

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 MAY 15 P3:15

SENATE

S. No. 2678

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MEDICAL ACT OF 1959", AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 2382 or "The Medical Act of 1959" as amended by Republic Act Nos. 4224 and 5946 has served as the legal basis and foundation of the medical profession in the country for the longest time. However, the 21st century has changed drastically the content, context and delivery of medical education and the practice of the medical profession in view of the changing demands of the healthcare system, the development of cutting-edge technologies, the entry of WTO-GATS and other relevant international agreements as well as the internationalization of education and practice of the profession. Thus, the need to bring the Medical Act of 1959 into the 21st century through the necessary and appropriate amendments that would quickly make medical education and practice respond to the current circumstances and fast-paced changes in the new world order brought about by globalization.

Proposals to amend certain sections in the present law include Sections 6,7, 8, 9 and 12. Additional provisions has been included to address the apparent gaps brought about by international trends and developments and the impacts of globalization in the movement or mobility of medical students and professionals.

Firstly, with the proposed amendment of Sections 6, the Philippine medical curriculum or the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree is brought at par with international trends and developments where most countries have adopted an integrated, compressed, and enhanced medical curriculum straight from K-12. There are only four countries in the world today that is still requiring a full bachelor's degree as a pre-requisite to the Doctor of Medicine degree and one of them is the Philippines. Under the old setup, the completion of the regular MD degree will take around nine years including the compulsory one-year Internship. With the proposed amendments, the duration will be at least six years including the one-year internship.

Second, the proposed amendments in Sections 7 shall enhance the admission requirements to the new MD curriculum/degree without prejudice to the establishment of a national eligibility examinations for medicine for admission to the MD degree for both Filipinos and foreign students.

Thirdly, the proposed amendments in Sections 9 shall do away with the requirement of reciprocity which is no longer the prevailing trend in international relations but instead resort to the guiding principles and pillars of the WTO-GATS, other relevant international agreements, and mutual recognition arrangements being practiced globally.

This amendment will greatly enhance the country's positioning as a hub in medical education and training in the Asia-Pacific considering the presence of thousands of foreign medical students in various Philippine medical schools of various nationalities which numbers to at least 20,000 medical students in Philippine medical schools nationwide.

To meet the challenges of improving the quality of health care of our citizenry through quality medical education and relevant medical practice as well as address the imperatives of globalization of medical education and the practice of profession, there is a clear need to pass this measure.

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



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator




NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 MAY 15 P3:15

SENATE

S. No. 2678

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MEDICAL ACT OF 1959", AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Sections 6 ,7, 8 and 9 of Republic Act No. 2382 otherwise known as
2 the "Medical Act of 1959" are hereby amended by replacement to read as follows:

3 SEC. 6. *The Doctor of Medicine Degree.* - The Doctor of
4 Medicine degree shall be undertaken for a duration of six (6)
5 years, inclusive of a one (1) year or 12 months Internship (post-
6 graduate internship), provided, however, that the CHED-
7 recognized medical schools are allowed reasonable leeway to
8 adopt a curriculum that is consistent with its academic freedom,
9 vision-mission and following sound teaching methodologies and
10 delivery systems for both Filipinos and international students.

11 . The CHED, in consultation with the Board of Medicine and
12 the Technical Panel for Medical Education, shall develop, design
13 and implement the policies and standards for the new medical
14 degree and an appropriate curriculum that shall incorporate new
15 technologies and methodologies in delivering a high-quality and
16 enhanced medical education and training consistent with local
17 needs and international practices, provided, however, that said

1 curriculum shall be composed of core curricular and clinical
2 subjects, the completion of which leads to the conferment of the
3 degree of Doctor of Medicine and grants the holder the eligibility
4 to take the Physician Licensure Examination.

5 xxx

6 SEC. 7. *Admission Requirements.* - The medical college may
7 admit any student to the Doctor of Medicine program, both
8 Filipinos and international students, subject to reasonable
9 admission requirements which shall include the submission of (a)
10 a certificate showing completion of the Senior High School or K-
11 12 program; (b) a certificate of eligibility for admission to the
12 medical degree program; (c) a certificate of good moral
13 character; and in the case of international students, the
14 requirement of Certificate of Eligibility and/or Acceptance, Visa
15 and other similar documents; (d) favorable results of the NMAT
16 or its equivalent in the case of international students; and other
17 reasonable requirements as may be determined by the CHED and
18 the medical schools in the exercise of academic freedom.

19 The CHED, in coordination with the Board of Medical
20 Education, may implement a screening examination or system
21 of assessment to determine the eligibility of prospective medical
22 students for admission to the Doctor of Medicine program
23 provided, however, that the present NMAT may be considered as
24 an equivalent, and provided further that, in the case of
25 international students who have passed similar examinations or
26 assessments determinative of the eligibility and fitness to enter
27 the medical course in other jurisdictions, the same be may be
28 considered as equivalent.

29 xxx

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

xxx

SEC. 8. Prerequisite to the Practice of Medicine. - No person shall engage in the practice of medicine in the Philippines unless the person:

a) Holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card issued by the PRC; and

b) Holds a valid permanent/special/temporary/provisional permit issued by the Board of Medicine, or unless exempted by this Act or other related laws from holding any of the foregoing certificates of registration.

xxx

SEC. 9. Examination Required and Qualifications of Applicants for the Physicians' Licensure Examination. - All applicants for registration prior to the issuance of certificate of registration and a professional identification card as a physician, shall be required to pass the licensure examination for physicians as provided for in this Act, and shall be subject to the payment of the fees prescribed by the PRC.

All applicants for the physicians' licensure examination must possess all qualifications and none of the disqualifications hereunder set forth as follows:

a) A citizen of the Philippines or of a foreign country or State who is a holder of the degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) or its equivalent conferred by a duly CHED-recognized College of Medicine in the Philippines;

b) A citizen of the Philippines or of a foreign country or State who acquired a Doctor of Medicine degree or equivalent at

1 a foreign medical institution the degree/diploma of which is
2 recognized in the Philippines;

3 c) Is mentally, emotionally, and physically sound with a
4 certificate of good moral character signed by the proper
5 authorities of the school where the applicant is a graduate;

6 d) Has not been convicted by final judgment by a court of
7 any criminal offense; and

8 e) Has completed a one (1)-year post-graduate medical
9 internship.

10 The list of foreign countries, whose diplomas of higher
11 medical institutions are recognized in the Philippines, shall be
12 determined by the Commission on Higher Education in
13 consultation with the Board of Medical Education and other
14 concerned agencies."

15 *SEC. 2. Special, Temporary, Provisional, Or Conditional Permit or Registration*
16 *to Practice Medicine in the Philippines.* - A foreign citizen who is enrolled in his country
17 as a medical practitioner in accordance with the laws regulating the registration of
18 medical practitioners in that country may be permitted SPECIAL, TEMPORARY,
19 PROVISIONAL, OR CONDITIONAL PERMIT OR REGISTRATION in the Philippines, as
20 the case may be, for such period and in such manner as may be specified by the
21 regulations of the PRC and Board of Medicine.

22 *SEC. 4. Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
23 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act in the respective
24 agencies concerned.

25 *SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days after
26 the approval of this Act, the CHED, PRC, and the Board of Medical Education in
27 consultation with appropriate government agencies and other stakeholders, shall

1 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective
2 implementation of this Act.

3 SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act shall be declared
4 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in
5 full force and effect.

6 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, executive orders and
7 issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
8 that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended,
9 accordingly.

10 SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,