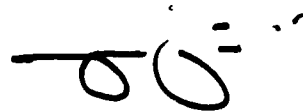


of the Philippines. This measure aims to develop and nurture competent, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent and globally competitive. Once passed, this legislation will benefit the 13,773 physical therapists in the country with active professional identification cards or licenses.¹

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



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

¹ RG Cruz (July 28, 2021). "House passes proposed 'Philippine Physical Therapy Law.'" Information retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/28/21/house-passes-bill-seeking-to-standardize-licensure-of-physical-therapists#:~:text=5680%20or%20the%20Philippine%20Physical,passage%20of%20Republic%20Act%20No.>

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. No. 2564

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

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

**ARTICLE I
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1
2
3
4 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Physical*
5 *Therapy Law*".

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

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

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

1 diseases, disorders, conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding
2 that functional movement is central to what it means to be healthy.

3 Physical therapy is also known as physiotherapy in other parts of the world.

4 b. *Physical Therapist* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid registration and
5 professional license issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy
6 and the Professional Regulation Commission, and who is legally qualified to practice
7 physical therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

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

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

24 Physical therapists are guided by the universal principles of ethics and
25 professional practice as expressed in their own code of ethics.

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

31
32 **ARTICLE II**

1 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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

12 *Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Members of the Board.* - The Board shall
13 have the following powers and functions:

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

- 1 j. Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations,
2 code of ethics, and ethical standards of practice, and for this purpose,
3 k. Issue subpoena duces tecum or subpoena ad testificandum, or both, to ensure the
4 appearance of witnesses, and the production of documents in connection therewith:
5 Provided, That the decision of the Board shall become final and executory after fifteen
6 (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision unless appealed to the Commission;
7 l. Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
8 program for physical therapists;
9 m. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table specifications,
10 determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score, and rate the
11 examination papers, and submit the results to the Commission within the period
12 provided for in their rules;
13 n. Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical therapy in
14 accordance with the provisions of this Act;
15 o. Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
16 p. Grant an application for registration without examination subject to the approval of
17 the Commission;
18 q. Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a
19 specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies,
20 researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession;
21 and
22 r. Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out the
23 objectives of this Act.

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

26 *Sec. 7. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* - The members of the Board
27 shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- 28 a. Has resided in the Philippines for at least (5) years;
29 b. Is a duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid certificate of
30 registration and professional license;
31 c. Has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for at least ten (10) years, with the
32 last five (5) years as a continuous period immediately preceding the appointment;

1 d. Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in one
2 professional practice as a physical therapist;

3 e. Is a member of good standing of the AIPO of physical therapists, and not an officer
4 thereof;

5 f. Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving moral turpitude;
6 and

7 g. Has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any school, college, or university or
8 institution conferring an academic degree for admission to the practice of physical
9 therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are offered
10 or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or administration thereof.

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

20 A successor to a member whose term of office has expired shall be appointed
21 for the full term of three (3) years from the date of expiration of the term of office
22 from which the predecessor was appointed.

23 *Sec. 9. Removal of the Members of the Board.* - Any member of the Board may,
24 upon the recommendation of the Commission, after due process of law and
25 investigation conducted by the Commission, be suspended or removed by the
26 President from office for cause such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence,
27 malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final
28 judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulating or rigging of the
29 licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential information in the
30 examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination, or tampering of
31 grades.

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

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

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

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

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

27 A professional identification card bearing the registration number, and dates of
28 issuance and expiry date duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission, shall
29 likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of the prescribed fees.

30 *Sec. 19. Initials PTRP.* - The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist

1 Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical
2 therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the
3 profession.

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

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

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

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

29 *Sec. 24. Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt.* - All physical
30 therapists shall be required to indicate on the documents they sign, use or issue in
31 connection with the practice of their profession, their registration, or professional

1 license number and date of issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license,
2 and the professional tax receipt number issued to them.

3 *Sec. 25. Roster of Physical Therapists.* - The Board shall prepare, update, and
4 maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name of each registered
5 physical therapist, their residence and office addresses, the date of registration and
6 issuance of certificates, and other data which the board may deem pertinent.

7 *Sec. 26. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit.* - A special temporary permit
8 may be issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the AIPO of physical
9 therapists, subject to the approval by the Commission and payment of the prescribed
10 fee to the following persons:

11 a. Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified purpose
12 that is deemed essential to national development, the practice shall be limited only for
13 the particular work being: Provided That there is no Filipino physical therapist qualified
14 for such consultation or purpose;

15 b. Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free of charge and who
16 are highly needed under particular settings;

17 c. Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics in
18 fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines, whose engagement is
19 limited to teaching only; and

20 d. Foreign-licensed physical therapists recognized as experts or specialists whose
21 service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

22 The special temporary permit shall include these limitations and conditions:
23 validity for a period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal; the branch or
24 specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific
25 place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, therapy center, school, college, or
26 university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval
27 by the Commission, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of
28 this particular section.

29
30 **ARTICLE IV**
31 **PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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

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

11 **Sec. 29. *Prohibited Acts.*** - No person shall:

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

26 **Sec. 30. *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Physical Therapists.*** - The
27 Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice
28 for physical therapists as prescribed and issued by the AIPO of physical therapists. All
29 licensed physical therapist shall abide by the principles and standards embodied in the
30 Code.

31 **Sec. 31. *Continuing Professional Development Program.*** - All physical therapists
32 shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on continuing professional

1 development to be promulgated by the Board, subject to the approval of the
2 Commission, in coordination with the AIPO of physical therapists or the recognized
3 representative of duly accredited education institutions, or both. For this purpose, the
4 Board shall create a CPD Council to implement a CPD program guided by qualifications
5 framework and career progression principles, subject to the guidelines as may be
6 prescribed by the Commission.

7 *Sec. 32. Integration of the Professional Organization.* - The physical therapy
8 profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of
9 physical therapists, which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange
10 Commission. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall accredit the
11 said organization as the one and only accredited integrated professional organization
12 of registered physical therapists. All physical therapists whose names appear in the
13 current Roster of Physical Therapists shall ipso facto become members thereof and
14 shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the
15 required membership fees and dues. Membership in the accredited integrated
16 professional organization shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of
17 physical therapists.

18 *Sec. 33. Foreign Reciprocity.* - No foreign physical therapist shall be given a
19 certificate of registration and professional identification card or be entitled to any of
20 the privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which the foreign physical
21 therapist is a subject or citizen, permits Filipino physical therapists to practice within
22 its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or
23 state.

24
25 **ARTICLE V**
26 **PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**
27

28 *Sec. 34. Penal Provisions.* - Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of
29 this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board,
30 subject to the approval of the Commission, shall upon conviction, be punished with a
31 fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) nor more than Fifty
32 thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than two years nor
33 more than five years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

1 Sec. 35. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this
2 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

3 Sec. 36. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - To implement the provisions of
4 this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the Commission promulgate the
5 rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice
6 for physical therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

7 Sec. 37. *Transitory Provisions.* - The existing Board of Physical and Occupational
8 Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that the new and
9 separate Board for Physical Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to this Act.

10 Sec. 38. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, portion, section, or provision of this
11 Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other
12 part, portion, section, or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be in
13 force and effect.

14 Sec 39. *Repealing Clause.* - Republic Act No. 5680, otherwise known as the
15 "Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law" is hereby repealed. All other laws,
16 decrees, orders, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions
17 of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or repealed.

18 Sec. 40. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,