

SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 325

Submitted by the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation on DEC 07 2015.

Re : Senate Bill No. 3024

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5549.

Sponsor : Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

Mr. President:

The Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation to which was referred House Bill No. 5549, introduced by Representatives Escudero, Salvaclon, Nograles, Yap (S.), Allijano, Paquiz, Rodriguez (M.) and Catamco, entitled:

**"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"**

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. 3024, prepared by the Committee, entitled:

**"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 approved in substitution of House Bill No. 5549 with Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted:




ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
*Chair*


Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization  
and Professional Regulation

FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.  
*Vice-Chair*

Members:



PAOLO BENIGNO "BAM" AQUINO IV



LOREN LEGARDA



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

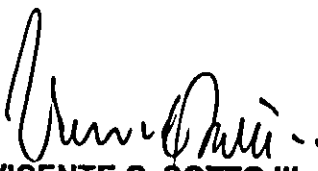
Ex-Officio Members



**RALPH G. RECTO**  
*President Pro-Tempore*

**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**  
*Majority Leader*

**JUAN PONCE ENRILE**  
*Minority Leader*



**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
*Acting Minority Leader*

**Hon. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*Senate President*  
*Senate of the Philippines*  
*Pasay City*

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

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

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 FURTIHER*,  
18 THAT, THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLIES WITH THE  
19 SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION  
20 ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHIED) 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,