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Prepared by the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization, Health and Demography, Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, and Finance, with Senators L. Estrada, Osmena III, Jinggoy Estrada, Recto, Enrile, and Angara, as authors thereof.

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**AN ACT**

**TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY, DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4419, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 768, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

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**ARTICLE I**

**TITLE, STATEMENT OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,**

**AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

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**SECTION 1. TITLE.** – This Act shall be known as “The Philippine Dental Act of 2007”.

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**SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.** – The State recognizes the importance of dentists, dental hygienists and dental technologists in nation-building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, productive, morally-upright, and well rounded dentists, dental hygienists and dental technologists whose standards of professional practice and service shall be excellent, qualitative, world-class and internationally recognized, globally competitive through regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their continuing professional development.

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**SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES.** – This Act provides for:

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(a) The regulation, control, and supervision of the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology in the Philippines;

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(b) The giving of licensure examination to graduates of recognized dental schools of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology for the purpose of registration;

- 1 (c) The accreditation of the various specialties of dentistry;
- 2 (d) The promotion and development of continuing dental education and research  
3 in the country;
- 4 (e) The enforcement of the Code of Ethics and Code of Dental Practice in the  
5 Philippines; and
- 6 (f) The stipulation of penalties for infractions or violations of this Act or any other  
7 laws, rules and regulations authorized under the provisions of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE.-**

9 (a) Dentist – refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration  
10 and professional identification card in Dentistry who renders dental service within the  
11 meaning and intent of this Law and who, for a fee, salary, compensation or reward, paid  
12 to him/her or through another, or even without such compensation or reward, performs  
13 any operation or part of an operation, upon the human oral cavity, jaws, teeth and  
14 surrounding tissues; prescribes drugs or medicines for the treatment of oral diseases or  
15 lesions, or prevents and/or corrects malpositions of the teeth or implantation of artificial  
16 substitutes for lost teeth; and teaches subjects in the licensure examination; or engages in  
17 dental research: *Provided, however*, that this provision shall not apply to dental  
18 technologists engaged in the mechanical construction of artificial dentures or fixtures or  
19 other oral devices, as long as none of such procedures is done inside the mouth of the  
20 patient; nor shall this provision apply to students of dentistry undergoing practical  
21 training in a legally constituted dental school or college under the direction or  
22 supervision of a member of the faculty who is duly licensed to practice dentistry in the  
23 Philippines; or to registered dental hygienists who may be allowed to perform preventive  
24 oral hygiene procedures and other procedures or to dentistry graduates working as dental  
25 assistants to licensed and registered dentist authorized to practice dentistry in the  
26 Philippines who are engaged in private practice: *Provided, further*, that these dentistry  
27 graduates work under their direct supervision.

28 (b) Dental Hygienist -- refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of  
29 registration and professional identification card and has undergone a two year course in  
30 dental hygiene from a government recognized school under a college of dentistry and  
31 passing the prescribed board examination for dental hygienist, renders oral health  
32 promotion and preventive measures, performs scaling and polishing, oral examination,  
33 taking brief clinical history, taking radiograph, and giving oral health education to  
34 patients under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

35 (c) Dental Technologist – refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate  
36 of registration and professional identification card and who renders technical services  
37 such as mechanical construction of artificial denture and other oral devices under the

1 supervision of a licensed dentist, and has finished a two year certificate course in dental  
2 technology from any government recognized school.

3 **ARTICLE II**

4 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF**  
5 **DENTISTRY**

6 **SEC. 5. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.** –There is hereby created a  
7 Professional Regulatory Board of Dentistry, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under  
8 the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission  
9 (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of a chairman and four (4)  
10 members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the  
11 recommendees chosen and ranked by the Commission from a list of nominees submitted  
12 by the accredited and integrated professional organization.

13 **SEC. 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD.** –The Board shall  
14 have the following powers and functions:

15 (a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary for  
16 carrying out the provisions of this Act;

17 (b) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;

18 (c) Study the conditions affecting the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and  
19 dental technology in the Philippines;

20 (d) Adopt or recommend such measures or discharge such duties, as may be  
21 deemed proper for the advancement of the profession and the vigorous enforcement of  
22 this Act;

23 (e) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),  
24 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Accredited  
25 Professional Organization, and the Association of Dental Colleges, that all educational  
26 institutions offering dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental technology comply with the  
27 policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by CHED or TESDA in the  
28 areas of curriculum, faculty, library, and facilities;

29 (f) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of Dentistry,  
30 Dental Hygiene and Dental Technology in the Philippines;

31 (g) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

32 (h) Issue, reinstate, suspend or revoke the certificate of registration and  
33 professional identification card or cancel special permits for the practice of dentistry,  
34 dental hygiene and dental technology;

35 (i) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Dental Practice for the  
36 practice of dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology;

37 (j) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the Continuing Professional Education  
38 (CPE) program for dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology;

1 (k) Hear or investigate any violation of this Act, its implementing rules and  
2 regulations, and the Code of Ethics for dentists as shall come to the knowledge of the  
3 Board and for this purpose, issue a *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of  
4 witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;

5 (l) Accredite various specialties, dental societies/organizations; and

6 (m) Perform such other powers and functions as it may deem necessary to carry  
7 out the objectives of this Act.

8 **SEC. 7. QUALIFICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE**  
9 **BOARD.** – The chairman and members of the Board shall, at the time of his/her  
10 appointment, possess the following qualifications:

11 (a) Be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and a resident thereof;

12 (b) Be a duly registered dentist in the Philippines with a valid certificate of  
13 registration and professional identification card;

14 (c) Be a member of good standing of the accredited professional organization for  
15 the last five years: *Provided*, That a member of the Board may not qualify in any  
16 position, whether elective or appointive or serve as an officer of the accredited and  
17 integrated professional organization of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental  
18 technologists during his/her incumbency as such;

19 (d) Have at least ten (10) years of continuous experience as a dentist and  
20 preferably with three (3) years of teaching experience;

21 (e) Not be a member of the faculty of any school, college, or university where  
22 undergraduate and graduate courses in dentistry are taught and where dental hygiene and  
23 dental technology courses and review courses are offered, nor shall have, directly or  
24 indirectly, any pecuniary interest in such institution; and

25 (f) Not be connected in any capacity with any business enterprise, firm or  
26 company in the buying, selling or manufacture of dental goods, equipment, materials or  
27 supplies.

28 **SEC. 8. TERM OF OFFICE.** – The chairman and the members of the Board  
29 shall serve for a term of three (3) years from the date of their appointments and may be  
30 reappointed for another term. The member serving the last year of his term shall  
31 automatically become the chairman of the Board and shall not be able to succeed  
32 himself/herself immediately after the expiration of his/her term of office so that the term  
33 of one member shall be due to expire every year: *Provided, however*, that all  
34 appointments as chairman shall be approved by the President: *Provided, further*, that an  
35 appointment for any existing vacancy or vacancies shall be made within one (1) month  
36 from the time the vacancy occurred and shall be for the unexpired portion of the term  
37 only.



1 (2) He/she has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude;

2 (3) He/she is a graduate of a recognized and legally constituted university,  
3 college, school or institute with a degree of doctor of dental medicine or its equivalent.

4 (4) He/she has completed the refresher course required after failing three (3)  
5 consecutive licensure examinations

6 **(b) For Dental Hygiene** – In order to be admitted to the licensure examination for  
7 dental hygienists, an applicant must at the time of filing his application thereof, establish  
8 to the satisfaction of the Board, that:

9 (1) He/she is a citizen of the Philippines;

10 (2) He/she possesses good moral character;

11 (3) He/she had finished the two years certificate in dental hygiene conferred by a  
12 recognized and legally constituted college, or school of dentistry registered with TESDA.

13 (4) He/she has completed the refresher course required after failing three (3)  
14 consecutive licensure examinations

15 **(c) For Dental Technology** – In order to be admitted to the licensure examination  
16 for dental technology, an applicant must, at the time of filing his/her application thereof,  
17 establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

18 (1) He/she is a citizen of the Philippines;

19 (2) He/she possesses good moral character;

20 (3) He/she had finished the two years certificate in dental technology conferred by  
21 a recognized and legally constituted college, or school of dentistry registered with the  
22 TESDA

23 (4) He/she has undergone on-the-job training in a registered/accredited dental  
24 laboratory for at least six (6) months.

25 (5) He/she has completed the refresher course required after failing three (3)  
26 consecutive licensure examinations

27 **SEC. 15. SCOPE OF EXAMINATION.** – An examination shall be given to the  
28 licensure applicants for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental technologists, which shall  
29 include, but not limited to, the following:

30 (a) *For Dentists* – General anatomy, oral anatomy, general and microscopic  
31 anatomy and embryology, general and oral physiology, general and oral pathology,  
32 pharmacology, microbiology, nutrition, dental materials, restorative dentistry,  
33 prosthodontics, orthodontics, pedodontics, pediatric dentistry, oral physiology,  
34 anesthesiology, oral diagnosis and treatment planning, endodontics, periodontics,  
35 roentgenology, oral surgery, dental jurisprudence and ethics, community dentistry and  
36 practice management.

1 (b) *For Dental Hygienists* – oral anatomy and physiology, dental materials,  
2 periodontology, roentgenology, preventive dentistry, pedodontics, dental anesthesia and  
3 pharmacology, pathology, dental jurisprudence and ethics, and basic computer.

4 (c) *For Dental Technologists* – oral anatomy, oral physiology, complete, fixed  
5 and removable prosthodontics, ceramics, orthodontic appliances, dental materials, dental  
6 jurisprudence and ethics, and basic computer.

7 The Board may recluster, rearrange, modify, add or exclude and prescribe  
8 subjects as the need arises.

9 **SEC. 16. RATINGS IN THE EXAMINATIONS.** –The licensure examination  
10 shall consist of both written and practical tests and in order to pass the examination, an  
11 examinee must obtain a general weighted average of at least seventy-five percent (75%),  
12 with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject.

13 **SEC. 17. REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATIONS.** – The  
14 Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within  
15 twenty (20) days after the last day of examination unless extended for just cause.

16 **SEC. 18. OATH.** – All successful examinees and registrants without examination  
17 shall be required to take a professional oath before any member of the Board or any other  
18 person authorized by the Commission or by law before they start their practice.

19 **SEC. 19. ISSUANCE OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND**  
20 **PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.** – A certificate of registration shall be  
21 issued to examinees who pass the licensure examination for dentistry subject to payment  
22 of fees prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of registration shall bear the  
23 signature of the chairperson of the Commission and the chairman and members of the  
24 Board stamped with the official seal of the Board and the Commission, indicating that the  
25 person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all the benefits and  
26 privileges appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in force and  
27 effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

28 A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date of  
29 issuance, expiry date, duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be  
30 issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The professional  
31 identification card shall be renewed every three (3) years upon payment of fees and upon  
32 satisfying the requirements of the Board.

33 **SEC. 20. FEES FOR EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION.** – Every  
34 applicant to the licensure examination for dentistry shall pay an examination fee and a  
35 registration fee as determined and fixed by the Commission.

36 **SEC. 21. REFUSAL TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES FOR CERTAIN CAUSES.** –  
37 The Board shall refuse to issue a certificate of registration to any successful examinee or  
38 to any examinee registered without examination who has been convicted by a court of

1 competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or has been  
2 found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has  
3 been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in  
4 writing.

5 **SEC. 22. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATE OF**  
6 **REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD AND**  
7 **CANCELLATION OF TEMPORARY/SPECIAL PERMIT.** – The Board shall have the  
8 power to recommend the nullification or suspension of the validity of the certificate of  
9 registration and professional identification card of a dentist, dental technologist/dental  
10 hygienist or the cancellation of a temporary/special permit for any of the causes  
11 mentioned in the preceding section, or for:

12 (a) Unprofessional and unethical conduct;

13 (b) Malpractice;

14 (c) Incompetence, serious ignorance or negligence in the practice of dentistry,  
15 dental hygiene, and dental technology;

16 (d) Willful destruction or mutilation of a natural tooth of a patient with the  
17 deliberate purpose of substituting the same by an unnecessary or unessential artificial  
18 tooth;

19 (e) For making use of fraud, deceitful or false statement to obtain a certificate of  
20 registration;

21 (f) For alcoholism or drug addiction causing him/her to become incompetent to  
22 practice dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology;

23 (g) For the employment of persons who are not duly authorized to do the work  
24 which, under this Act, can only be done by persons who have certificates of registration  
25 to practice dentistry, dental hygiene and dental technology in the Philippines;

26 (h) For the employment of deceit or any form of fraud with the public in general  
27 or some clients in particular for the purpose of extending his/her clientele;

28 (i) For making false advertisements, publishing or circulating fraudulent or  
29 deceitful allegations regarding his/her professional attainment, skill or knowledge, or  
30 methods of treatment employed by him;

31 (j) Utter disregard and continuous violation of any of the provisions of this Act:  
32 *Provided*, that the action of the Board in the exercise of this power shall be appealable to  
33 the Commission.

34 **SEC. 23. REINSTATEMENT, REISSUANCE OR REPLACEMENT OF**  
35 **CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION**  
36 **CARD.** – Two (2) years after the date of revocation, the Board may, upon application and  
37 for reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of registration





1 (b) Had been practicing as a dental hygienist or dental technologist for at least  
2 five (5) years in a licensed dental laboratory or clinic under the supervision of a dentist  
3 and had attended a training course given by an accredited school or institution accredited  
4 and certified by TESDA.

5 **SEC. 28. DISPLAY OF NAME AND CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION. –**

6 Every registered practicing dentist, dental hygienist and dental technologist shall display  
7 in a conspicuous place in the building or office where he/she practices, his/her name and  
8 his/her certificate or registration in plain sight of patients who enter the dental office, or  
9 dental clinic or dental laboratory. In the case where the dentist has more than one clinic,  
10 the original certificate of registration should be displayed in his/her main office or clinic,  
11 and he/she shall display a copy of his/her certified original certificate of registration in  
12 the other branch or branches of his/her practice. Any owner or proprietor of a dental  
13 office or establishment shall display the certificates of registration of each and everyone  
14 of such persons in the same manner as hereinafter provided.

15 **SEC. 29. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION. –** The PRC Board in

16 collaboration with the accredited professional organization (APO), shall implement the  
17 continuing professional education among practicing dentists, dental hygienists and dental  
18 technologists in consonance with the guidelines of the Continuing Professional Education  
19 (CPE) council of the Commission. Exemption from the CPE program may be applied for  
20 upon reaching the age of sixty-five (65).

21 **SEC. 30. INTEGRATION OF DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND**

22 **DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS. –** All registered dentists, dental hygienists and dental  
23 technologist shall be integrated into one (1) national organization which shall be  
24 recognized by the Board and accredited by the Commission as the one and only  
25 accredited integrated association to which all dentists, dental hygienists and dental  
26 technologists shall belong. Henceforth, all dentists, dental hygienists and dental  
27 technologists to be registered with the Board shall automatically become a member of the  
28 accredited integrated professional organization upon payment of required fees and dues.  
29 Membership in the accredited and integrated national organization of dentists, dental  
30 hygienists and dental technologists shall not be a bar to membership in other associations  
31 of dentists, dental hygienists and dental technologists.

32 **SEC. 31. FOREIGN RECIPROCITY. –** Unless the country of which he/she is a

33 subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino dentists to practice within its territorial  
34 limits on the same basis as the subject or citizens of such foreign state or country under  
35 reciprocity and under international agreements, no foreigner shall be admitted to the  
36 examination and be given a certificate of registration to practice as a dentist and be  
37 entitled to any of the privileges under this Act.



1 Secretary of Justice shall act as the legal adviser of the Board and the Commission and  
2 shall render such legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of  
3 this Act.

#### 4 ARTICLE VI

#### 5 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

6 **SEC. 35. FUNDING PROVISION.** – The Chairperson of the Professional  
7 Regulation Commission shall immediately include in the Commission’s programs the  
8 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General  
9 Appropriations Act.

10 **SEC. 36. TRANSITORY PROVISION.** – The existing Board shall continue to  
11 function in the interim until such time that the new Professional Regulatory Board of  
12 Dentistry shall be constituted pursuant to this Act.

13 **SEC. 37. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The Board, in  
14 coordination with the accredited professional organization and with the approval of the  
15 Commission, shall promulgate, adopt and implement such rules and regulations to carry  
16 out the provisions of this Act.

17 **SEC. 38. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If any section or provision of this Act  
18 shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other section or  
19 provision of this Act.

20 **SEC. 39. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – Republic Act No. 4419 and Republic Act  
21 No. 768, are hereby repealed. All other laws or portions thereof, orders, ordinances, or  
22 rules and regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act as pertain to the practice  
23 of dentistry shall be, and are hereby repealed.

24 **SEC. 40. EFFECTIVITY.** – This Act shall take effect following its publication  
25 in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

26 Approved,