



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5549

BY REPRESENTATIVES ESCUDERO, SALVACION, NOGRALES, YAP (S.),
ALEJANO, PAQUIZ, RODRIGUEZ (M.) AND CATAMCO, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 597

AN ACT LOWERING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS
TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS,
PROVIDING FOR CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION,
AND UPGRADING THE SUNDRY PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO
THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act Numbered forty-three hundred
2 seventy-three is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 “SEC. 12. *Qualification of applicants.* – In order to be
4 admitted to take the social work examination, an applicant must,
5 at the time of filing [his or her] OF THE application therefor[,
6 establish to the satisfaction of the Board that]:

7 “(a) [He or she is] **BE** a citizen of the Philippines;

8 “(b) [He or she is] **BE** at least [twenty-one] **EIGHTEEN**
9 years of age;

1 “(c) [He or she is] **BE** in good health and [is] of good
2 moral character;

3 “(d) [He or she has received a diploma as holder of] **HAVE**
4 a bachelor’s degree **OR MASTERAL DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT**
5 in social work from an institution, college, or university duly
6 accredited and legally constituted[.]; **PROVIDED, THAT, THE**
7 **PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO**
8 **HUNDRED AND SIXTY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL**
9 **SERVICE ACT OF 1959, AS AMENDED, INsofar AS CULTURAL**
10 **MINORITIES ARE CONCERNED, SHALL BE APPLIED;** and

11 “(e) [He or she has] **HAVE** completed a minimum period
12 of one thousand **(1,000)** case hours of practical training in an
13 established social work agency under the direct supervision of a
14 fully trained and qualified social worker[.]; **PROVIDED, THAT,**
15 **IN THE INSTITUTION, COLLEGE, OR UNIVERSITY’S**
16 **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, THE ACADEMIC COURSES**
17 **PRECEDED THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE OF ONE THOUSAND**
18 **(1,000) CASE HOURS: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT, THE**
19 **REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLES WITH THE SOCIAL**
20 **WORK CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON**
21 **HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE BOARD FOR SOCIAL**
22 **WORKERS.**

23 **“THOSE WHO FAIL TO PASS THREE (3) LICENSURE**
24 **EXAMINATIONS MUST RE-ENROLL IN AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15)**
25 **UNITS OF BASIC PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK SUBJECTS AND**
26 **PASS THEM, AS SHOWN IN AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF**
27 **RECORDS, BEFORE THEY CAN BE ALLOWED TO RE-APPLY TO**
28 **TAKE ANOTHER LICENSURE EXAMINATION. FAILURE TO PASS**

1 **FOR THE FOURTH TIME SHALL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY**
2 **AN APPLICANT FROM TAKING ANOTHER SOCIAL WORKER**
3 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION.”**

4 SEC. 2. The same Act is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 26
5 on Continuing Social Work Education to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 26. CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION. – ALL**
7 **REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF**
8 **ACCOMPLISHING TWENTY (20) UNITS OF CONTINUING**
9 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) GIVEN BY AN**
10 **ACCREDITED SOCIAL WORK BOARD OF EXAMINERS AS A**
11 **REQUIREMENT FOR RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL**
12 **WORK LICENSE.”**

13 SEC. 3. Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **“SEC. [26]27. Penal provisions. – The following shall**
16 **be punished by a fine of not less than [five hundred pesos] ONE**
17 **HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) nor more than [two**
18 **thousand pesos] TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS**
19 **(P200,000.00), or imprisonment for not less than [one month]**
20 **SIX (6) MONTHS nor more than two (2) years, or both, [in] AT**
21 **the discretion of the court:**

22 **“(a) Any person who shall practice or offer to practice**
23 **social work in the Philippines without being registered or**
24 **exempted from registration in accordance with the provisions of**
25 **this Act;**

26 **“(b) Any person presenting or attempting to use as [his]**
27 **ONE’S own, the certificate of registration of another;**

1 “(c) Any person who shall give any false or fraudulent
2 evidence of any kind to the Board or any member thereof in
3 obtaining a certificate of registration as social worker;

4 “(d) Any person who shall impersonate any registrant of
5 like or different name;

6 “(e) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or
7 suspended certificate of registration;

8 “(f) Any person who shall in connection with [his or her]
9 ONE’S name, otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or
10 description tending to convey the impression that [he or she]
11 ONE is a social worker without holding a valid registration;

12 “(g) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act;

13 “(h) Any person or corporate body who shall violate the
14 rules and regulations of the Board or orders promulgated by it,
15 duly approved by the President of the Philippines, for the
16 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act; or

17 “(i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a social
18 work agency, without the corresponding [C]Certificate of
19 [R]Registration issued by the DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare
20 AND DEVELOPMENT [Administration].”

21 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Professional
22 Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Philippine Association of Social
23 Workers, Inc. (PASWI) shall jointly issue the implementing rules and
24 regulations for this Act not later than the thirtieth (30th) day after its
25 effectivity.

1 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held
2 invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in
3 operation.

4 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws or parts of any law inconsistent
5 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
8 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
9 circulation.

 Approved,

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