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**Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV**

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**Explanatory Note**

Republic Act 4373, having been enacted into law on 19 June 1965, and amended by RA 5175 04 August 1967, paved the way for the professionalization of social work practice in the Philippines.

Recent developments proved that there is a need to update the law in order to remain responsive to the needs of social workers, its clientele groups, and the society in general.

In June 2004, thousands of social work graduates were not able to take the Board Examinations. This was so, because of their failure to satisfy the basic requirements for applicants as provided for under Section 12 of the law.

In this connection, it is noteworthy that, most, if not all, applicants were, at the time of the examination, falling between ages of twenty (20) and above; and, this was brought about by the latest development in our educational system that requires one to be at least six (6) years of age in order to be able to enter primary education, compared to seven (7) years old in the past.

This Bill, therefore, seeks to give opportunity to young social work graduates to take the examination and become economically and socially productive by joining the workforce as professionals. It, likewise, intends to minimize the government's lack of social work professionals that are essential in the implementation of its major programs and services.

Furthermore, the Bill aims to continually capacitate the social workers by requiring them to embrace the habit of lifelong education. Changes and developments in the global scene, which have direct impact to Philippine society, compel social workers to keep themselves abreast of the latest social technology available and develop indigenous means to respond to these challenges. This is significant to ensure that their clients and the society as a whole will benefit from the social workers' intervention.

Finally, the Bill aims to upgrade the penalties for violations of various provisions concerning the practice of social work in order to protect the profession as well as the public against fraudulent and malicious acts.

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

  
**ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

SENATE

S. No. 262

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT

**REDUCING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS, PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND UPGRADING THE SUNDRY PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 12 of Republic Act Numbered Forty-three hundred seventy-three is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3  
4           "SEC 12. *Qualifications of Applicants.* –In order to be admitted to take the social  
5 work examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing his or her application, establish  
6 to the satisfaction of the Board that:

7           **(a) HE OR SHE IS A FILIPINO CITIZEN;**

8           **(b) HE OR SHE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;**

9           **(c) He or she has received a diploma as holder of a bachelor's degree OR MASTER'S**  
10           **DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT** in social work from an institution, college or  
11           university duly accredited and legally constituted: **PROVIDED, THAT THE**  
12           **PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO**  
13           **HUNDRED AND SIXTY, IN SO FAR AS CULTURAL MINORITIES ARE**  
14           **CONCERNED, SHOULD BE APPLIED;**

15           **(d) He or she has completed a minimum period of one thousand case hours of practical**  
16           training in an established social work agency under the direct supervision of a fully  
17           trained and qualified social worker: **PROVIDED, THAT IN THE INSTITUTION,**  
18           **COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY'S UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM, THE**

1           **ACADEMIC COURSES PRECEDED THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE**  
2           **OF ONE THOUSAND HOURS: *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT THE**  
3           **REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLIED WITH THE SOCIAL WORK**  
4           **CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER**  
5           **EDUCATION AND THE BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORKERS WHICH**  
6           **SPECIFIES FIELD PRACTICE IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND**  
7           **FAMILIES WITH SMALL GROUPS AND WITH COMMUNITIES; AND**  
8           **(e) IF THE APPLICANT HAD FAILED IN THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS**  
9           **THREE TIMES, HE OR SHE MUST ENROL IN FORMAL REFRESHER**  
10           **COURSES FOR TWO SEMESTERS BEFORE APPLYING FOR ANOTHER**  
11           **LICENSURE EXAMINATION.**

12  
13           **SEC 2.** Section 21 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

14           **“SEC. 21. *CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION.* –ALL**  
15           **REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF**  
16           **ACCOMPLISHING 20 UNITS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL**  
17           **EDUCATION GIVEN/ISSUED BY ACCREDITED CPE PROVIDER BY THE**  
18           **SOCIAL WORK BOARD OF EXAMINERS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR**  
19           **RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER’S LICENSE.”**

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21           **SEC. 3.** Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

22           **“SEC. 26. *Penal Provisions.* –The following shall be punished by a fine of not**  
23           **less than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00) nor more than TWO**  
24           **HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00), or imprisonment for no less**  
25           **than SIX (6) MONTHS nor more than two years of imprisonment, or both, in the**  
26           **discretion of the court:**

27           **(a) ANY PERSON WHO SHALL PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE**  
28           **PHILIPPINES WITHOUT GETTING REGISTERED OR EXEMPTED**

1 FROM REGISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS  
2 OF THIS ACT:

3 (b) X X X;

4 (c) X X X;

5 (d) X X X;

6 (e) X X X;

7 (f) X X X;

8 (g) X X X;

9 (h) X X X; or

10 (i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a social work agency without  
11 the corresponding LICENSE TO OPERATE ISSUED BY THE  
12 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT.

13  
14 SEC. 4. Section 27 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 "SEC. 27. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. -THE  
16 PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) AND THE PHILIPPINE  
17 ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC. (PASWD) SHALL JOINTLY  
18 FORMULATE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THIS  
19 SPECIFIC PROVISION 30 DAYS UPON APPROVAL OF THIS LAW."

20  
21 SEC. 5. All sections affected by this Act are hereby renumbered.

22  
23 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2)  
24 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,