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

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SENATE

S. NO. 3024

Prepared by the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation with Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV as author

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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act Numbered Forty-Three Hundred Seventy-
2 Three (4373) is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. Name and Composition of the Board. - [Within sixty days after the
4 approval of this Act, there] THERE shall be created a [Board of Examiners for
5 Social Workers] PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR SOCIAL
6 WORKERS, hereinafter referred to as the Board, UNDER THE
7 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE
8 PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION, HEREINAFTER
9 REFERRED TO AS THE COMMISSION, composed of a [Chairman]
10 CHAIRPERSON and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President
11 of the Philippines [with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, from
12 among social workers of recognized standing in the Philippines,] FROM A LIST
13 OF THREE (3) NOMINEES FOR EACH POSITION SUBMITTED BY THE
14 ACCREDITED INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR
15 SOCIAL WORKERS AND RANKED BY THE COMMISSION, and who, at the
16 time of their appointment shall:

- 17 (a) -do-
- 18 (b) -do-
- 19 (c) -do-
- 20 (d) -do-
- 21 (e) -do-
- 22 (f) -do- "

23 **SEC. 2.** Section 12 of the same Act is hereby further amended:

24 "SEC. 12. Qualification of Applicants.- In order to be admitted to take the social
25 work examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing [his or her] OF
26 application therefor[,establish to the satisfaction of the Board that]:

- 27 (a) [He or she is] BE a citizen of the Philippines;

1 (b) [He or she is] BE at least [twenty-one] EIGHTEEN years of age;
2 (c) [He or she is] BE in good health and [is] of good moral character;
3 (d) [He or she has received a diploma holder of] HAVE a bachelor's
4 degree OR MASTER'S DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT in social work
5 from an institution, college, or university duly accredited and legally
6 constituted[;] : *PROVIDED*, THAT, THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC
7 ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY (2260),
8 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT OF 1959, AS
9 AMENDED, IN SO FAR AS CULTURAL MINORITIES ARE
10 CONCERNED, SHALL BE APPLIED; and,
11 (e) HAVE [He or she has] completed a minimum period of one thousand
12 (1,000) case hours of practical training in an established social work
13 agency under the direct supervision of a fully trained and qualified social
14 worker[.] : *PROVIDED*, THAT, IN THE INSTITUTION, COLLEGE, OR
15 UNIVERSITY'S UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, THE ACADEMIC
16 COURSES PRECEDED THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE OF ONE
17 THOUSAND (1,000.00) CASE HOURS: *PROVIDED FURTHER*,
18 THAT, THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLIES WITH THE
19 SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION
20 ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE BOARD.

21 **SEC. 3.** The same Act is hereby amended by inserting Sections 26, 27 and 28 on
22 Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Integration of the Social Work Profession and
23 the Issuance of Special Temporary Permit (STP), respectively:

24 "SEC. 26. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. - ALL
25 REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF EARNING
26 FORTY-FIVE (45) UNITS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL
27 DEVELOPMENT (CPD) COURSES GIVEN BY ANY CPD PROVIDERS
28 DULY ACCREDITED BY THE CPD COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AS
29 A REQUIREMENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE PROFESSIONAL
30 IDENTIFICATION CARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

31 ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND EMPLOYER
32 ORGANIZATIONS SHALL ALLOCATE THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO
33 SUPPORT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORKERS
34 UNDER THEIR EMPLOY, REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS,
35 FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH THE CPD REQUIREMENT."

36 "SEC. 27. INTEGRATION OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION. - ALL
37 REGISTERED AND LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS SHALL BE UNITED
38 AND INTEGRATED INTO ONE (1) NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH
39 SHALL BE ACCREDITED BY THE BOARD, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL
40 OF THE COMMISSION, AS THE ACCREDITED INTEGRATED
41 PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION (AIPO) OF SOCIAL WORKERS. ALL
42 REGISTERED AND LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS SHALL BECOME
43 MEMBERS OF THE AIPO AND SHALL CONSEQUENTLY BE ENTITLED
44 TO ALL THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES INCIDENTAL THERETO
45 UPON PAYMENT OF THE REQUIRED FEES AND DUES. MEMBERSHIP

1 IN THE AIPO SHALL NOT BE A BAR TO MEMBERSHIP IN ANY OTHER
2 PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION.”

3 “SEC. 28. ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY PERMITS. – SPECIAL
4 TEMPORARY PERMITS (STPs) MAY BE ISSUED BY THE BOARD,
5 SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AND PAYMENT OF
6 THE PRESCRIBED FEES, TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

7 (A) FOREIGN SOCIAL WORKERS CALLED BY THE PHILIPPINE
8 GOVERNMENT FOR A SPECIFIC PUBLIC PURPOSE OR PROJECT;
9 (B) FOREIGN SOCIAL WORKERS TO BE EMPLOYED BY ANY
10 DOMESTIC PRIVATE FIRM/ESTABLISHMENT;

11 (C) FOREIGN SOCIAL WORKERS TO BE ENGAGED AS
12 PROFESSORS OR LECTURERS IN A HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
13 INSTITUTION OR UNIVERSITY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF
14 THE SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY; AND

15 (D) FOREIGN SOCIAL WORKERS, INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS,
16 WHOSE SERVICES ARE ENGAGED DURING DISASTERS,
17 CALAMITIES, OR ANY EMERGENCY CASES AS MAY BE
18 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

19 THE STP SHALL PROVIDE, AMONG OTHERS, THAT: (1) THE
20 PRACTICE OF THE FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL SHALL BE
21 LIMITED TO THE PARTICULAR WORK FOR WHICH THE
22 FOREIGNER IS BEING ENGAGED, (2) THE VALIDITY OF THE STP
23 SHALL BE FOR ONE (1) YEAR ONLY, SUBJECT TO RENEWAL
24 AND (3) THE PRACTICE OF THE FOREIGN SOCIAL WORKER
25 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPLICABLE DOMESTIC LAWS
26 AND REGULATIONS.”

27 SEC. 4. Sections 23 and 26 of the same Act are hereby likewise amended as follows:

28 “SEC. 23. Registration [of Social Welfare Administration.] WITH THE
29 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT. – No [social
30 work agency] SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, as
31 defined herein, shall operate and be accredited as such unless it shall first have
32 registered [with the Social Welfare Administration which shall then issue the
33 corresponding registration certificate] AND SECURED A LICENSE WITH THE
34 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH
35 SHALL THEN ISSUE THE CORRESPONDING REGISTRATION
36 CERTIFICATE AND LICENSE TO OPERATE: Provided, *That* existing [social
37 work agencies] SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES at the
38 time of approval of this Act shall have a period of one (1) year within which to
39 secure the corresponding certificate of registration AND LICENSE TO
40 OPERATE.

41 Before any [social work] SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT agency
42 shall be duly registered AND LICENSED, the following requirements must [have
43 been] BE DULY complied with to the satisfaction of the [Social Welfare
44 Administrator] DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
45 DEVELOPMENT:

- 1 1. That the applicant must be engaged mainly or generally in [social work
2 activity] SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES;
- 3 2. That the applicant has employed a sufficient number of duly qualified
4 STAFF and/OR registered social workers to supervise and take charge of
5 its [social work functions] SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
6 ACTIVITIES in accordance with THE [accepted social work] SET
7 standards;
- 8 3. That the applicant must show in a duly certified financial statement that
9 at least [sixty] SEVENTY percent (70%) of its funds are disbursed for
10 direct social work services; and,
- 11 4. That the applicant keeps a [social work] record of all [cases] SOCIAL
12 DEVELOPMENT and/OR welfare activities handled by it.

13 Section [26] 29. Penal Provisions. - The following shall be [punished by]
14 PENALIZED WITH a fine of not less than [five hundred pesos] ONE HUNDRED
15 THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) [nor] BUT NOT more than [two thousand pesos]
16 TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00), or imprisonment for not less
17 than [one month] SIX (6) MONTHS [nor] BUT NOT more than two (2) years, or
18 both, [in] AT the discretion of the court:

19 (a) Any person who shall practice or offer to practice social work in the Philippines
20 without being registered or exempted from registration in accordance with the
21 provisions of this Act;

22 (b) Any person presenting or attempting to use as [his] ONE'S own, the certificate of
23 registration of another;

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

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

28 (e) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended certificate of
29 registration;

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

33 (g) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act; AND,

34 (h) Any person or corporate body who shall violate the rules and regulations of the
35 Board or orders promulgated by it, [duly approved by the President of the
36 Philippines,] for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act[; or].

37 [(i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a [social work agency] SOCIAL
38 WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, without the corresponding VALID
39 Certificate of Registration AND LICENSE TO OPERATE issued by the [Social
40 Welfare Administration] DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
41 DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH A FINE NOT LESS THAN
42 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN
43 FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) AND/OR IMPRISONMENT
44 FOR NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN THREE (3)
45 YEARS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT. THESE PENALTIES SHALL
46 BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SEIZURE OF EQUIPMENT,
47 INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER FACILITIES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND
48 DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

1 **SEC.5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Commission and the Board, in
2 consultation with the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization for Social Workers,
3 academe and other relevant government and non-governmental agencies, shall issue the
4 implementing rules and regulations of this act within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of
5 the law.

6 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other
7 provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation.

8 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, orders, decrees, issuances or any part or parts
9 thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,