

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 OCT -2 A11 :25

SENATE

S. B. No. 1093

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Last March 11, 2019, Republic Act No. 11241, otherwise known as "Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018", was passed into law. This Act modified Republic Act No. 5680 or the Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law which was passed almost 50 years ago on June 21, 1969. Unfortunately, no new law was enacted that addresses the other side of RA 5680 - the profession of physical therapy.

Physical therapy remains to be an important sector in the allied health professions. Based on the data reported by the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, there are approximately 13,000 physical therapy professionals in the Philippines¹.

However, with advancements in science and technology, there is clearly a need for an update of the law governing Physical Therapists to make the profession responsive to the changes that have occurred since the past fifty years after the enactment of RA 5680.

This bill seeks to create a separate Board of Physical Therapy which will be tasked to maintain high professional, ethical and technical standards for the practice of physical therapy. The Board will formulate the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists. A Continuing Professional Education Program will likewise be institutionalized through this proposed measure. This bill will also push for

¹ <https://www.wcpt.org/sites/wcpt.org/files/files/cds/reports/2018/150143.pdf>

the integration of all physical therapists in the country through the formation of a national professional organization of physical therapists. At the same time, it also aims to improve the quality of physical therapy education in the country.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator



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

ARTICLE I. TITLE OF THE ACT AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Physical Therapy Law of 2019."

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Physical Therapy - is an allied medical profession which develops, coordinates and utilizes selected knowledge and skill in planning, organizing, directing and evaluating the programs for the care of individuals whose ability to function is impaired or threatened by disease or injury.

Physical Therapy is the art and science of treatment by means of therapeutic exercises, heat, cold, light, water, manual manipulation, electricity and other physical agents. The goal of physical therapy is to help the patient reach maximum potential and to assume his due place in society while learning to live within limits of his capabilities.

Physical Therapy requires in depth knowledge of human growth and development, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, biomechanics of motion, manifestations of disease and

1 trauma, normal and abnormal psychological responses to injury, sickness and
2 disability, and the cultural socioeconomic influences of the individual.

- 3 b. Physical Therapist (PT) - is a legally qualified professional licensed to practice
4 physical therapy under the provisions of this Act. The Physical Therapist assists
5 patients with temporary or permanent physical disability to achieve the highest
6 possible degree of recovery.

7 **ARTICLE II. THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

8 **SECTION 3. Creation and Composition of the Board.** - Within thirty (30)
9 days upon the approval of this Act there shall be created the Board of Physical
10 Therapy, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of a Chairman and two
11 members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines on the
12 recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission from among Physical
13 Therapists recognized in the Philippines nominated by the accredited national
14 organization of physical therapists.

15 **SECTION 4 . Powers and Functions of the Board.** - Protection of the public
16 shall be the highest priority for the Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and
17 disciplinary functions. The Board is vested with authority conformably with the
18 provisions of this Act to:

- 19 a. Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for
20 carrying out the provisions of this Act;
21 b. Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of physical
22 therapy in the Philippines;
23 c. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
24 d. Adopt an official seal of the Board;
25 e. Maintain a roster of physical therapists indicating therein the basic information
26 about the registered professionals;
27 f. Issue, reinstate, suspend, cancel or revoke the registration and license, or
28 special permits for the practice of physical therapy;
29 g. Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy and
30 adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the
31 profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;
32 h. Ensure, in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or
33 its equivalent, that all educational institutions offering physical therapy
34 education comply with the prescribed policies, standards, and guidelines;
35 i. Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for physical therapists
36 endorsed by the accredited and integrated professional organization of physical
37 therapists;
38 j. Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and
39 regulations and the Code of Ethics, and for this purpose, issue subpoena duces

tecum and/or ad testificandum to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith: Provided, That the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision;

- k. Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;
- l. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table of specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score and the rate examination papers, and submit the results to the Commission within the period provided for in the rules of the Commission;
- m. Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- n. Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
- o. Grant registration without examination subject to approval by the Commission;
- p. Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and
- q. Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

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

SECTION 5. Qualifications of the Board Members. - The members of the Board shall at the time of their appointment be:

- a. A citizen of the Philippines and a resident thereof for at least five (5) years;
- b. A duly registered physical therapist in the Philippines with a valid certificate of registration and professional license;
- c. Has engaged in rendering physical therapy services for at least five (5) continuous years immediately preceding appointment;
- d. A member of good standing of the accredited and integrated professional organization of physical therapists, and not an officer thereof;
- e. Has no prior conviction by any competent court, of an offense involving moral turpitude;
- f. Has no pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school, college or university or institution conferring an academic degree necessary for admission to the practice of physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of the administration thereof; and
- g. Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where the regular course of his profession is being taught or review classes are conducted;

1 No member of the Board may accept employment or become connected with any
2 school, college or university conferring a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy for a
3 period of one year after his term.

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

12 **SECTION 7. Removal of Board Members.** - Any member of the Board may,
13 upon the recommendation of the Commission after due process of law and
14 investigation conducted by the Commission, be suspended or removed by the
15 President from office for cause such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence,
16 malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final
17 judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulating or rigging of the
18 licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential information in the
19 examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination, or tampering of
20 grades.

21 **SECTION 8. Compensation and Allowances of the Board.** - The
22 chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances
23 comparable to that being received by the chairpersons and members of existing
24 regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations
25 Act.

26 **SECTION 9. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records,**
27 **Secretariat, and Support Services.** - The Board shall be under the administrative
28 supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for
29 examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative
30 cases, and other investigations involving physical therapists, shall be kept by the
31 Commission.

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

34 **SECTION 10. Annual Report.** - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar
35 year, submit an annual report to the Commission, giving a detailed account of its
36 proceedings and accomplishments during the year and recommending measures to
37 be adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting
38 the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

1 **ARTICLE III. LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**

2 **SECTION 11. Examination Required.** - All applicants for registration for the
3 practice of physical therapy shall be required to undergo a licensure examination to
4 be given by the Board in such places and dates as the Commission may designate
5 subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Commission.

6 **SECTION 12. Qualifications for Examination.** - An applicant for the
7 licensure examination for physical therapists shall establish, to the satisfaction of the
8 Board, that the following qualifications are met:

9 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has a reciprocity
10 agreement with the Philippines;

11 (b) Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude; and

12 (c) A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree or its equivalent
13 degree as determined by the Board from a school, college or university in the
14 Philippines or abroad whose physical therapy program is recognized by the CHED.

15 **SECTION 13. Scope of Examination.** - The licensure examination for
16 physical therapists shall cover the basic sciences and health science foundations
17 integrated into the following domains:

18 **MEDICAL ASPECT**

- 19 A. Anatomy 1: Anatomy and Histology of the Back and Limbs
20 B. Anatomy 2: Internal Organs, Face and Neuroanatomy
21 C. Anatomy 3: Kinesiology and Biomechanics
22 D. Physiology 2: General Physiology and Neurophysiology
23 E. Pathology and Microbiology: General Pathology and General Microbiology
24 F. Psychiatry: Psychological Reactions to Disability
25 G. Orthotics and Prosthetics: Splinting, Casting Bandaging, Bracing, Artificial Limbs
26 H. Medical/Surgical 1: General Medical Conditions and Pediatric Conditions
27 I. Medical/Surgical 2: Neurological and Neurosurgical Conditions
28 J. Medical/Surgical 3: Orthopedic and Surgical Conditions

29 **PHYSICAL THERAPY ASPECT**

- 30 A. Therapeutic Exercise 1: Physiology of Exercise, Types and Posture
31 B. Therapeutic Exercise 2: Specific Exercise; PRE's
32 C. Therapeutic Exercise 3: Advanced Therapeutic Exercise, PNF
33 D. PT 1: Hydrotherapy, Introduction to Patient Care, Massage and Superficial Heat
34 E. PT 2: Electrotherapy
35 F. PT 3: Principles of Evaluation; Techniques - ROM, MMT; History Taking and
36 Charting

- 1 G. Ethics in Physical Therapy
- 2 H. Organization and Administration
- 3 I. Seminar 1: Clinical Correlation, Team Approach
- 4 J. Seminar 2: Clinical Correlation, Team Approach
- 5 K. Clinical Education: Introduction to Clinics

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

10 **SECTION 14. Ratings in the Examination.** - To be qualified as having
11 passed the licensure examination for physical therapists, a candidate must have
12 obtained a general average of seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than
13 sixty percent (60%) in any given subject.

14 **SECTION 15. Report of Ratings.** - The Board shall submit to the Commission
15 the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the
16 examination, unless extended for just cause.

17 **SECTION 16. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional**
18 **License, and Professional Identification Card.** - Registration and a professional
19 license shall be issued to examinees who pass the licensure examination for physical
20 therapists subject to payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The registration
21 and professional license shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the Commission
22 and the members of the Board, stamped with the official seal, indicating that the
23 person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges
24 appurtenant thereto. The registration and license shall remain in full force and effect
25 until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

26 **SECTION 17. Initial.** - The initials "PTRP", which stands for Physical
27 Therapists Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered
28 physical therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the
29 profession.

30 **SECTION 18. Refusal to Register.** - The Board shall refuse to register any
31 successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of
32 any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or
33 dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of
34 unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

35 **SECTION 19. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of**
36 **Certificate of Registration and Professional License.** - Two (2) years after the
37 date of revocation, the Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper

1 and sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of registration or professional license,
2 and in so doing, may, in its discretion, exempt the applicant from taking another
3 examination.

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

7 **SECTION 20. Oath of Physical Therapists.** - Successful examinees
8 qualified for registration, and qualified applicants for registration without examination,
9 shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or
10 any government official authorized by the Commission to administer oaths, prior to
11 entering into the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

12 **SECTION 21. Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.** - The
13 physical therapist shall be required to indicate his/her registration/professional license
14 number and date of issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license, including
15 his/her privilege tax receipt number, on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues
16 in connection with the practice of his/her profession.

17 **SECTION 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of**
18 **Registration and Cancellation of Special Permit.** - The Board may, after giving
19 proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the practitioner's certificate
20 of registration and professional license, or be suspended from the practice of the
21 profession; or cancel the special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned
22 in Section 25 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice,
23 violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of
24 Ethics, and Standards of Practice for physical therapists.

25 **SECTION 23. Roster of Physical Therapists.** - The Board shall prepare,
26 update and maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name of
27 each registered physical therapist, his/her residence and office addresses, the date of
28 registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the Board may deem
29 pertinent. The roster shall be open to the public, copies of which shall be mailed to
30 each person listed therein.

31 **SECTION 24. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.** - Special or
32 temporary permits upon recommendation of the integrated professional organization
33 of physical therapists may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval by the
34 Commission and payment of the fees the latter has prescribed and charges, to the
35 following persons:

36 (a) Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified purpose
37 that is deemed essential to national development: Provided, That the practice shall be

1 limited only for the particular work being engaged: Provided, further, That there is no
2 Filipino therapist qualified for such consultation or purpose;

3 (b) Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free and who are highly
4 needed under particular settings;

5 (c) Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics in
6 fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines, whose engagement is
7 limited to teaching only; and

8 (d) Foreign-licensed physical therapist recognized as an expert or specialist whose
9 service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

10 The permit shall, among other things, include these limitations and conditions:
11 valid only for a period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal; the branch
12 or specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific
13 place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, center, school/college/university
14 offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval by the
15 Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this
16 particular section.

17 **ARTICLE IV. PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

18 **SECTION 25. Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy.** - No
19 person shall practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical
20 therapist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the
21 impression of being a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any manner
22 whatsoever to be qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without passing
23 the licensure examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this
24 Act.

25 **SECTION 26. Prohibited Acts.** - No person shall:

- 26 a. Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing himself/herself as a
27 physical therapist without a valid registration, professional license, or a valid
28 temporary/special permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
29 b. Represent to be a physical therapist during the time that his/her professional
30 license is not valid or that his/her certificate of registration has been suspended
31 or revoked, or that his/her temporary/special permit has been cancelled;
32 c. Allow anybody to use his/her certificate of registration and/or professional
33 license and/or temporary/special permit as a physical therapist to enable such
34 unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;
35 d. Use as his/her own the certificate of registration, professional license, or
36 temporary/special permit of another person; and

- e. Violate any provision of the Code of Ethics as recommended by the accredited national organization of physical therapists.

SECTION 27. Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists. - The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for physical therapists prescribed and issued by the Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of physical therapists.

SECTION 28. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program. - All physical therapists shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on continuing professional development to be promulgated by the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, subject to the approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO of physical therapists and/or the recognized representative of duly accredited education institutions. For this purpose, the Board may create a CPD council to implement the CPD program, subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by the Commission.

SECTION 29. Integration of Physical Therapists. - The physical therapy profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of physical therapists, which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only AIPO of registered physical therapists. All physical therapists whose names appear in the current Registry Book of Physical Therapists shall ipso facto or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required AIPO membership fees and dues.

Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of physical therapists.

SECTION 30. Foreign Reciprocity. - No foreign physical therapist shall be given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which the foreign physical therapist is a subject or citizen permits Filipino physical therapists to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

ARTICLE V. PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 31. Penal Provisions. - Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, shall upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) nor more

1 than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than two (2)
2 years nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

3 **SECTION 32. Funding Provision.** - The Chairman of the Commission shall
4 immediately include in the Commission's budget program the implementation of this
5 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6 **SECTION 33. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - To implement the
7 provisions of this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the Commission,
8 promulgate the rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Standards of
9 Practice for physical therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

10 **SECTION 34. Transitory Provisions.** - The existing Board of Physical
11 Therapy and Occupational Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such
12 time that the new and separate Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy
13 shall be constituted pursuant to this Act.

14 Any person holding a license to practice physical therapy issued by the Board
15 of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, which license is valid when this Act
16 takes effect, shall be deemed to be licensed as a physical therapist.

17 **SECTION 35. Separability Clause.** - If any part, portion, section or provision
18 of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any
19 other part, portion, section or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be
20 in force and effect.

21 **SECTION 36. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or
22 parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
23 modified, revised, superseded or repealed.

24 **SECTION 37. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
25 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) major newspapers of
26 national circulation, whichever comes earlier.

27 *Approved,*