

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

23 JAN -9 P 4 :42

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S. No. 1643

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**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

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**AN ACT  
REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 5680 or the "Physical and Occupational Therapy Law" was signed into law on June 21, 1960. On March 11, 2019, Republic Act No. 11241 or the "Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018" was enacted to amend RA 5680. The amendment created a separate Professional Regulatory Board (PRB) for Occupational Therapy and provided clear and distinct regulations for the practice of the said profession. However, it left the practice of Physical Therapy (PT) operating by virtue of RA 5680. Hence, there is a need to enact a law that will regulate the practice of PT as a distinct profession.

Such initiative is supported by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). In its position paper submitted to the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, the PRC expressed its support for the passage of the said law and stated that, "it cannot be denied that the physical and occupational therapy professions are distinct from each other not only in terms of their scopes of practice but also in their academic preparations, subjects in the licensure examination, their professional organizations, ethical and

technical standards of practice, to cite a few.” PRC emphasized the need for this bill by stating that, “The practice of physical therapy has evolved dramatically over the years which makes it indispensable to update as well the very law that governs the profession.”

Physical therapy remains to be an important sector in the allied health professions. Based on the records of the PRC as of November 21, 2021, there are 33,710 registered Physical Therapists.

The “*Philippine Physical Therapy Law*” will provide for the new professional regulatory law and a separate Professional Regulatory Board for Physical Therapy. It seeks to provide a clearer structure for the separate PRB of OT and PT, as well as regulations on the practice of PT as a profession independent and distinct from OT. Similar to other PRLs, it creates the PRB for PT, provides for guidelines in licensure examination and registration of professionals, defines the scope of practice of the PT profession, and provides penalties for violators of the law.

The Department of Health (DOH) likewise expressed its support for the passage of this bill as contained in its position paper submitted to the Committee on Civil Service in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, “There is an increasing unmet need for therapy and rehabilitation particularly in low-middle income countries where the capacity to provide such services is limited or non-existent. Advancements in the healthcare system enable a greater number of individuals with congenital defects and disabilities to survive. In order to support these individuals in becoming independent and economically active, the State must foster the development of rehabilitation and therapy services across the Philippines. As we strengthen the primary healthcare systems in pursuit of the Universal Health Care, health service delivery must be made more accessible in the community level.”

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**



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

**ARTICLE I**

**TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Physical Therapy Law*".

Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of physical therapists in nation building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, and globally competitive, resulting not only from their education and training but through, honest, effective, and credible licensure examinations, regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their continuing professional growth.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a) *Physical Therapy* – refers to a health profession concerned with providing relevant services to individuals and populations to develop, maintain, and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. Such services are provided in circumstances where movement and function are threatened by aging, injury, pain, diseases, disorders,

1 conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding that  
2 functional movement is central to health and well-being. Physical therapy  
3 is also known as physiotherapy.

4 b) *Physical Therapist* – refers to a person who is a holder of a valid  
5 Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card issued by  
6 the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy and the Professional  
7 Regulation Commission, and who is legally qualified to practice physical  
8 therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

9 *Sec. 4. Scope and Nature of the Practice of Physical Therapy.* – The practice  
10 of physical therapy shall include identifying and maximizing quality of life and  
11 movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment,  
12 intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass physical,  
13 psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing. Physical therapists are qualified and  
14 professionally required to:

- 15 a) Undertake a comprehensive examination or assessment of a patient or  
16 client or needs of a client group;
- 17 b) Evaluate the findings from the examination or assessment to make clinical  
18 judgments regarding patients or clients;
- 19 c) Formulate a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and plan;
- 20 d) Provide consultation within their expertise and determine when patients or  
21 clients need to be referred to another professional;
- 22 e) Implement a physical therapy intervention or treatment program;
- 23 f) Determine the outcomes of any interventions or treatments; and
- 24 g) Make recommendations for self-management.

25 The scope of physical therapy practice is not limited to direct patient or client  
26 care, but also includes: formulating and implementing responsive public health  
27 strategies; advocating for patients' or clients' health; supervising and delegating to  
28 others; leading; managing; teaching; researching and developing and implementing  
29 health policy at the local, national, and international levels.

## 30 **ARTICLE II**

### 31 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

1            *Sec. 5. Creation and Composition of the Members of the Board.* – There is  
2 hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, hereafter  
3 referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision of the Professional  
4 Regulation Commission (PRC), composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Members  
5 appointed by the President of the Philippines within six (6) months from the  
6 enactment of this Act and upon the recommendation of the PRC from among  
7 physical therapists recognized and nominated by the accredited integrated  
8 professional organization (AIPO) of physical therapists.

9            *Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Members of the Board.* – The Board shall  
10 have the following powers and functions:

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

1 both, to ensure the appearance of witnesses, and the production of  
2 documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That the decision of the  
3 Board shall become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt  
4 of judgment or decision unless appealed to the PRC;

5 k) Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional  
6 Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;

7 l) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table  
8 specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative  
9 weights, score, and rate the examination papers, and submit the results to  
10 the PRC within the period provided for in the rules of the PRC;

11 m) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical  
12 therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

13 n) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table of  
14 specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative  
15 weights, score and the rate examination papers, and submit the results to  
16 the PRC within the period provided for in the rules of the Commission;

17 o) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical  
18 therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

19 p) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;

20 q) Grant application for registration without examination subject to the  
21 approval of the PRC;

22 r) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical  
23 therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for  
24 advanced studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the  
25 enrichment of the profession; and

26 s) Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry  
27 out the objectives of this Act.

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

30 *Sec. 7. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* – The members of the  
31 Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

32 a) Has resided in the Philippines for at least (5) years;

- 1 b) Is a duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid  
2 Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card;
- 3 c) Has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for at least ten (10) years,  
4 with the last five (5) years as a continuous period immediately preceding  
5 the appointment;
- 6 d) Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in one  
7 professional practice as a physical therapist;
- 8 e) Is a member of good standing of the AIPO of physical therapists, and not  
9 an officer thereof;
- 10 f) Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving moral  
11 turpitude; and
- 12 g) Has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any school, college, or  
13 university or institution conferring an academic degree for admission to  
14 the practice of physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for  
15 licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of  
16 faculty or administration thereof.

17 *Sec. 8. Term of Office.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall  
18 hold office for a term of three (3) years: *Provided*, That members of the first Board  
19 to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following  
20 terms: the Chairperson for three (3) years, two (2) Members for two (2) years, and  
21 the other two (2) Members for one (1) year: *Provided, further*, that a Chairperson or  
22 Member may be appointed for a second term, but may not serve more than two  
23 consecutive three year terms, or six (6) consecutive years. Interim vacancies be  
24 filled for the unexpired term only, or until their successors have been appointed and  
25 duly qualified.

26 *Sec. 9. Removal of the Members of the Board.* – Any member of the Board  
27 may upon the recommendation of the PRC after due process of law and  
28 investigation, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such  
29 as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality,  
30 unethical or dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral  
31 turpitude, manipulation of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and





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

5 Sec. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The scope of examinations shall, after the  
6 necessary stakeholder consultation, be determined by the Board, subject to the  
7 approval of the PRC. The Board shall take into consideration the minimum  
8 curriculum standards for physical therapy, the current scope of practice, and the  
9 latest developments in the profession, locally and globally, that affect the practice  
10 and delivery of physical therapy services in the country.

11 Sec. 16. *Ratings in the Examination.* – To be qualified as having passed the  
12 licensure examination for physical therapists, a candidate must have obtained a  
13 general average of seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty  
14 percent (60%) in any of the examination subjects.

15 Sec. 17. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the PRC the ratings  
16 obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination,  
17 unless extended for just cause.

18 Sec. 18. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and Professional*  
19 *Identification Card.* – The certificate of registration and professional identification  
20 card shall be issued to examinees who passed the licensure examination for physical  
21 therapist subject to payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The certificate of  
22 registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the PRC and the  
23 Chairperson and Members of the Board, stamped with the official seals of the PRC  
24 and the Board respectively, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to  
25 practice the physical therapy profession, with all the benefits and privileges  
26 appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in full force and  
27 effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

28 The professional identification card bearing the registration number, and  
29 dates of issuance and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the PRC shall likewise  
30 be issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The professional  
31 identification card shall be renewed every three (3) years, upon compliance with the

1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and submission of a certificate of good  
2 standing from the AIPO, and other requirements of the Board and the PRC.

3       Sec. 19. *Initials PTRP.* – The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist  
4 Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical  
5 therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the  
6 profession.

7       Sec. 20. *Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall refuse to register any  
8 successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of  
9 any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral  
10 or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be  
11 of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

12       Sec. 21. *Cancellation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and*  
13 *Special Permit.* – The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party  
14 concerned, cancel the practitioner’s certificate of registration and professional  
15 identification card, or be suspended from the practice of the profession; or cancel  
16 the special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 29 of this  
17 Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation of any of  
18 the provisions of this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Ethical  
19 Standards of Practice for physical therapists.

20       Sec. 22. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of*  
21 *Registration and Professional identification Card.* – Two (2) years after the date of  
22 revocation, the Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and  
23 sufficient, reinstate any revoked Certificate of Registration and Professional  
24 Identification Card. A new certificate of registration or professional identification  
25 card, or special temporary permit may be issued to replace lost, destroyed, or  
26 mutilated ones, subject to the rules as implemented by the Board.

27       Sec. 23. *Oath of Physical Therapists.* – Successful examinees qualified for  
28 registration, and qualified applicants for registration without examination, shall be  
29 required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any  
30 government official authorized by the PRC to administer oaths, prior to entering into  
31 the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

1            *Sec. 24. Indication of Licensure and Professional Tax Receipt.* – All physical  
2 therapists shall be required to indicate on the documents they sign, use or issue in  
3 connection with the practice of their profession, their registration, or Certificate of  
4 Registration and Professional Identification Card number and date of issuance  
5 thereof, the duration of validity of said license, and the professional tax receipt  
6 number issued to them.

7            *Sec. 25. Roster of Physical Therapists.* – The Board shall prepare, update, and  
8 maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name of each  
9 registered physical therapist, their residence and office addresses, the date of  
10 registration and issuance of certificates, and other data which the board may deem  
11 pertinent.

12            *Sec. 26. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.* – A special temporary  
13 permit maybe issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the AIPO of physical  
14 therapists, subject to the approval by the PRC and payment of the prescribed fee to  
15 the following persons:

- 16            a) Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified  
17            purpose that is deemed essential to national development, the practice  
18            shall be limited only for the particular work being: *Provided*, That there is  
19            no Filipino physical therapist qualified for such consultation or purpose;
- 20            b) Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free of charge  
21            and who are highly needed under particular settings;
- 22            c) Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or  
23            critics in fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines,  
24            whose engagement is limited to teaching only; and
- 25            d) Foreign-licensed physical therapists recognized as experts or specialists  
26            whose service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in  
27            the Philippines.

28            The special temporary permit shall include these limitations and conditions:  
29 validity for a period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal; the branch or  
30 specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific  
31 place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, therapy center, school, college, or  
32 university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval

1 by the PRC, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this  
2 particular section.

### 3 **ARTICLE IV**

#### 4 **PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

5 *Sec. 27. Delivery of Physical Therapy Service.* – Physical therapists shall work  
6 in partnership with other health service providers or health professionals, patients or  
7 clients, families, and communities in the delivery of services in the most effective,  
8 cost efficient, and client-centered service.

9 *Sec. 28. Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy.* – No person shall  
10 practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical therapist, or  
11 use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression of  
12 being a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever to be  
13 qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without passing the licensure  
14 examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

15 *Sec. 29. Prohibited Acts.* – No person shall:

- 16 a) Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing oneself as a  
17 physical therapist without a valid certificate of registration, professional  
18 identification card, or a valid temporary or special permit granted by the  
19 Board pursuant to this Act;
- 20 b) Represent oneself as a physical therapist during the time that the  
21 Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card are not valid  
22 or that the certificate of registration has been suspended or revoked, or  
23 that the special temporary permit has been cancelled;
- 24 c) Allow anybody to use the Certificate of Registration and Professional  
25 Identification Card, or both and special temporary permit as a physical  
26 therapist to enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of  
27 physical therapy;
- 28 d) Use the certificate of registration, professional identification card, or  
29 special temporary permit of another person; and
- 30 e) Violate the provision of the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of  
31 Practice as recommended by the AIPO of physical therapists.



1            *Sec. 34. Penal Provisions.* – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions  
2 of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the  
3 Board, subject to the approval of the PRC, shall upon conviction, be punished with a  
4 fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) nor more than Fifty  
5 thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than two years nor  
6 more than five years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

7            *Sec. 35. Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately  
8 include in the Commission’s program, the implementation of this Act, the funding of  
9 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10           *Sec. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To implement the provisions  
11 of this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the PRC, promulgate the rules  
12 and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for  
13 Physical Therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

14           *Sec. 37. Transitory Provisions.* – The existing Board of Physical and  
15 Occupational Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that  
16 the new and separate Board for Physical Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to  
17 this Act.

18           *Sec. 38. Conduct of Sunset Review.* – The PRC shall conduct a sunset review  
19 every five (5) years, or as the need arises, for purposes of ensuring that the law is  
20 implemented consistently, non-discriminatory, and responsive to contemporary  
21 challenges and conditions of the society.

22           *Sec. 39. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
24 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

25           *Sec. 40. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
26 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation  
27 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
28 modified, or amended accordingly.

29           *Sec. 41. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*