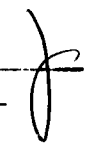




16 JUL 19 P6:22

SENATE

S. No. **629**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Sen. Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV.

AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE IN THE
PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chiropractic is a health care profession which focuses on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system with special emphasis on the spine. It is hypothesized that the general health of an individual is affected by these disorders via the nervous system¹. Chiropractors also known as chiropractic physicians are individuals who specialize in the treatment of patients with health problems that involve the musculoskeletal system.

This method of health care is popular and well-established in USA, Canada and Australia. It is also present to a lesser extent in other countries, such as the Philippines. At present, there are individuals who are practicing chiropractics in the Philippines, however, we do not have any agency that regulates this practice.

This proposed measure aims to professionalize the chiropractic profession by creating a Chiropractic Board of Examiners which would regulate the chiropractic profession to ensure the excellent, competitive, and accountable practice of chiropractic. The proposed measure seeks to protect not only the clients of chiropractic physicians but also the practitioners as well as the credibility of their profession.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ Data retrieved from Nelson CF, Lawrence DJ, Triano JJ, Bronfort G, Perle SM, Metz RD, Hegetschweiler K, LaBrot T (2005). "Chiropractic as spine care: a model for the profession"



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**AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE IN THE
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Chiropractic Act of 2016.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In recognition of the importance and role of chiropractors in nation-building and development, it shall be the policy of the State to promote and recognize the significance of the chiropractic profession.

SEC. 3. *Creation and Composition of Board.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Chiropractic Examiners, hereinafter called the Board, a collegial body under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be composed of five (5) members, four (4) of which are licensed chiropractic physicians who have met the requirements of this Act and have practiced chiropractic in the country for more than two (2) years. One member of the board shall be a person with no direct financial interest in the health care industry. They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) nominees for each position. The Board shall be organized not later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and the Members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Chiropractic Examiners.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment and for the course of their term, possess the following qualifications:

- (a) A natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- (c) Possess good moral character;

- 1 (d) Have at least five (5) years of practice in chiropractic care in a duly recognized
2 institution, clinic, or center, as well as at least two (2) years of teaching experience
3 in the field of chiropractic care;
4
5 (e) Be a registered and licensed chiropractor, except in the case of the first members
6 of the Board who shall automatically be conferred a valid certificate of
7 registration and a valid professional identification card in chiropractic upon
8 appointment to the Board;
9
10 (f) Is not an officer, nor hold any position other than being a member, of the
11 integrated and accredited national organization of chiropractors; and
12
13 (g) Shall not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.
14
15

16 **SEC. 5. Term of Office.** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of
17 three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. Each
18 member of the Board may be reappointed for one (1) full term of three (3) years. The first
19 members of the Board shall hold office for the following terms: the Chairperson for three (3)
20 years; one member for two (2) years; and the other member for one (1) year, which shall be
21 specified in their respective appointments. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a
22 member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member of the Board
23 shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to the performance of his/her duties.
24
25

26 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties.** – The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- 27 (a) Administer and implement the provisions of this Act and promulgate as well as
28 revise or update, as necessary, rules and regulations, resolutions and guidelines
29 hereto: *Provided*, That the policies, resolutions, rules and regulations issued or
30 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the
31 Commission;
32
33 (b) Supervise and monitor the registration, licensure and practice of chiropractors in
34 the Philippines;
35
36 (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
37
38 (d) Issue, and upon compliance with due process requirements suspend or revoke,
39 and/or reinstate, the certificate of registration and professional identification card
40 for chiropractors;
41
42 (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
43
44 (f) Monitor the conditions and circumstances affecting the practice of chiropractic
45 care in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed lawful and
46 proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and
47 technical standards of the profession;

- 1 (g) Issue permits to and exercise visitorial powers over agencies, institutions,
2 associations, corporations and partnerships to verify that the persons practicing
3 chiropractic care therein are chiropractors with valid certificates of registration
4 and valid professional identification cards, and that they possess the necessary
5 accreditation, skills and/or facilities to competently carrying out their functions;
6
7 (h) Assist the Commission in the formulation and implementation of the guidelines on
8 continuing professional education for chiropractors;
9
10 (i) Ensure, in coordination with the CHED, that all educational institutions offering
11 the course/program of chiropractic care strictly comply with the policies,
12 standards and requirements prescribed by CHED for such course/program,
13 especially in the areas of administration, curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
14
15 (j) Prepare, adopt, issue and amend, in consultation with CHED, syllabi for the
16 licensure examination subjects;
17
18 (k) Investigate and, when warranted, hear administrative cases involving violations of
19 this Act, its implementing rules and regulations as hereinafter promulgated, and
20 any applicable code of ethics and/or code of professional standards. For this
21 purpose, it may issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to
22 secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in
23 connection therewith: *Provided*, That the Board's decision, resolution or orders
24 rendered in administrative cases shall be subject to review only on appeal; and
25
26 (l) Perform such other functions and duties as may be lawfully delegated to it, or as it
27 may deem necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.
28
29

30 **SEC. 7. Compensation and Allowances.** – The Chairperson and Members of the
31 Board shall receive the same compensation and allowances as those received by the
32 chairperson and Members of the existing regulatory boards under the Commission, as
33 provided in the charter of the Commission and in the General Appropriations Act.
34
35

36 **SEC. 8. Removal or Suspension of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board**
37 **of Chiropractic Examiners.** – Any member of the Board may, upon the recommendation of
38 the Commission upon observance of due process and completion of the proper investigation,
39 be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause, such as gross neglect of
40 duty, incompetence, malpractice, behavior unbecoming of a chiropractic professional,
41 immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final conviction of any crime involving moral
42 turpitude, any act of graft and corruption, and participation in the manipulation of or any
43 dishonesty relative to the licensure examinations and/or the registration process.
44
45

46 **SEC. 9. Administrative Supervision over the Board, Custodian of its Records,**
47 **Secretariat and Support Services.** – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision
48 and control of the Commission. All records of the Board, including documents relative to the
49 licensure examinations as well as administrative and other investigative cases conducted by

1 the Board, shall be kept in the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate
2 the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat with necessary support services to
3 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.
4
5

6 **SEC. 10. *Examinations Required.*** – All applicants for registration to practice
7 chiropractic care shall be required to pass a licensure examination for chiropractors to be
8 conducted by the Board in such places and dates, and subject to such requirements,
9 prescribed by the Commission.
10
11

12 **SEC. 11. *Qualifications of Applicants for Licensure Examination for Chiropractors***
13 – Any person may apply to take the examination for registration and licensure as a
14 chiropractor after furnishing evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

- 15 (a) is a Filipino citizen, a permanent resident, or a citizen of a foreign country which
16 extends reciprocity to the Philippines relative to the practice of the profession;
17
18 (b) has a high school education or its equivalent;
19
20 (c) has successfully completed at least two academic years of study in a college of
21 liberal arts or sciences or has engaged in the active licensed practice of
22 chiropractic for three of the four years preceding the filing of the application;
23
24 (d) is a graduate of a school or college of chiropractic that:
25 (1) is accredited by or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting agency
26 recognized by the board; or
27
28 (2) if an accrediting agency under (1) of this paragraph does not exist, requires
29 the completion of a minimum of 4,000 hours of formal education and
30 training in order to graduate, including
31 (i) 150 hours of chiropractic philosophy or principles;
32
33 (ii) 1200 hours of basic sciences, including anatomy, chemistry,
34 physiology, and pathology;
35
36 (iii) 1400 hours of preclinical technique, including diagnosis,
37 chiropractic technique, and x-rays; and
38
39 (iv) 700 hours of clinical training;
40
41 (e) completes 120 hours of formal training in physiological therapeutics;
42
43 (f) is of good moral character; and
44
45 (g) has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.
46
47

48 **SEC. 12. *Licensure by credentials.*** – The board may issue a license by credentials to
49 an applicant who pays the appropriate fee and presents satisfactory proof that the applicant:

- 1 (a) is a graduate of a school or college of chiropractic that –
2 (1) is accredited by or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting agency
3 recognized by the board; or
4
5 (2) if an accrediting agency under (a) of this paragraph does not exist, requires the
6 completion of a minimum of 4,000 hours of formal education and training in
7 order to graduate, including:
8 (i) 150 hours of chiropractic philosophy or principles;
9
10 (ii) 1,200 hours of basic sciences, including anatomy, chemistry,
11 physiology, and pathology;
12
13 (iii) 1,400 hours of preclinical technique, including diagnosis, chiropractic
14 technique, and x-rays; and
15
16 (iv) 700 hours of clinical training;
17
18 (b) has passed an examination approved by the board that is designed to test the
19 applicant's knowledge of the laws governing the practice of chiropractic and the
20 regulations adopted under those laws; and
21
22 (c) has completed 120 hours of formal training in physiological therapeutics or has
23 passed, to the satisfaction of the board, a physiological therapeutics examination as
24 may be required by the board.
25
26

27 **SEC. 13. Examination. –**

- 28 (a) Examinations for a license to practice chiropractic may be held in the time and
29 manner fixed by the board.
30
31 (b) The examination may include practical demonstration and oral and written
32 examination in those subjects usually taught in accredited chiropractic schools.
33
34 (c) A general average rating of 75 percent is a passing grade on the examination.
35
36 (d) An applicant may take a reexamination within one year after failing the
37 examination.
38

39 The Board shall submit to the Commission an official report detailing the ratings
40 obtained by each examinee within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless such
41 period is extended for just cause.
42
43

44 **SEC. 14. Oath of Chiropractors –** All successful examinees qualified for registration
45 and all qualified applicants for registration without examination shall be required to take an
46 oath to uphold the profession before any member of the Board or any officer of the
47 Commission authorized to administer oaths, prior to entering into the practice of chiropractics
48 in the Philippines.

1 **SEC. 15. Issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional Identification**
2 **Card.** – A certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to all
3 successful examinees and registrants without examination upon compliance with all the legal
4 requirements, including payment of fees, prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of
5 registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and Members of
6 the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with
7 all the privileges and concomitant responsibilities appurtenant thereto. The said certificate
8 shall remain in full force and effect until suspended or revoked in accordance with this Act. A
9 professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance and validity
10 term of three years, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be
11 issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed registration fee. Upon expiration of the
12 professional identification card, the chiropractors may renew the same upon proof of
13 compliance with continuing education requirements prescribed by the Board and/or
14 Commission.

15
16
17 **SEC. 16. Disclosure of Registration Information.** – The chiropractor shall be
18 required to indicate his/her registration and professional identification card number and date
19 of issuance, the duration of validity, including the professional tax receipt number on each
20 document signed, used or issued in connection with the practice of his/her profession.

21
22
23 **SEC. 17. Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional**
24 **Identification Card.** – The Board shall not register nor issue a certificate of registration or
25 professional identification card to any person convicted of a criminal offense involving moral
26 turpitude, has been found guilty by a judicial or other duly constituted tribunal of immoral or
27 dishonorable conduct, or has been medically diagnosed to be of unsound mind. In the event
28 of non-issuance of the certificate for any reason, the Board shall furnish the applicant a
29 written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial, which statement shall be
30 incorporated to the records of the Board.

31
32
33 **SEC. 18. Practice Through Special Temporary Permit.** – Special temporary permits
34 may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of
35 appropriate fees, to the following persons:

- 36 (1) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries who are internationally
37 acknowledged specialists or outstanding experts in chiropractic care, provided that
38 their services are important and necessary either due to the lack or inadequacy of
39 available local specialists/experts or in recognition of their potential contribution
40 to the promotion/advancement of chiropractic care through transfer of technology;
41 (2) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries whose services shall be free and
42 offered exclusively to indigent patients in a particular hospital, center or clinic;
43 and
44 (3) Licensed chiropractors from foreign countries employed as exchange professors to
45 teach chiropractic care in schools, colleges, universities offering chiropractic
46 programs.

47
48 The permit shall detail the conditions thereof which shall, among other things, include
49 the effectivity period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal, and the specific place

1 of practice such as the clinic, hospital, center, school, college, university offering the course
2 of chiropractic care. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall prescribe
3 rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section.
4
5

6 **SEC. 19. *Suspension or Revocation of Certificate of Registration and Professional***
7 ***Identification Card or Cancellation of a Special Temporary Permit.*** – The Board shall have
8 the power, after notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the certificate of registration and
9 professional identification card or to cancel special temporary permits granted pursuant to
10 this Act on any ground set forth in the instances hereunder:

- 11 (a) Procurement of a certificate of registration and/or professional identification card,
12 or special temporary permit by fraud or deceit;
13
14 (b) Allowing an unqualified person to advertise or to practice the profession by using
15 one's certificate of registration or professional identification card or special
16 temporary permit;
17
18 (c) Violating or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this Act, its
19 implementing rules and regulations, the code of ethics or code of professional
20 standards promulgated hereinafter by the Board;
21
22 (d) Manifest physical or mental incompetence to render chiropractic services with
23 reasonable skill and safety to his/her clients/patients;
24
25 (e) Professional misconduct or negligence in the performance of duties as a
26 chiropractor; and
27
28 (f) Engaging in the practice of the profession during the period of one's suspension.
29
30

31 **SEC. 20. *Reinstatement.*** – A chiropractor whose certificate of registration has been
32 revoked may apply to the Board for reinstatement at any time after two (2) years from the
33 date of revocation of said certificate. The application shall be in writing and shall conform to
34 requirements hereinafter prescribed by the Board. No certificate of registration or
35 professional identification card shall be reinstated unless the Board is satisfied that a good
36 cause exists to warrant such reinstatement.
37

38 Issuance of a new certificate of registration or professional identification card, or
39 special temporary permit in lieu of one that has been lost, destroyed or mutilated shall be
40 subject to applicable rules prescribed by the Commission.
41
42

43 **SEC. 21. *Appeal from Judgment.*** – The decision of the Board shall ipso facto
44 become final fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision by the respondent unless an appeal
45 has been filed with the Commission within the same period. The Commission's decision on
46 appeal may be further appealed before the Court of Appeals within fifteen (15) days from
47 receipt thereof.

1 **SEC. 22. *Rights of the Respondent.*** – The respondent chiropractor shall have the
2 right to be represented by counsel at all stages of the proceedings as well as to speedy
3 disposition of his/her case. He/she shall have the right to confront witnesses against him/her
4 in addition to such other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.
5
6

7 **SEC. 23. *Integration of the Profession.*** – The professional practice of chiropractic
8 shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of chiropractic
9 professionals which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission
10 (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said
11 organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)
12 of registered chiropractic professionals. All chiropractic professionals whose names appear in
13 the Registry Book of Chiropractic Profession shall ipso facto or automatically become
14 members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon
15 payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.
16

17 Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not
18 be a bar to membership in other organizations of chiropractic profession.
19
20

21 **SEC. 24. *Foreign Reciprocity.*** – No foreign chiropractic professional shall be given a
22 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be
23 entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign
24 chiropractic professional is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino chiropractic
25 professionals to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or
26 citizens of said country or state.
27
28

29 **SEC. 25. *Prohibited Acts.*** – No person shall:

- 30 (a) Engage in the professional practice of chiropractic care nor represent himself/
31 herself as a professional practicing chiropractor without a valid certificate of
32 registration/valid professional identification card, or a valid special temporary
33 permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
34
35 (b) Represent himself/ herself to be a licensed and authorized practicing chiropractor
36 during the time that his/her certificate of registration has been suspended or
37 revoked or professional identification card without being renewed, or special
38 temporary permit cancelled;
39
40 (c) Allow any other person to use his/her certificate of registration and professional
41 identification card or special temporary permit for any purpose, regardless of
42 whether such act actually enables the unqualified individual to engage in the
43 practice of chiropractic;
44
45 (d) Use, exhibit and/or misrepresent as his/her own the certificate of registration
46 and/or professional identification card or special temporary permit of another; and

1 (e) Give any false, inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information to the Board in
2 order to obtain a certificate of registration or professional identification card or
3 special temporary permit
4

5 No corporation, partnership, association or entity shall operate a chiropractic office,
6 center, clinic, or otherwise engage in the practice or allow the practice of chiropractic within
7 its premises, without securing a permit therefore from the Board. Such permit shall be issued
8 only after the Board is satisfied that such establishment is competently staffed by a
9 chiropractor and equipped with sufficient and adequate chiropractic-related instruments and
10 facilities.
11

12 A violation of any provision of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall
13 be penalized accordingly.
14
15

16 **SEC. 26. Penalties.** – Any person who violates any provision of this Act or its
17 implementing rules and regulations shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six
18 (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos
19 (P10, 000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the
20 discretion of the Court.
21
22

23 **SEC. 27. Injunction.** – The Board may initiate action to enjoin, restrain, and/or
24 prosecute any individual, corporation, association, partnership or entity engaging in the
25 practice of chiropractics in violation of this Act.
26
27

28 **SEC. 28. Funding Provision.** – The Chairperson of the Commission shall
29 immediately hereinafter include in the Commission's programs the prompt implementation of
30 this Act, funding of which shall be provided for in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
31
32

33 **SEC. 29. Enforcement.** – It shall be the duty of all duly constituted law enforcement
34 agencies and officers of national, provincial, city or municipal governments to uphold and
35 enforce the provisions of this Act and to investigate and prosecute or cause the investigation
36 and prosecution of any person violating the same.
37
38

39 **SEC. 30. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the
40 constitution of the Board, it shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
41 regulations, subject to approval of the Commission, to implement the provisions of this Act.
42
43

44 **SEC. 31. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid by a
45 competent court, any other provision not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and
46 effective.

1 **SEC. 32. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and
2 letters of instruction which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or amended accordingly.
4

5
6 **SEC. 33. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days following its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,