



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6342

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), SALVACION,
ABAYA, ABAYON, ESCUDERO, YU, PALMONES, TINIO, PIAMONTE,
GONZALES (A.), MARIANO AND PADILLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT
No. 2257

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED SIXTY-TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE, KNOWN
AS "THE FORESTRY PROFESSION LAW", APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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ARTICLE I

TITLE, POLICY, OBJECTIVES, TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Forestry
Profession Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the important
role of professional foresters in nation-building. Towards this end, the State
shall promote the sustained development of professional foresters, whose
technical competencies have been determined by honest and credible licensure
examinations and whose professional service and standards of practice are
internationally recognized and considered world-class, brought about by the
strategic complementation of regulatory measures and human resource policies
and programs that foster their professional growth and advancement.

1 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act provides for and shall govern:

2 (a) The examination, registration and licensure of professional
3 foresters;

4 (b) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of forestry
5 in the Philippines;

6 (c) The development and upgrading of the curriculum;

7 (d) The development of the professional competence of foresters
8 through Continuing Professional Education (CPE); and

9 (e) The integration of the forestry profession.

10 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
11 terms shall mean:

12 (a) *APO* refers to the Accredited Professional Organization (APO) of
13 foresters that the Board has accredited, subject to the approval by the
14 Commission, as the one and only accredited integrated national organization of
15 foresters.

16 (b) *Board* refers to the Professional Regulatory Board for Foresters
17 created under this Act.

18 (c) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission
19 created under Republic Act No. 8981, known as the “PRC Modernization Act
20 of 2000”.

21 (d) *Forestry* refers to the art, science, practice and business of
22 sustainable management of forest and forestland resources for the production
23 of goods and services and the enhancement of benefits and values of such
24 resources to provide the needs of the present and future generations.

25 (e) *Professional forester* refers to a registered and licensed natural
26 person who holds a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional
27 identification card, issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this
28 Act.

1 SEC. 5. *Scope of Practice of Forestry.* - The practice of forestry
2 shall include, but not be limited to, the following acts or activities:

3 (a) Different aspects of actual and/or supervisory activities or
4 services, such as the parametric classifications of lands of the public domain
5 and subclassification and capability determination of forestlands; inventory of
6 forest or timber and other forest products; reconnaissance and survey of road
7 locations and quarry sites; planning and implementing of harvesting operations
8 and timber improvement; scaling and grading of, and manifesting taxes on logs
9 and derivative wood products as well as other forest products; preparation of
10 designs, plans and specifications of forest products processing plants;
11 treatment of wood and other forest products; inspection and investigation of
12 harvesting and processing plants; preparation, certification and/or
13 authentication of log and lumber dealers, sawmill operators and other mill
14 reports; planning and implementation of forest nursery, afforestation,
15 reforestation, industrial and community-based tree plantation, tree farm and
16 agro-forestry farm projects; planning and implementation of forest parks,
17 wilderness areas, coastal areas and other protected area systems development;
18 planning and implementation of forest protection systems, forest and soil
19 resources conservation measures; and conduct of environmental risk scoping
20 and environmental impact assessment;

21 (b) The preparation and conduct of feasibility studies pertaining to
22 natural forest and plantation forest management, watershed management, range
23 or grazing land management, wildlife and/or biodiversity systems management,
24 wood technology and timber engineering, wood products manufacturing and
25 marketing management, and technical or management consultancy;

26 (c) The conduct of forest experiments, research and development,
27 training and extension concerning forestry, and the teaching of forestry
28 subjects in any accredited college or school of forestry;

1 (d) Government agency and institutional activities or services wherein
2 the principal policy and strategy is forestry and the employment of professional
3 forestry practice is essential, such as the undertaking, supervision or
4 administration of studies, programs, stations, centers, community/
5 provincial/regional offices and such other activities or services that, by law,
6 shall be inherently exercised by professional foresters; and

7 (e) Forestry activities and services required by local government
8 units, private corporations, foundations, nongovernment organizations and
9 foreign-assisted projects.

10 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise, exclude
11 from or add to the above enumerated acts or activities as the need arises to
12 conform to the latest trends in the practice of forestry.

13 ARTICLE II

14 THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR FORESTERS

15 SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory*
16 *Board for Foresters.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory
17 Board for Foresters, hereinafter referred to as the Board, a collegial body
18 under the administrative supervision and control of the Professional Regulation
19 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of the
20 chairperson and two (2) members appointed by the President of the Philippines
21 from a list of three (3) recommendees for each position chosen and submitted
22 by the Commission thereto from a list of five (5) nominees for every position
23 endorsed by the APO.

24 SEC. 7. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Board.*
25 – The chairperson and each member shall, at the time of appointment, possess
26 all the following qualifications and requirements:

- 27 (a) A citizen and a resident of the Philippines;
28 (b) Of good moral character;

1 (c) Not convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of an offense
2 involving moral turpitude;

3 (d) A holder of a bachelor's degree in forestry, preferably with a
4 masteral or doctorate degree in forestry conferred by a duly licensed school,
5 college or university recognized by the government through the Commission
6 on Higher Education (CHED);

7 (e) A registered forester with a valid certificate of registration and a
8 valid professional identification card, and with at least ten (10) years of
9 practice prior to appointment;

10 (f) A member in good standing of the APO;

11 (g) Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university
12 where a regular or review course in forestry is offered, not a member of a staff
13 of reviewers in a review school or center, and does not have any direct or
14 indirect pecuniary interest in any such institution; and

15 (h) Not an officer or trustee of the APO.

16 SEC. 8. *Term of Office.* - The chairperson and members of the
17 Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of
18 appointment or until their successors shall have been qualified and appointed.
19 They may be reappointed in the same office for another term of three (3) years
20 immediately after the expiry of their term: *Provided*, That the holding of such
21 position shall not be more than two (2) terms or not more than six (6) years:
22 *Provided, further*, That the first Board appointed under this Act shall hold
23 these terms of office: the chairperson for three (3) years, the first member for
24 two (2) years and the second member for one (1) year: *Provided, finally*, That
25 any appointee to a vacancy with the unexpired period shall only serve such
26 period. The chairperson and the members shall duly take their oaths of office.

1 SEC. 9. *Compensation, Allowances and Other Benefits.* – The
2 chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation, allowances
3 and other benefits comparable to those that the chairpersons and members of
4 other professional regulatory boards under the Commission enjoy as provided
5 for in the General Appropriations Act.

6 SEC. 10. *Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.*
7 – The Board shall exercise executive and administrative rule-making and
8 quasi-judicial powers in carrying out the provisions of this Act. It shall
9 be vested with the following specific powers, functions, duties and
10 responsibilities:

11 (a) To regulate the practice of forestry in accordance with the
12 provisions of this Act;

13 (b) To issue and promulgate rules and regulations implementing the
14 provisions of this Act;

15 (c) To adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good
16 Governance and the Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of Forestry;

17 (d) To adopt an official seal of the Board;

18 (e) To prescribe and promulgate guidelines on the CPE for foresters
19 in consultation with the APO;

20 (f) To prescribe and promulgate the syllabi for the subjects in the
21 licensure examination in consultation with the academe and the CHED;

22 (g) To issue or cancel temporary or special permit granted to foreign
23 foresters;

24 (h) To adopt a program for the walk-in licensure examination, if
25 necessary;

26 (i) To evaluate and approve applications for licensure examination;

27 (j) To prepare questions for the subjects in the licensure
28 examinations, give and correct the examinations, and release their results;

1 (k) To register with or without licensure examination qualified
2 persons for the practice of forestry and issue thereto certificates of registration
3 and professional identification cards;

4 (l) To administer oaths in the performance of its functions;

5 (m) To monitor the conditions affecting the practice of forestry
6 through ocular inspections of establishments wherein foresters are practicing,
7 and adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and
8 maintenance of high professional, moral, ethical and technical standards;

9 (n) To enter, together with the Commission, into a memorandum of
10 agreement with the CHED in ensuring that all higher educational instructions
11 and offerings of degree, course or program comply with the policies, standards
12 and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of
13 curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

14 (o) To hear and investigate cases on violations of this Act, its
15 implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics, the Code of Good
16 Governance, the Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of Forestry and
17 other policies; and for this purpose, to issue summons, subpoena and subpoena
18 *duces tecum* to alleged violators and witnesses to compel their attendance in
19 such hearings or investigations;

20 (p) To delegate the hearing or investigation of cases against the
21 alleged violators: *Provided*, That hearing or investigation of cases wherein the
22 issue or question involved strictly concerns the technical practice of forestry
23 shall be presided over by at least one (1) member of the Board assisted by a
24 legal or hearing officer of the Commission;

25 (q) To endorse cases involving criminal violations of this Act and
26 other laws, their rules and regulations, and other policies to the Prosecution
27 Office for investigation;

1 (r) To decide administrative cases against examinees or registered
2 foresters: *Provided*, That if they are judged guilty, to cancel their examination
3 papers or prohibit them from taking another licensure examination, or to
4 revoke or suspend their certificates of registration: *Provided, further*, That the
5 effectivity of the penalty shall only commence from the date of surrender of the
6 certificates together with the professional identification cards: *Provided*,
7 *finally*, That the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the
8 Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of
9 notice of judgment or decision;

10 (s) To reissue or reinstate revoked or suspended certificates of
11 registration and unexpired professional identification cards to the holders
12 thereof: *Provided*, That the revoked certificates of registration shall only be
13 reissued after the lapse of the period provided in this Act: *Provided, further*,
14 That the Board shall issue a resolution thereon, subject to approval by the
15 Commission, after establishing fitness to practice anew the forestry profession:
16 *Provided, finally*, That the suspended certificate of registration shall only be
17 reissued upon the expiration of the period imposed in the decision of the
18 Board;

19 (t) To conduct, through the legal or hearing officers, summary
20 proceedings on minor violations of this Act, its implementing rules and
21 regulations (IRR), any of the codes aforementioned, the General Instructions to
22 Examinee, and to render summary judgment thereon which shall, unless
23 appealed to the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15)
24 days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;

25 (u) To prepare an annual report of accomplishments, programs,
26 projects and activities of the Board during the year of submission to the
27 Commission after the close of each calendar year and to make appropriate

1 recommendations to the Commission on issues or problems affecting the
2 forestry profession; and

3 (v) To discharge other implied, incidental, necessary powers, duties,
4 functions and responsibilities to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act
5 and its policies or measures and the achievement of its objectives.

6 The rules and regulations, codes and other policies embodied in a
7 resolution issued and promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and
8 approval by the Commission. However, the Board's decision, resolution or
9 order rendered in an administrative case which is not interlocutory shall be
10 subject to review only if on appeal to the Commission or the regular courts.

11 SEC. 11. *Grounds for Removal or Suspension of the Board*
12 *Chairperson/Member.* - The President of the Philippines, upon the
13 recommendation of the Commission, after giving the chairperson or the
14 member of the Board an opportunity to defend oneself in an administrative
15 investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend the
16 official on any of the following grounds:

17 (a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of
18 one's duty;

19 (b) Violation of any of the causes, grounds and the prohibited acts
20 provided in this Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft
21 and Corrupt Practices Act and other laws; and

22 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination results for
23 foresters, disclosure of secret and confidential information on the examination
24 questions prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of grades.

25 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by
26 Section 7(s) of Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the "PRC
27 Modernization Act of 2000", the rules on administrative investigation and the
28 applicable provisions of the Rules of Court.

1 SEC. 12. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records and*
2 *Provision of Support Services.* - The Board shall be under the administrative
3 supervision of the Commission. The Commission shall keep all records of the
4 Board including applications for examination, examination papers and results,
5 minutes of deliberation and administrative cases. The Commission shall
6 designate the Secretary of the Board who shall provide support services to the
7 Board in order to implement the provisions of this Act.

8 ARTICLE III

9 EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION,
10 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

11 SEC. 13. *Licensure Examination Requirement.* - Except as
12 otherwise specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the
13 practice of forestry shall be required to pass a licensure examination as
14 provided for in this Act in such places and dates as the Commission may
15 designate in the resolution thereof on the master schedules for all licensure
16 examinations in accordance with Section 7(d) of Republic Act No. 8981.

17 SEC. 14. *Qualifications of an Applicant.* - An applicant for the
18 licensure examination for foresters shall satisfactorily prove that one possesses
19 the following qualifications:
20

21 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreign citizen whose country or
22 State has reciprocity agreement with the Philippines in the practice of forestry;

23 (b) Of good moral character;

24 (c) A holder of a bachelor's degree in forestry duly recognized or
25 accredited by the CHED and conferred by a school, college or university duly
26 authorized by the government or a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Forest
27 Products Engineering, or Bachelor of Science in Agroforestry; and

28 (d) Not convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court
29 of competent jurisdiction.

1 SEC. 15. *Subjects for Licensure Examination.* - The licensure
2 examination for foresters shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 3 (a) Forest Ecosystem;
4 (b) Forest Policy and Governance;
5 (c) Forest Engineering and Utilization; and
6 (d) Forest Resource Management.

7 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise or
8 exclude any of the subjects in their syllabi and add new ones as the need arises
9 to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the
10 profession.

11 SEC. 16. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.* - To pass the
12 foresters licensure examination, a candidate must obtain a general or weighted
13 average rating of seventy-five percent (75 %).

14 SEC. 17. *Report of Rating.* - The Board shall submit to the
15 Commission the ratings obtained by the candidate not later than ten (10) days
16 after the last day of the examination, unless it is extended for a valid cause.

17 SEC. 18. *Oath.* - All successful candidates in the licensure
18 examination and in the registration without examination shall take their oath of
19 profession before the chairperson or any member of the Board, or any
20 authorized officer of the Commission, or any person authorized by law to
21 administer oaths prior to entering upon the practice of forestry.

22 SEC. 19. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional*
23 *Identification Card.* - A certificate of registration shall be issued to those
24 who are registered with or without licensure examination subject to payment of
25 fees prescribed by the Commission and the chairperson and members of the
26 Board, stamped with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board,
27 certifying that the person named therein is entitled to the practice of the
28 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. Until withdrawn,

1 revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act, it shall remain in full force
2 and effect.

3 A professional identification card bearing the registration number and
4 date, its validity and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission
5 shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed fee. It
6 shall be reissued after every three (3) years upon payment of the prescribed
7 fees therefor.

8 SEC. 20. *Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall not register any
9 successful examinee in the foresters licensure examination who has been:

10 (a) Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of
11 competent jurisdiction;

12 (b) Found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct by the Board;

13 (c) Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the General
14 Instructions to Examinees by the Board; and

15 (d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction.

16 In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written
17 statement setting forth the reasons therefor and shall file a copy thereof in its
18 records.

19 SEC. 21. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration*
20 *and Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board shall have the
21 power, upon notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the certificate of
22 registration of a registered forester or to cancel a temporary/special permit
23 granted to a foreign forester for violation of any of the grounds or causes in
24 accordance with Section 20 of this Act, except (c) thereof and any of the
25 following grounds:

26 (a) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, Code
27 of Good Governance, Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of
28 Forestry, policy and measure of the Board or the Commission;

1 (b) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining one's certificate of
2 registration and/or professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

3 (c) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death,
4 injury or damage;

5 (d) Refusal to join or to remain a member in good standing of the
6 APO;

7 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5)
8 consecutive years;

9 (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a nonregistered and
10 licensed person by allowing another to use one's certificate of registration
11 and/or professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

12 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during one's suspension;

13 (h) Addiction to drug or alcohol impairing one's ability to practice the
14 profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction;
15 or

16 (i) Noncompliance with the CPE requirement, unless one is exempted
17 therefrom for the renewal of the professional identification card.

18 Any person, firm or association may file charge/s in accordance with the
19 provision of this section against any registrant, or the Board may, on its own,
20 investigate violation of any of the abovementioned causes. Affidavit-complaint
21 shall be filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary
22 evidence with the Board through the Legal and Investigation Office. The *motu*
23 *proprio* move to conduct an investigation shall be embodied in a formal charge
24 to be signed by at least majority of the members of the Board. The rules on
25 administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern the hearing
26 or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act No.
27 8981 and the Rules of Court.

1 SEC. 22. *Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration,*
2 *Replacement of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional*
3 *Identification Card or Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board may, upon
4 petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked certificate of registration after two (2)
5 years from the effectivity of the period for revocation, which is the date of
6 surrender of the said certificate and professional identification card if still valid
7 to the Board and the Commission. The Board may not require the holder
8 thereof to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall prove to the
9 Board that there are valid reasons to practice the profession. For the grant of
10 the petition, the Board shall issue a Board resolution subject to approval by the
11 Commission.

12 SEC. 23. *Nonpayment of the Annual Registration Fees.* – The Board
13 shall suspend a registered forester from the practice of the profession for
14 nonpayment of the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive years from
15 its last or previous year of payment. The resumption of one's practice shall
16 take place only upon payment of the delinquent fees plus surcharges and
17 interest and in accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of
18 the five (5)-year period may be interrupted upon written notice about the
19 discontinuance of one's practice and surrender of the certificate of registration
20 to the Board and the Commission.

21 SEC. 24. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration.* – All foresters
22 registered at the effectivity of this Act shall automatically be registered
23 hereunder, subject to the provisions herein set forth as to future requirements.

24 Certificates of registration and professional identification cards or
25 temporary/special permits held by such persons in good standing at such
26 effectivity shall have the same force and effect as though these were issued on
27 or after the effectivity of this Act.

ARTICLE IV

PRACTICE OF FORESTRY

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3 SEC. 25. *Lawful Practitioners of Forestry.* - The following natural
4 persons and juridical persons shall be authorized to practice the forestry
5 profession:

6 (a) Natural persons:

7 (1) Duly registered as foresters and holders of valid certificates of
8 registration and valid professional identification cards issued by the Board and
9 the Commission pursuant to this Act; and

10 (2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board
11 and the Commission to foreign licensed foresters pursuant to this Act.

12 (b) Juridical persons:

13 (1) Single proprietorship whose owner and staff are registered
14 foresters;

15 (2) Partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange
16 Commission (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the New Civil Code
17 and composed of partners who are all duly registered foresters;

18 (3) Corporation duly registered with the SEC as engaged in the
19 practice of forestry with officers and board of directors who are all registered
20 foresters; and

21 (4) Association duly registered with the SEC as nonprofit and
22 nonstock corporation whose officers, board of trustees and members are all
23 registered foresters.

24 These juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and the
25 Commission in accordance with duly issued rules and regulations.

26 SEC. 26. *Issuance and Use of Seal.* - All registered foresters shall
27 obtain a seal of such design and make as the Board shall authorize and direct:
28 *Provided, That the serial number of the certificate of registration issued by the*

1 Board shall be included in the seal. Documents prepared by or under direct
2 supervision of registered or professional foresters shall be stamped with one's
3 seal, such as reports, certifications, contracts, studies, plans, surveys, returns,
4 technical descriptions, inventory data, maps, drawings, sketches, layouts,
5 exhibits, proposal or offer of services, tests and analysis, and other documents
6 that may henceforth be the subject of such acts upon the recommendation of
7 the APO concerned and by the resolution by the Board. It shall be unlawful
8 for any person to stamp any document with the said seal after the certificate of
9 registration is revoked.

10 SEC. 27. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreigner shall be allowed to
11 take the licensure examination for foresters, register, receive one's certificate
12 of registration and professional identification card, and practice forestry in the
13 Philippines unless the requirements for the licensure examination and the
14 registration and practice of forestry imposed under the laws and regulations in
15 one's foreign country or State are substantially the same as those required and
16 contemplated by Philippine laws and regulations, and unless the said foreign
17 laws and regulations allow Philippine citizens to practice forestry within the
18 territory of the said foreign country or State on the same basis and grant the
19 same privileges as those enjoyed by the citizens, subjects or nationals thereof.

20 SEC. 28. *Practice Through Temporary/Special Permit.* – Subject to
21 approval by the Commission and the payment of fees it has prescribed, the
22 Board may issue temporary/special permits to the following:

23 (a) Registered or certified foresters from foreign countries or States
24 whose services are either for a fee or free:

25 (1) If they are internationally known foresters or experts in any branch
26 or specialty of forestry; and

1 (2) If their services are urgently and importantly necessary for lack or
2 inadequacy of available local specialists or experts for the promotion or
3 advancement of the practice of forestry through transfer of technology; and

4 (b) Licensed foresters from foreign countries or States employed as
5 exchange professors in a branch or specialty of forestry in schools, colleges or
6 universities offering the course of forestry.

7 The permit shall, among other things, contain these limitations and
8 conditions for a period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal, the
9 branch or specialty of forestry and the specific place of practice such as center,
10 school, college or university offering the course of forestry. The Board shall
11 promulgate, subject to approval by the Commission, rules and regulations on
12 the implementation of this particular section.

13 SEC. 29. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration,*
14 *Professional Tax Receipt and APO Membership.* – The forester shall be
15 required to indicate the certificate of registration number and the date of
16 issuance, the expiry of the current professional identification card, the
17 professional tax receipt number and date, and the APO membership number
18 and date with official receipt number and date of membership payment
19 (annual/lifetime) on the documents one signs, uses or issues in connection with
20 the practice of the forestry profession.

21 SEC. 30. *Roster of Foresters.* – The Board shall prepare and
22 maintain a roster of the names, residence or office address of all registered
23 foresters which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the APO,
24 indicating therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional
25 identification card and the APO membership, whether valid, inactive due to
26 death or other reasons, delinquent, suspended or revoked. The said roster shall
27 be conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the
28 information therefrom made available to the public upon inquiry or request.

1 SEC. 31. *Integration of the Foresters.* – The foresters shall be
2 integrated into one (1) national organization of foresters that is duly registered
3 with the SEC. The Board for Foresters shall accredit, subject to approval by
4 the Commission, the said organization as the one and only integrated and
5 accredited national organization of foresters. All foresters whose names
6 appear in the Registry Book of Foresters shall *ipso facto* or automatically
7 become members thereof and shall receive therefrom all the benefits and
8 privileges upon payment of APO membership fees and dues. A membership in
9 an affiliate organization of foresters shall not be barred.

10 SEC. 32. *Act Not Affecting Other Professions.* – This Act shall not
11 affect or prevent the practice of any other legally recognized profession.

12 SEC. 33. *Posting of Certificate of Registration and Professional*
13 *Identification Card or Temporary/Special Permit.* – The certificates of
14 registration and professional identification cards of foresters or
15 temporary/special permit in original or authentic/authenticated copies shall be
16 posted by registered foresters in a conspicuous place in one's office.

17 SEC. 34. *Positions in Public or Private Offices Involving the Practice*
18 *of the Forestry Profession.* – Positions in public or private entities including
19 educational institutions involving the practice of the forestry profession shall
20 be occupied by persons who are duly registered foresters with valid certificates
21 of registration and valid professional identification cards, or valid
22 temporary/special permits that are issued under this Act.

23 ARTICLE V

24 PENAL AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

25 SEC. 35. *Penal Clause.* -- Any person who shall commit any of the
26 following acts shall be meted out with a perpetual disqualification to practice
27 the profession:

1 (a) Practicing forestry without a valid certificate of registration and a
2 valid professional identification card or a valid temporary/special permit;

3 (b) Attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and
4 professional identification card of a registered forester or temporary/special
5 permit issued to a foreign forester;

6 (c) Abetting the illegal practice of forestry by an unregistered or
7 unauthorized person;

8 (d) Securing through false information or fraudulent means certificate
9 of registration and professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

10 (e) Impersonating a registered forester or a holder of a
11 temporary/special permit; and

12 (f) Violating any provision of this Act or the implementing rules and
13 regulations thereof.

14 SEC. 36. *Enforcement.* - In carrying out the provisions of this Act,
15 the Board shall be assisted by the Commission, the APO, duly constituted
16 government agencies and authorities, and private organizations in the industry.
17 A memorandum of agreement between agencies or organizations may be
18 executed.

19 SEC. 37. *Appropriations.* - The Chairperson of the PRC shall
20 immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation of this
21 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
22 Appropriations Act.

23 SEC. 38. *Transitory Provision.* - The incumbent Board shall in an
24 interim capacity continue to operate or function by carrying out the provisions
25 of this Act without new appointments of the Chairperson and the members
26 thereof until this first Board created under this Act shall have been constituted
27 or organized pursuant thereto.

1 SEC. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board for
2 Foresters, subject to approval by the Commission, shall prescribe, promulgate
3 and issue a Board resolution on the implementing rules and regulations of this
4 Act after consultation with the APO, other agencies and concerned private
5 organizations in the industry within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this
6 Act.

7 SEC. 40. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, section or part of
8 this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not
9 affect, invalidate or impair any other provisions, sections or parts hereof but
10 shall be merely confined to the provision, section or part thereof that is directly
11 involved in the issue upon which judgment has been rendered.

12 SEC. 41. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 6239 is hereby
13 repealed. All laws, decrees, orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations
14 or other issuances and parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
15 are likewise repealed or modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 42. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
17 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
18 circulation.

Approved,

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