accordance
11 with this law and/or covered by reciprocity, unless exempt from registration as
12 provided under Section 15 thereof;

13 (b) Hospitals — All hospitals whether government or private with 10 to 25 bed
14 capacity shall employ a minimum of one full-time RND; 26 to 75 bed
15 capacity, a minimum of two (2) full time RNDs; 76-100 bed capacity, a
16 minimum of three (3) full-time RNDs; 101 to 150, four (4) full-time RNDs;
17 151-200 bed capacity, a minimum of (5) five full-time RNDs; 201 to 300 bed
18 capacity, a minimum of six (6) full-time RNDs; 301 to 400 bed capacity, a
19 minimum of eight (8) full-time RNDs; 401 to 500 bed capacity, a minimum of
20 ten (10) full-time RNDs; 501 to 750 bed capacity, a minimum of fifteen (15)
21 full-time RNDs; 751 to 1000 bed capacity, a minimum of twenty (20) full-
22 time RNDs, 1001 to 1200 bed capacity, a minimum of twenty-four (24) full-
23 time RNDs; 1201 to 1500 bed capacity, a minimum of thirty (30) full-time
24 RNDs; and above 1500 bed capacity, a minimum of forty (40) full-time
25 RNDs: *Provided*, That no person shall be employed as nutritionist-dietitian in

1 any hospital without having been registered in accordance with the provisions
2 of this Law; and with updated professional identification card in the duration
3 of employment. Hospitals with less than 10 bed capacity should hire the
4 services of an RND consultant. Specialty Hospitals and clinics shall employ
5 more than the minimum required number of fulltime RND. The provisions of
6 this section shall be complied with within one (1) year from the date of
7 effectivity of this Law;

8 (c) Nutrition agencies/local government units (LGUs). All these agencies
9 whether government or private shall employ RNDs. All LGUs shall be
10 required to have at least one (1) RND per 25,000 population for each province,
11 city/municipality and rural health unit;

12 (d) Government agencies, Government Owned And Controlled Corporations
13 (GOCCS), and private corporations, shall employ full-time or part-time RNDs
14 as part of their medical staff;

15 (e) Food service Managers/positions in hospitals and in food services in
16 healthcare institutions should be headed by RNDs;

17 (f) Food services institutions such as school cafeteria in elementary, high school,
18 colleges and universities; and industrial cafeterias should preferably be
19 occupied by RNDs. In the absence of a full time RND, the services of a
20 consultant RND shall be availed of;

21 (g) Teaching of nutrition courses in allied fields, e.g., Medicine, Nursing,
22 Midwifery, Dentistry, Human Kinetics, Physical Education, Hospitality,
23 Culinary, Hotel and Restaurant Management-Tourism should be done only by
24 RNDs;

1 (h) In addition to the required faculty qualifications, all schools, colleges,
2 professional subjects required for licensure examinations shall be taught by
3 persons who are holders of valid certificates of registration and valid
4 professional identification card;

5 (i) All wellness centers, sports clinics, fitness centers must employ the services of
6 at least one (1) fulltime or part time RND;

7 (j) Nutrition support units in hospitals should include RNDs to provide nutrition
8 assessment and counselling; and,

9 (k) *Salary.* - In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and
10 professionalism of nutritionist-dietitians the minimum entry salary grade of
11 RNDs working in the public health institutions shall not be lower than salary
12 grade 16. *Provided,* That for RNDs working in the private sector, their
13 minimum salary shall be equivalent to the amount corresponding to salary
14 grade 16 in the public sector.

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

18 (a) Licensed nutritionist-dietitians from countries/states whose services are either
19 for a fee or free;

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

22 2) If their services are urgently necessary for lack of or inadequacy of
23 available local specialists or experts, for the promotion and advancement
24 of the practice of nutrition and dietetics, through transfer of technology.

1 (b) Licensed nutritionist-dietitians from foreign countries/states employed whose
2 services shall be free and limited to indigent patients in a particular hospital,
3 center or clinic.

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 33. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration and Professional***
20 ***Identification Card, Professional Tax Receipt (PTR), APO Membership and Official Receipt***
21 ***(O.R.).*** – The nutritionist-dietitian shall be required to indicate his/her Certificate of
22 Registration Number and date of issuance, and the expiry of his/her current professional
23 identification card, PTR Number, APO Membership Number and O.R. Number on the
24 documents he/she signs, uses, or issues in connection with the practice of nutrition and
25 dietetics.

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

8 **SEC. 35. *Posting of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card***
9 ***or Temporary/Special Permit.*** – The Certificate of Registration and Professional
10 Identification of Nutritionist-Dietitians or Temporary/Special Permit in original or
11 authentic/authenticated copies shall be posted in a conspicuous place or kept on file in his/her
12 office. Those previously registered in accordance to Presidential Decree No. 1286 shall
13 retain their registration certification numbers.

14 **SEC. 36 *Integration Of The Nutrition And Dietetics Profession.*** – The nutrition and
15 dietetics profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of
16 nutritionist-dietitians that is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission
17 (SEC). The board, subject to approval by the commission, shall accredit the said organization
18 as the one and only integrated and APO of nutritionist-dietitians. All nutritionist-dietitians
19 whose names appear in the registry book of nutritionist-dietitians shall *ipso facto* or
20 automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges
21 appurtenant thereto upon payment of APO membership fees and dues.

22 Membership in the integrated APO shall not be a bar to membership in other nutrition
23 and dietetics organizations.

1 **SEC. 37. *Foreign Reciprocity.*** – No foreign nutritionist-dietitian shall be granted any
2 of the rights and privileges under this act unless the country of which he/she is a subject or
3 citizen grants the same or similar rights or privileges to Filipino nutritionist-dietitians.

4 **ARTICLE VII**

5 **NUTRITION AND DIETETICS HUMAN RESOURCE PRODUCTION,**
6 **UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

7 **SEC. 38. *Studies for Nutrition and Dietetics Manpower Needs, Production,***
8 ***Utilization and Development.*** – The Board, in coordination with the accredited professional
9 organization and appropriate government or private agencies shall initiate, undertake and
10 conduct studies on nutrition and dietetics human resource production, utilization and
11 development.

12 **SEC. 39. *Comprehensive Nutrition and Dietetics Specialty Program.*** – Within ninety
13 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in coordination with the accredited
14 professional organization, recognized specialty organizations and the Department of Health,
15 is hereby mandated to formulate and develop a comprehensive nutrition and dietetics
16 specialty program that would upgrade the level of skills and competence of nutritionist-
17 dietitians specialists in the country, such as but not limited to the areas of diabetes
18 management, cardiovascular disease management, renal disease management, oncology,
19 nutrition support, weight management, obstetrics, pediatrics, dental medicine, and such other
20 areas as may be determined by the Board.

21 **SEC. 40. *Penal Provision.*** – Any person who shall commit any of the following acts,
22 shall, upon conviction, be fined in accordance with existing laws, the amount to be specified
23 in the Implementing Rules And Regulations (IRR), or imprisoned for no less than six (6)
24 months or more than two (2) years, or be meted with both at the discretion of the court.

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

13 ARTICLE VIII

14 FINAL PROVISIONS

15 **SEC. 41. *Enforcement.*** – In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Board shall be
16 assisted by the Commission, the APO, duly constituted government agencies and authorities,
17 and private organizations in the industry. A memorandum of agreement between agencies or
18 organizations may be executed.

19 **SEC. 42. *Funds.*** – The funds or budget for the implementation of this Act shall be
20 included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the Commission, provided that the
21 amount incurred for its initial implementation shall be charged against the Commission's
22 current year's appropriation.

23 **SEC. 43. *Transitory Provisions.*** – The incumbent Board shall, in an interim capacity,
24 continue to operate or function by carrying out the provisions of the Act without new

1 appointments of the Chairman and members thereof until the first Board created under this
2 Act shall have been constituted or organized pursuant thereto.

3 **SEC. 44. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Board of Nutrition and
4 Dietetics, subject to approval by the Commission, shall prescribe, promulgate, and issue a
5 Board Resolution on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act after consultation
6 with the APO, other agencies, and private organizations concerned in the industry within
7 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

8 **SEC. 45. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be
9 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
10 other provisions, sections or parts hereof, but shall be merely confined to the provision,
11 section, or part thereof that is directly involved in the issue upon which such judgment has
12 been rendered.

13 **SEC. 46. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 1286 is hereby repealed.
14 Laws, decrees, orders, letters of instructions, rules and regulations, or other issuances, and
15 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are likewise accordingly repealed or
16 modified.

17 **SEC. 47. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
18 publication in the Official Gazette or any major daily newspaper or general circulation in the
19 Philippines.

Approved,