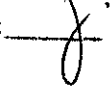




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Prepared by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance with Senators Trillanes IV, Villar and Legarda as authors

AN ACT

REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title of Act.** – This Act shall be known as “*The Philippine Occupational Therapy Law*
2 *of 2015*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.** – The State recognizes the importance of occupational therapists in
5 nation building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded
6 occupational therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, world class and
7 globally competitive through inviolable, honest, effective and credible licensure examinations and
8 through regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their continuing professional growth.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

11
12 a.) Occupational therapy - is a client-centered health profession concerned with promoting
13 health and well-being through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to
14 enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists
15 achieve this outcome by working with people and communities to enhance their ability to
16 engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying
17 the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement.

18
19 b.) The Scope and Nature of the Practice of Occupational Therapy – shall embrace, but is not
20 limited to, the analysis and application of purposeful and meaningful activities

1 need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying the occupation or the environment
2 to better support their occupational engagement.

3
4 b.) The Scope and Nature of the Practice of Occupational Therapy – shall embrace,
5 but is not limited to, the analysis and application of purposeful and meaningful
6 activities specifically directed to occupational performance in the areas of self-
7 care, work, play, and leisure. Reference to occupation is in the context of the
8 individual’s goal-directed use of time, energy, interest, and attention. Upon
9 referral, occupational therapists interpret and intervene or address problems
10 impeding functional or adaptive performance. The purpose is to prevent
11 limitations in participation, and to promote, maintain, or restore occupational
12 performance, health, and psychosocial wellbeing. Occupational therapy may be
13 part of the health and/or social services in hospitals, community settings such as
14 residential, vocational, and leisure centers, schools, day programs, private
15 agencies, the academe, clinics, the work place and other organizations which
16 provide preventive or health promotive services.

17
18 c.) Occupational Therapist – refers to a person who is a holder of a valid registration
19 and professional license issued by the Board of Occupational Therapy and the
20 Professional Regulation Commission, and who is legally qualified to practice
21 occupational therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

22
23
24 **ARTICLE II**
25 **CREATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY**
26 **BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

27
28 **SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.*** – There is hereby created a Board of
29 Occupational Therapy, hereafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative
30 supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the
31 Commission, composed of a chairperson and two (2) members appointed by the President of
32 the Philippines within six (6) months from the enactment of this Act upon the
33 recommendation of the Commission from among occupational therapists of recognized

1 standing nominated by the accredited and integrated professional organization of
2 occupational therapists.

3
4 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the Board.** – The Board shall have the following powers
5 and functions:

- 6 a.) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying
7 out the provisions of this Act;
- 8 b.) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of occupational
9 therapy in the Philippines;
- 10 c.) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- 11 d.) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 12 e.) Maintain a roster of occupational therapists indicating therein the basic
13 information about the registered professionals;
- 14 f.) Issue, reinstate, suspend, cancel or revoke the registration and license, or special
15 permits for the practice of occupational therapy;
- 16 g.) Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of occupational therapy and
17 adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the
18 profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;
- 19 h.) Ensure, in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or its
20 equivalent, that all educational institutions offering occupational therapy
21 education comply with the prescribed policies, standards, and guidelines;
- 22 i.) Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for occupational therapists
23 endorsed by the accredited and integrated professional organization of
24 occupational therapists;
- 25 j.) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and
26 regulations and the Code of Ethics, and for this purpose, issue *Subpoena duces*
27 *tecum* and/or *ad testificandum* to secure the appearance of the witnesses and the
28 production of documents in connection therewith; Provided that the decision of
29 the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and executory
30 after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision;
- 31 k.) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing Professional Development
32 (CPD) program for occupational therapists;
- 33 l.) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table of specifications,
34 determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score and the rate

- 1 examination papers, and submit the results to the Commission within the period
2 provided for in the rules of the Commission;
- 3 m.) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of occupational therapy
4 in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- 5 n.) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
- 6 o.) Grant registration without examination subject to approval by the Commission;
- 7 p.) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of occupational therapy
8 for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies,
9 researches and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the
10 Profession;
- 11 q.) Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out the
12 objectives of this Act.

13

14 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders or decisions issued or
15 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the Commission.

16

17 **SEC. 6. *Qualifications of Board Members.*** - The members of the Board shall, at the time of
18 their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- 19 a.) A resident of the Philippines for at least (5) years;
- 20 b.) A duly registered occupational therapists under this Act, with a valid certificate of
21 registration and professional license;
- 22 c.) Has engaged in rendering occupational therapy services for at least five (5)
23 continuous years immediately preceding appointment;
- 24 d.) A member of good standing of the accredited and integrated professional
25 organization of occupational therapists, and not an officer thereof;
- 26 e.) Has no prior conviction by any competent court, of an offense involving moral
27 turpitude; and
- 28 f.) Has no pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school, college or
29 university or institution conferring an academic degree necessary for admission to
30 the practice of occupational therapy; or where review classes in preparation for
31 licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or
32 administration thereof.

1 **SEC. 7. Term of Office.** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3)
2 years or until their successors have been appointed and duly qualified; *Provided that*,
3 members of the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for
4 the following terms: the chairperson for three years, one member for two years, and the other
5 member for one year; *Provided further that*, a chairperson or member may be re-appointed
6 for a second term, but may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms or six
7 consecutive years. Interim vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

8
9 **SEC. 8. Removal of Board Members.** – Any member of the Board, may, upon the
10 recommendation of the Commission after due process of law and investigation conducted by
11 the Commission, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such as
12 gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or
13 dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulating
14 or rigging of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential
15 information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination, or
16 tampering of grades.

17
18 **SEC. 9. Compensation and Allowances of the Board.** – The Chairperson and members of
19 the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by
20 the chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission as
21 provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

22
23 **SEC. 10. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat, and Support**
24 **Services.** – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All
25 records of the Board, including applications for examination, examination papers and results,
26 minutes of deliberation, administrative cases, and other investigations involving occupational
27 therapists, shall be kept by the Commission.

28 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the
29 secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

30
31 **SEC. 11. Annual Report.** – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an
32 annual report to the Commission, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and
33 accomplishments during the year and recommending measures to be adopted, with the end in

1 view of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting the practice of occupational
2 therapy in the Philippines.

3
4 **ARTICLE III**

5 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**

6
7 **SEC. 12. *Examination Required.*** – All applicants for registration for the practice of
8 occupational therapy shall be required to undergo a licensure examination to be given by the
9 Board in such places and dates as the Commission may designate subject to compliance with
10 the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

11
12 **SEC. 13. *Qualifications for Examination.*** – An applicant for the licensure examination for
13 the licensure examination for occupational therapists shall establish to the satisfaction of the
14 Board that the following qualifications are met:

- 15 a.) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has reciprocity
16 agreement with the Philippines;
- 17 b.) Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude;
- 18 c.) A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy degree or its
19 equivalent degree as determined by the board from a school, college or university
20 in the Philippines or abroad whose occupational therapy program is recognized by
21 the Commission on Higher Education.

22
23 **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** – The licensure examination for occupational therapists
24 shall cover the basic sciences and health science foundations integrated into the following
25 domains:

- 26 a.) Occupational Therapy Application 1
- 27 1. Occupational Therapy Theories and Frames of Reference
- 28 2. Growth and Human Development
- 29 3. Occupational Performance and Behavior Across the Lifespan
- 30 4. Occupational-based practice
- 31
- 32 b.) Occupational Therapy Application 2
- 33 1. Adult Physical Dysfunction
- 34 2. Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics

- 1 3. Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics
- 2 4. Psychosocial Dysfunction
- 3 5. Community-based Practice

4

5 c.) Occupational Therapy Application 3

- 6 1. Professional Reasoning and Behavior
- 7 2. Professional Competence and Ethics
- 8 3. Organization, Administration and Management
- 9 4. Research Process

10

11 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise or exclude any of the subjects
12 or add new ones as the need arises, and may adjust or modify the percentage weight of the
13 subjects in order to keep the examination abreast and in conformity with the latest
14 developments in the profession here and abroad.

15

16 **SEC. 15. Ratings in the Examination.** – To be qualified as having passed the licensure
17 examination for occupational therapists, a candidate must have obtained a general average of
18 seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given
19 subject.

20

21 **SEC. 16. Report of Ratings.** – The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings
22 obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless
23 extended for just cause.

24

25 **SEC. 17. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional License, and**
26 **Professional Identification Card.** – Registration and a professional license shall be issued to
27 examinees who pass the licensure examination for occupational therapists subject to payment
28 of fees prescribed by the Commission. The registration and professional license shall bear the
29 signature of the chairperson of the Commission and the members of the Board, stamped with
30 the official seal, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession
31 with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. The registration and license shall remain in full
32 force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

1 **SEC. 18. *Initial.***– The initials OTRP, which stands for Occupational Therapists Registered
2 Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered occupational therapist,
3 especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the profession.

4

5 **SEC. 19. *Refusal to Register.*** – The Board shall refuse to register any successful examinee
6 who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offence
7 involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after
8 investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the
9 refusal shall be set forth in writing.

10

11 **SEC. 20. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of Registration and***
12 ***Professional License.*** – Two years after the date of revocation, the Board may, upon
13 application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of
14 registration or professional license, and in so doing may, in its discretion, exempt the
15 applicant from taking another examination.

16

17 A new certificate of registration, professional license, or special permit, to replace lost,
18 destroyed, or mutilated ones, may be issued subject to the rules as implemented by the Board.

19

20 **SEC. 21. *Oath of Occupational Therapists.*** – Successful examinees qualified for
21 registration, and qualified applicants for registration without examination, shall be required to
22 take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any government official
23 authorized by the Commission to administer oaths, prior to entering into the practice of
24 occupational therapy in the Philippines.

25

26 **SEC. 22. *Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.*** – The occupational therapist
27 shall be required to indicate his/her registration/professional license number and date of
28 issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license, including his or her privilege tax
29 receipt number, on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice
30 of his/her profession.

31

32 **SEC. 23. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and Cancellation of***
33 ***Special Permit.*** – The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party
34 concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate of registration and professional license, or be

1 suspended from the practice of the profession; or cancel the special permit for any of the
2 causes or grounds mentioned in Section 25 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical
3 conduct, malpractice, violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations,
4 the Code of Ethics, and Standards of Practice for occupational therapists.

5 **SEC. 24. Roster of Occupational Therapists.** – The Board shall prepare, update and maintain
6 a roster of occupational therapists which shall contain the name of each registered
7 occupational therapist, his residence and office addresses, the date of registration and
8 issuance of certificates, and other data which the Board may deem pertinent. The roster shall
9 be open to the public, copies of which shall be mailed to each person listed therein.

10
11 **SEC. 25. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.** – Special or temporary permits upon
12 recommendation of the accredited integrated professional organization of occupational
13 therapists may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission and
14 payment of the fees the latter has prescribed and charges, to the following persons;

- 15 1) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists called for consultation or a specified purpose
16 that is deemed essential to national development; provided that, the practice shall be
17 limited only for the particular work being engaged; *Provided further*, that there is no
18 Filipino therapists qualified for such consultation or purpose.
- 19 2) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists whose service shall be free and who are
20 highly needed under particular settings;
- 21 3) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics in
22 fields essential to occupational therapy education in the Philippines, whose
23 engagement is limited to teaching only; and
- 24 4) Foreign-licensed occupational therapist recognized as an expert or specialist whose
25 service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

26
27 The permit shall among other things, include these limitations and conditions: valid only for a
28 period of not more than one year subject to renewal; the branch or specialty of occupational
29 therapy which the permit holder can practice, and; the specific place or places of practice
30 such as clinic, hospital, center, school/college/university offering the course of occupational
31 therapy. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and
32 regulations for the implementation of this particular section.

1 Therapy, subject to the approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO of
2 occupational therapists and/or the recognized representative of duly accredited education
3 institutions. For this purpose, the Board may create a CPD council to implement the CPD
4 program, subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by the Commission.

5

6 **SEC. 30. *Integration of Occupational Therapists.*** – The occupational therapy profession
7 shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of occupational therapists,
8 which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The
9 Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one
10 and only Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered occupational
11 therapists. All occupational therapists whose names appear in the current Registry Book of
12 Occupational Therapists shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof and shall
13 receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required AIPO
14 membership fees and dues.

15

16 Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not be a bar
17 to membership in other organizations of occupational therapists.

18

19 **SEC. 31. *Foreign Reciprocity*** – No foreign occupational therapists shall be given a
20 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be
21 entitled to any of the privileges under this act unless the country or state of which the
22 foreign occupational therapists is a subject or citizen permits Filipino occupational therapists
23 to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said
24 country or state.

25

26 ARTICLE V

27 PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

28

29 **SEC. 32. *Penal Provisions.*** – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act
30 or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board, subject to the
31 approval of the Commission, shall upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than
32 Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20, 000.00) nor more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or
33 by imprisonment of not less than two (2) years nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the
34 discretion of the court.

1 **SEC. 33. *Funding Provision.*** – The Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission
2 shall immediately include in the Commission’s budget program, the implementation of this
3 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

4
5 **SEC. 34. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – To implement the provisions of this Act,
6 the Board shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, promulgate the rules and
7 regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for occupational
8 therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

9
10 **SEC. 35. *Transitory Provisions.*** – The existing Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational
11 Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that the new and separate
12 Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to this
13 Act.

14
15 **SEC. 36. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, portion, section or provision of this Act shall be
16 declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other part, portion, section
17 or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be in force and effect.

18
19 **SEC. 37. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or parts thereof which are
20 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, revised, superseded or
21 repealed. Republic Act No. 5680 is hereby modified accordingly.

22
23 **SEC. 38. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
24 publication in the Official Gazette, or in two (2) major newspaper of national circulation,
25 whichever comes earlier.

Approved,