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BY REPRESENTATIVES ESCUDERO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), CASTRO, ARROYO (D.), MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (G.), GOLEZ (R.), SALVACION, ABAYA, ABAYON, ANGARA, MARIANO, PICHAY, PADILLA, LIMKAICHONG, GARIN (J.), BAG-AO, BATAOIL AND HERRERA-DY, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2658

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5921, THE PHARMACY LAW, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Pharmacy Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of pharmacists in quality healthcare delivery through their services in providing safe, effective and quality drugs or medicines, drug information, patient medication counseling and health promotion. The pharmacists' professional service shall therefore be promoted as a component of the total healthcare system which shall ensure the physical well-being of the Filipinos.

Hence, the State shall develop and nurture competent, productive, morally upright and well-rounded pharmacists whose standards of professional practice and service shall be excellent, qualitative, world-class and internationally recognized, and globally competitive through regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their continuing professional development.

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

(a) The standardization and regulation of pharmacy education;

(b) The examination for registration of graduates of schools and colleges of pharmacy;

(c) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy in the Philippines;

(d) The enhancement of professional competence through continuing professional education, research and other related activities; and

(e) The integration of the pharmacy profession.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

(a) *Biopharmaceuticals* refer to vaccines, sera and drugs derived from life forms using biotechnology. They include proteins, nucleic acids and living microorganisms like viruses and bacteria where the virulence is reduced by attenuation used for therapeutic or *in vivo* diagnostic purposes.

(b) *Brand name* refers to the proprietary or trade name given by the manufacturer to distinguish its product from those of the competitors.

(c) *Cipher* refers to a method of secret writing that substitutes other letters or characters for the letter intended or transpose the letter after arranging them in blocks or squares.

(d) *Code* refers to a system of words or other symbols arbitrarily used to represent words.

(e) *Compounding* refers to the preparation, mixing, assembling, packaging or labeling of a drug: (1) as the result of a prescription or drug order

by a physician, dentist, optometrist or yeterinarian, based on the said practitioner-patient-pharmacist relationship in the course of professional practice; or (2) for the purpose of, or in relation to, research, teaching or chemical analysis and not for sale or dispensing.

(f) *Cosmetics* refer to substances or preparations intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the human body or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to clean them or perfume them, changing their appearance and/or correcting body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping them in good condition.

(g) *Counterfeit drug/medicine/pharmaceutical* refers to medicinal products with either the correct ingredients but not in the amounts as provided, or wrong ingredient, or without active ingredient/s, or with insufficient quantity of active ingredient, which results in the reduction of the drug's safety, efficacy, quality, strength or purity. It is a drug that is deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source or with fake packaging, and can apply to both branded and generic products. It shall also refer to:

(1) The drug itself or the container or labeling thereof or any part of such drug, container or labeling bearing without authorization the trademark, trade name or other identification mark or imprint or any likeness to that which is owned or registered in the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in the name of another natural or juridical person;

(2) A drug product refilled in containers by unauthorized persons if the legitimate labels or marks are used;

(3) An imported drug product not registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), except drugs brought in the country for personal use as confirmed and justified by accompanying medical records; and

(4) A drug which contains no amount of a different active ingredient or less than eighty percent (80%) of the active ingredient it purports to possess as distinguished from an adulterated drug including reduction or loss or efficacy due to expiration.

(h) *Dangerous drugs* refer to those listed in the Schedules annexed to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and in the Schedules annexed to the 1971 Single Convention on Psychotropic Substances as enumerated in the attached annex in Republic Act No. 9165, which is an integral part of this Act.

(i) *Dispensing* refers to the process of reading, checking and interpretation of prescription, preparing, packaging, labeling, record keeping and sale or transfer of drugs and medicines with or without a prescription or medication order which process includes counseling and information giving by or under supervision of a duly registered pharmacist.

(j) *Drugs* and *medicines* refer to chemical compounds or biological substances, other than food, intended for use in the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of disease in humans or animals including, but not limited to:

(1) Any article recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeia-National Formulary, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, Philippine Pharmacopoeia, Philippine National Drug Formulary, British Pharmacopoeia, European Pharmacopoeia, Japanese Pharmacopoeia and any official compendium to supplement them;

(2) Any article intended for use in diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease of man and animals;

(3) Any article other than food intended to affect the structure or any function of the human body or animals;

(4) Any article intended for use as a component of articles specified in clauses (1), (2) and (3) not including devices or their components, parts, accessories; and

(5) Herbal and/or traditional drugs which are articles of plant or animal origin used in folk medicine which are: (i) recognized in the Philippine National Drug Formulary; (ii) intended for use in the treatment or cure or mitigation of disease symptoms, injury or body defects in humans; (iii) other than food, intended to affect the structure or any function of the human body; (iv) in finished or ready-to-use dosage form; and (v) intended for use as a component of any of the articles specified in clauses (a), (b), (c) or (d).

(k) *Drug* or *pharmaceutical laboratory* or *pharmaceutical manufacturing laboratory* refers to an establishment where pharmaceutical products, proprietary medicines or pharmaceutical specialties are formulated, prepared, compounded and standardized.

(l) *Drug establishments* refer to FDA-registered companies involved in the manufacture, importation, repacking and/or distribution of drugs or medicines.

(m) *Drug outlets* refer to drugstores, pharmacies and other business establishments which are registered with the FDA and which legally sell drugs and medicines.

(n) *Drugstore* or *pharmacy* refers to a place or establishment licensed by the FDA where drugs, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, specialties and devices are legally sold at retail or wholesale and where medical, dental and veterinary prescriptions are compounded and dispensed.

(o) *Emergency cases* refer to life-threatening situations where a patient needs immediate medical attention and treatment or the occurrence of an epidemic or natural calamities.

(p) *Expiration date* refers to the date until which the manufacturer can guarantee a product to possess its claimed potency, efficacy, quality and safety; and after which its sale or distribution is prohibited.

(q) *Filling of a prescription* refers to the act of dispensing or giving out of medicines in accordance with the doctor's order.

(r) *Generic name* refers to the scientifically and internationally recognized name of the active ingredient/s as approved by the FDA.

(s) *Household remedies* refer to any preparation containing pharmaceutical substances of common or ordinary use to relieve common physical ailments which may be dispensed without a medical prescription in original packages, bottles or containers, the nomenclature of which has been duly approved by the FDA in the process of registration as defined in FDA AO No. 115 (s.1991);

(t) *Institutional pharmacies* refer to establishments which provide, within their premises, medicines to their employees and/or relatives either for free or at cost.

(u) *Label* refers to a display of written, printed or graphic information upon the immediate container, or attached to or accompanying any pharmaceutical product.

(v) *Labeling* refers to all labels and other written, printed or graphic matter: (1) upon any item or any of its containers or wrappers, or (2) accompanying any such item.

(w) *Medical devices* refer to any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, implant, *in vitro* reagent or calibrator, software, material or other similar or related article:

(1) Intended by the manufacturer to be used, along or in combination, for human beings for one (1) or more of the specific purposes of:

(i) Diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of diseases;

(ii) Diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury;

(iii) Investigation, replacement or modification or support of the anatomy of a physiological process;

(iv) Supporting or sustaining life;

(v) Control of conception;

(vi) Disinfection of medical devices;

(vii) Providing information for medical or diagnostic purposes by means of an *in vitro* examination of specimen derived from the human body; and

(2) Which does not achieve its primary intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in their intended function by such means.

(x) *Nontraditional outlets* refer to retail outlets licensed by the FDA other than drugstores and pharmacies where drugs are made available in conjunction with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9502, otherwise known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008".

(y) *Online pharmacy* refers to any activity of taking orders for medicines online or through the internet.

(z) *Over-the-counter drugs* refer to drugs used for symptomatic relief of minor ailments which may be dispensed without a prescription.

(aa) *Pharmaceutical products* or *pharmaceutical specialties* refer to drugs, preparations or mixture of drugs under a brand or generic name and, intended for the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in man or animals.

(bb) *Pharmacist-only over-the-counter drugs* refer to FDA-classified over-the-counter drugs and/or substances which should only be obtained from the drugstore or pharmacy with mandatory pharmacist's advice on their selection and proper use.

(cc) *Person* refers to an individual or a partnership, corporation or any juridical entity.

(dd) *Pharmaceutical marketing* refers to any activity undertaken, organized or sponsored by a drug establishment which is directed at promoting the prescription, recommendation, supply, administration or consumption of its

pharmaceutical products through direct personal contact and all media, including the internet.

(ee) *Pharmacy assistants* refer to persons who assist pharmacists in dispensing medicines in community, hospital, industrial settings and in other activities such as, but not limited to, medical missions, under the supervision of the pharmacist and as described in Section 41 of this Act.

(ff) *Physician's samples* refer to medicines given to a physician for free for promotional purposes.

(gg) *Prescription drugs* refer to drugs that can only be dispensed by a pharmacist to a patient upon the presentation of a valid prescription from a physician, dentist, optometrist or veterinarian and for which pharmacist's advice on their proper use is necessary.

(hh) *Professional Medical Representative or Company Sales Representative* refers to a person who represents any duly authorized manufacturer, distributor, trader and wholesaler of drugs, pharmaceuticals, biologic products and devices, whose primary duty is to introduce said products to legitimate prescribers and which forms part of their program for promotion by describing its use, composition, action, dosage, administration, contraindication, advantages and other relevant information about the drugs being promoted.

(ii) *Refilling of a prescription* refers to the act of dispensing or giving out the remaining balance of medicines ordered in the prescription when the whole quantity ordered is not yet completely filled.

(jj) *Secret keys* refer to a characteristic style or symbols kept from the knowledge of others or disclosed confidentially to a few individuals.

(kk) *Telepharmacy* refers to the provision of pharmacy services utilizing electronic information and communication technology under the supervision of a pharmacist.

(ll) *Wholesaler* refers to a person who acts as merchant, broker or agent, who sells or distributes for resale pharmaceuticals, proprietary medicines or pharmaceutical specialties.

SEC. 5. *Enforcement.* – The Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) are the agencies responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

ARTICLE II

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHARMACY

SEC. 6. *The Board of Pharmacy and its Composition.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy, hereinafter called the Board, under the administration, control and supervision of the PRC, hereinafter called the Commission, composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the recommendees ranked by the Commission from the list of nominees submitted by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) for Pharmacists.

SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – To be appointed as member of the Board of Pharmacy, a person shall be:

(a) A natural-born citizen of the Philippines and a resident for at least five (5) years;

(b) A duly registered pharmacist preferably a holder of a Masteral degree in Pharmacy, or its equivalent and has been in the practice of pharmacy for at least ten (10) years;

(c) Of good moral character with a valid certificate of registration, valid professional identification card and preferably with teaching experience preferably representing each field of practice;

(d) At the time of appointment, not a member of the faculty or administrative office of any school, college or university offering degree programs in pharmacy nor connected in a review school or center; nor has any

direct or indirect pecuniary interests in any school, college or any institution offering pharmacy; and

(e) A member of good standing for at least five (5) years of the accredited integrated professional association of pharmacists but, at the time of nomination, not an officer or trustee thereof.

SEC. 8. *Term of Office of Board Members* – The Chairperson and the members of the Board shall hold office for three (3) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided,* That the incumbent Board members shall finish their terms to complete the membership of the Board: *Provided, further,* That the Chairman or any member may be reappointed for another term but in no case shall serve for more than six (6) years.

SEC. 9. *Compensation of the Board of Pharmacy.* – The Chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation, allowances and other benefits comparable to that being received by the Chairpersons and members of other Professional Regulatory Boards under the Commission as provided for under Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000" and other existing laws.

SEC. 10. *Powers, Functions and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall exercise these specific powers, functions and duties:

(a) Conduct licensure examination for pharmacists;

(b) Approve the registration of pharmacists and the certification of drug handlers as covered by Section 41 of this Act;

(c) Prepare, adopt and issue the Table of Specifications for the subjects in the board licensure examination for pharmacists in consultation with the academe; determine and prepare the questions therefor; score and rate the examination papers with the name and signature of the Board member concerned appearing thereon and submit the results in all subjects duly signed by the members of the Board to the Commission no later than three (3) days

from the last day of examination unless extended by the Commission for justifiable cause;

(d) Review and/or amend the scope of licensure examination;

(e) Add, delete or modify the scope, definition and standards of practice of pharmacy;

(f) Reprimand any pharmacist, suspend or revoke the certificate of registration on the grounds as provided for in Section 46 hereof after formal administrative investigation;

(g) Promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of this Act;

(h) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of pharmacy in the Philippines and adopt measures that may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and/or the maintenance of high professional, academic, ethical and technical standards;

(i) Verify or confirm the qualifications and conditions of pharmacists employed in drugstores, hospital pharmacies, drug or pharmaceutical laboratories, drug traders, importers, cosmetics and medical device establishments for which the Board may designate inspectors from the FDA and other related institutions for such purpose;

(j) Investigate cases arising from violations of this Act, the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder and the Pharmacist's Code of Ethics, technical standards and other Board issuances and for this purpose, may issue summons, subpoena *ad testificandum* and subpoena *duces tecum* to the respondents and/or witnesses to compel their attendance in such investigations or hearings: *Provided,* That the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission, becomes final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;

(k) Cite a person in contempt for failure or refusal to obey the lawful orders of the Board in accordance with the Revised Rules of Court;

(l) Delegate the hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before them where the hearing shall be presided over by at least one (1) member of the Board concerned and assisted by a Legal or Hearing Officer of the Commission: *Provided*, That if the charge is not related to the technical practice of the profession, the hearing may be conducted without a member of the Board;

(m) Conduct, through the Legal Officers of the Commission, summary proceedings on minor violations of the respective regulatory laws, as determined by the Board, violations of the rules and regulations issued by the Board to implement this Act, including violations of the general instructions to examinees committed by examinees, and render summary judgment thereon which shall, unless appealed to the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;

(n) Subject to the final approval by the Commission, recommend registration without examination and the issuance of corresponding certificate of registration and professional identification card to foreign pharmacists duly licensed in countries with agreement of reciprocity with the Philippine government;

(o) Prepare an annual report of accomplishments on programs, projects and activities of the Board during the year for submission to the Commission after the close of each calendar year including appropriate recommendations on issues or problems affecting the practice of pharmacy;

(p) Issue and promulgate guidelines on continuing professional development education in coordination with accredited professional organization;

(q) Recommend to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) the closure of the program or course of pharmacy offered by a school/college pursuant to the latter's policy thereon; and

(r) Perform any implied, incidental or necessary power for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Grounds for Suspension or Termination of Term of Office of the Chairperson or Member of the Board.* – The President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after giving the Chairperson or the member of the Board an opportunity to defend oneself in an administrative investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend the person on any of the following grounds:

(a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of duty;

(b) Commission of any of the prohibited acts provided in this Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices and other laws;

(c) Involvement in the manipulation, tampering or rigging of the licensure examination, its questions and/or its results and the disclosure of classified and confidential information pertaining to the licensure examination; and

(d) Conviction on an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Commission, in the conduct of investigation shall be guided by Section 7 and Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8981 and the rules on administrative investigation thereof, and the applicable provisions of the New Rules of Court.

ARTICLE III

EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

SEC. 12. *Passing of Licensure Examination Requirement.* – Except as otherwise specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the practice of pharmacy shall be required to pass a licensure examination as

provided for in this Act in accordance with Section 7(d) of Republic Act No. 8981.

SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicants.* – An applicant for the licensure examination for pharmacy shall possess the following qualifications:

(a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreign citizen whose country/state has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of pharmacy;

(b) Of good moral character;

(c) Holder of a Bachelor's degree in pharmacy duly recognized or accredited by the CHED and conferred by a school/college/university duly authorized by the government or its equivalent degree obtained by either a Filipino or foreign citizen from an institution of learning in a foreign country/state, provided it is duly recognized and/or accredited by the CHED;

(d) Not convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

(e) Must have completed an Internship Program which shall consist of at least nine hundred sixty (960) hours, six hundred (600) hours of which shall be spent equally distributed in a community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, or pharmaceutical industry, manufacturing, regulatory, marketing or research and other related fields, while three hundred sixty (360) hours of internship shall be spent in any of the accredited pharmacy establishments or entity chosen by the candidate.

For this purpose, the abovementioned community pharmacy, pharmaceutical company and hospital pharmacy shall keep a separate record of pharmacy students who underwent the internship program directly under their control and as a result thereof, shall issue the proper certificate of the hours of internship. It shall also be the duty of the establishments to submit semi-annually a complete report of the names of those who have undergone training under their supervision and the corresponding number of hours of internship

credit of each of the pharmacy students to their respective colleges or schools and to the Board.

SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – The licensure examination for Pharmacists shall be divided into two (2) major divisions: Pharmacy as Science and Pharmacy as Practice. Pharmacy as Science shall consist of subjects in Group I (Public Health, Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Parasitology); Group II (Drug Delivery Systems, Physical Pharmacy, Manufacturing Pharmacy, Quality Control I, Quality Control II), Group III (Pharmaceutical Biochemistry, Pharmacognosy, Plant Chemistry, and Philippine Medicinal Plants, Pharmacy and Chemistry of Medicinals I and Pharmacy and Chemistry of Medicinals II).

Pharmacy as Practice shall consist of the following subjects: Group IV (Pharmaceutical Calculations, Hospital Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacy, Dispensing and Medication Counseling); Group V (Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacology I, Pharmacology II, Clinical Toxicology); and Group VI (Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence and Ethics, Pharmaceutical Marketing and Entrepreneurship and Pharmaceutical Administration and Management).

The subjects shall be weighed as follows: Group I, ten percent (10%); Group II, twenty percent (20%); Group III, twenty percent (20%); Group IV, twenty percent (20%); Group V, twenty percent (20%); and Group VI, ten percent (10%).

The Board subject to the approval by the Commission may, as the need arises, introduce relevant changes, to the content of the examination and the relative weight attributed to each subject in the examination may be made after consultation with the duly recognized association of schools or colleges of pharmacy and the CHED.

SEC. 15. *Holding of Examination.* – Examination for registration to practice pharmacy in the Philippines shall be given twice a year in such places

and dates as the Commission may designate in the Resolution thereof on the Master Schedules for all licensure examinations in accordance with Section 7(d) of Republic Act No. 8981. The said places and dates may be subject to change under valid circumstances and reasons.

SEC 16. *Ratings in the Licensure Examination.* – In order to be registered and licensed as a pharmacist, a candidate must obtain a general weighted average of seventy-five percent (75%).

SEC. 17. *Report of Rating.* – The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless extended for a just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Commission shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at the given address using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.

SEC. 18. *Oath of Profession.* – All successful candidates in the licensure examination shall take their oath of profession before the Chairman or any member of the Board or any authorized officer of the Commission to administer oaths, prior to entering the practice of pharmacy.

SEC. 19. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration shall be issued to those who are registered upon payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. It shall bear the signatures of the Chairperson and the Commissioners of the Commission and the Chairman and members of the Board, stamped with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board, certifying the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. Until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act, it shall remain in full force and effect.

A professional identification card bearing the registration number and date, its validity and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed fee.

SEC. 20. *Affixing R.Ph. after a Registered Pharmacist's Name.* – Only a pharmacist who is duly registered by the Board and the Commission has the right to affix the title "Registered Pharmacist" or "R.Ph." after one's name.

SEC. 21. *Grounds for Non-registration.* – The Board shall not register any successful examinee for registration who has been:

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

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

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

(d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

(e) Found addicted to dangerous drugs by the Department of Health (DOH).

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

SEC. 22. *Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration, Replacement of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board may, upon petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked certificate of registration after two (2) years from the date of its revocation. The Board may or may not require the pharmacist whose certificate had been revoked to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall prove to the Board that there is a valid reason for reinstatement to the practice of pharmacy. For the grant of one's petition, the Board shall issue a Board Resolution subject to the approval of the Commission.

Duplicate copy of lost or damaged certificate of registration, professional identification card or temporary/special permit may be reissued in

accordance with the rules thereon and upon payment of the prescribed fee therefor.

SEC. 23. *Nonpayment of the PRC Registration Fees.* – The Board shall suspend a registered pharmacist from the practice of the profession for nonpayment of the PRC registration fees for more than three (3) consecutive years from its last payment. The resumption of one's practice shall take place only upon payment of delinquency fees plus surcharges and interest and in accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of the three (3)-year period may be interrupted upon written notice about the discontinuance of one's practice and surrender of the certificate of registration with professional identification card to the Board and/or the Commission.

SEC. 24. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration.* – All pharmacists registered before the effectivity of this Act shall automatically be registered hereunder, subject to the policy as to future requirements.

Certificates of registration and professional identification cards or temporary or special permits held by such persons in good standing at such effectivity shall have the same force and effect as though they were issued on or after the said effectivity.

ARTICLE IV

REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY

SEC. 25. *Scope of the Practice of Pharmacy.* – A person deemed to be practicing pharmacy within the meaning of this Article is one who shall, with or without a fee, salary, percentage or other rewards, paid or given directly to himself or indirectly through another:

(a) Prepare, compound or manufacture, analyze, assay, preserve, store, distribute, sell and/or dispense any medicine, drug, chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, devices or contrivances used in pursuance thereof;

(b) Render services not limited to drug information service and medication management whenever the expertise and the technical knowledge of the pharmacist is required;

(c) Render services not limited to regulatory services, pharmaceutical marketing and the conduct or undertaking of scientific research in all aspects involving drugs and healthcare in collaboration with other qualified practitioners;

(d) Engage in teaching scientific, technical or professional pharmacy courses in a school or college of pharmacy;

(e) Conduct or undertake scientific research in all aspects involving drugs and healthcare;

(f) Dispense drugs during medical missions and in other situations where supervision of drugs is required; or

(g) Provide other services where pharmaceutical knowledge is required.

All government and nongovernment agencies, establishments, institutions and regulatory body with functions that involve the practice of pharmacy shall be headed and managed only by a qualified, duly registered pharmacist.

All pharmacists are expected to abide by current standards such as the Good Pharmacy Practice, Good Laboratory Practice, Good Distribution Practice, Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Clinical Practice, which are deemed vital in the performance of one's roles and functions in different practice areas.

The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, may add to, delete or modify the above acts, services or activities as the need arises.

SEC. 26. *Prerequisites for the Practice of Pharmacy.* – A person may practice pharmacy in the Philippines: *Provided,* That one:

(a) Has satisfactorily passed the licensure examination for pharmacists given by the Board and the Commission;

(b) Is duly registered with by the Board and the Commission; and

(c) Is an active member of the accredited integrated professional organization.

SEC. 27. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreigner shall be allowed to take the licensure examination for pharmacists, register, receive a pharmacist's certificate of registration and professional identification card, and practice pharmacy in the Philippines unless the requirements for the licensure examination and registration and practice of pharmacy imposed under the laws and the regulations in one's foreign country or State are substantially the same as those required and contemplated by the Philippine laws and regulations, and unless the said foreign laws and regulations allow Filipino citizens to practice pharmacy within the territory of the said foreign country/State on the same basis and grant the same privileges as those enjoyed by the citizens, subjects or nationals thereof.

SEC. 28. *Practice Through Temporary or Special Permit.* – A temporary or special permit may be issued by the Board to the following subject to the approval of the Commission and payment of applicable fees:

(a) Licensed pharmacists from foreign countries whose services whether for free or a fee:

(1) If they are internationally renowned pharmacists or experts in any field or specialty of pharmacy; or

(2) If their services are deemed necessary for lack of specialists or experts in a particular field;

(b) Licensed pharmacists from foreign countries or States whose services shall be free and limited to indigent patients as beneficiaries; or

(c) Licensed pharmacists from foreign countries or States employed as visiting faculty in a field or specialty of pharmacy.

The permit shall be valid for a period of not more than one (1) year and shall among other things, contain these limitations and conditions, the field or specialty of pharmacy, and the specific place of practice including clinics, hospitals and schools of pharmacy and shall be subject to renewal. The Board subject to the approval by the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular section.

SEC. 29. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration, Professional Tax Receipt and Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) Membership.* – The pharmacist shall be required to indicate on any document one signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of pharmacy the following information:

(a) One's registration number and date of issuance;

(b) The expiration date of one's professional identification card;

(c) The Professional Tax Receipt (PTR) Number and date of issuance; and

(d) The certificate of AIPO membership (annual/lifetime), number and the official receipt of payment, number and date.

SEC. 30. *Registry of Pharmacists.* – The Board shall prepare and maintain a registry of the names, residences and/or office addresses of all registered pharmacists which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the AIPO, indicating therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional identification card and AIPO membership, whether valid or inactive due to death, or other reasons, delinquent, suspended or with revoked certificate of registration. The registry of pharmacists shall be conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the information therein made available to the public upon inquiry or request.

SEC. 31. *Display of Certificate of Registration.* – It shall be the duty of every pharmacist engaged in the practice of pharmacy, either on one's own account or under the employ of another, to display the original certificate of

registration in a prominent and conspicuous place in a retail drug outlet or drug establishment which one operates or is employed in a professional capacity as pharmacist. No pharmacist shall knowingly allow one's certificate of registration to be displayed in such establishment when one is not actually employed or operating therein in a professional capacity.

SEC. 32. *Sale of Drugs, Medicines, Pharmaceuticals, Medicated Cosmetics and Medical Devices.* – No drug, medicines, pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceuticals, medicated cosmetics and medical devices of whatever nature and kind shall be compounded, dispensed, sold or resold, or otherwise be made available to the consuming public except through a FDA-licensed retail drug outlet or other business establishments which are duly established in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws.

Prescription drugs and pharmacist-only over-the-counter drugs, medicines or pharmaceutical products shall be dispensed only by a registered pharmacist except only in an emergency case where the services of a registered pharmacist are not available: *Provided,* That prescription drugs and pharmacist-only over-the-counter drugs, medicines or pharmaceutical products are sourced only in pharmacies under the direct control, supervision and responsibility of a registered pharmacist.

Compounding and dispensing by duly registered and licensed pharmacists shall be in accordance with current good manufacturing practice, good laboratory practice and good pharmacy practice, with the safety and protection of individual patients as ultimate objective. A registered pharmacist may refuse to compound, dispense or sell drugs and pharmaceutical products, if not in accordance with this Act.

Licensed manufacturers, importers and wholesalers of drugs, medicines, medicated cosmetics, pharmaceutical and biopharmaceuticals are authorized to sell their products only to duly licensed drug outlets, wholesalers and other drug establishments.

SEC. 33. *Pharmacist Requirement and Compensation.* – Every drug establishment/outlet selling prescription and pharmacist only over-the-counter drugs whether owned by the government or a private person or firm shall at all times when open for business be under the direct control, supervision and responsibility of a registered and licensed pharmacist. For retails outlets selling only over-the-counter drugs, they shall be under the supervision of a registered and licensed pharmacist.

Processes involving the preparation, quality control or repacking of pharmaceutical products in quantities greatly in excess of single therapeutic doses shall for each respective operation be under the direct and immediate supervision of a registered and licensed pharmacist. In the sale of pharmaceutical products, medicines and drugs, at wholesale, such business shall be conducted under the immediate supervision of a registered and licensed pharmacist.

All government and nongovernment agencies and units which handle the procurement and distribution of drugs shall have a supervising pharmacist. All rural health units dispensing medicines should be supervised by a pharmacist or a pharmacy assistant as defined in this Act.

Pharmacists in government service shall receive a starting salary equivalent to Salary Grade 15 as provided in Republic Act No. 6758 (Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989) and its amendments. The pharmacists in the private sector shall receive an entry-level salary in peso equivalent of Salary Grade 15 being received by government pharmacists.

SEC. 34. *Responsibility for Quality of Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices.* – It shall be the duty of the registered pharmacist of drug outlet/establishment to ensure that all drug products, cosmetics and medical devices conform to standards of safety, quality and efficacy and strictly adhere to the guidelines as provided for in this Act and other pertinent rules and

regulations and issuances. Owners, managers and/or pharmacists in charge of the operation of drug outlets and drug establishments shall be held responsible.

It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, prepare, sell or dispense any prescription drug, pharmaceutical, medical devices or cosmetics under any fraudulent name, direction or pretense or to adulterate any drug, pharmaceutical, medical devices, or cosmetics offered for sale. Any drug, pharmaceutical product, medical device/s or cosmetics shall be held to be adulterated or deteriorated within the meaning of this section if it differs from the standard or quality or purity given in the United States Pharmacopeia/National Formulary and Philippine Pharmacopeia, in its latest edition, or any standard reference for drugs and medicines given official recognition, and those which fall within the meaning as provided for in the Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Devices Act, known as Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, and the Food and Drug Administration Act, also known as Republic Act No. 9711.

In cases of drug products sold in their original packings, the seal of which has not been broken or tampered with, the liability that may arise because of their quality and purity, rests upon the manufacturer or importer, the distributor, representative or dealer responsible for their distribution or sale.

SEC. 35. *Filling and Partial Filling of Prescription.* – All prescriptions shall be filled or compounded only by a registered and licensed pharmacist following the standards of purity, safety and quality. Completely filled prescriptions should be surrendered to the pharmacist for recording.

Partial filling of prescription is dispensing units less than the total quantity indicated in the prescription. The prescription should contain information as to how many units were served and shall be returned to the buyer after being recorded in the appropriate book or equivalent system. The drugstore, which completes the filling of the prescription, shall keep a record of the prescription on file for a prescribed period of time.

SEC. 36. *Physician's Sample.* – Drugs, biologic products, devices or proprietary medicines, given or intended to be given free to the physician and other qualified person by any manufacturer or distributor or its medical representative as part of its program or promotion may not be sold.

The statement "Sample, not for sale" shall appear conspicuously on the container, package or carton of the drug or device to be given. It shall be unlawful to remove, erase or deface already marked original labels of samples.

SEC. 37. *Prohibition Against Use of Cipher or Unusual Terms in Prescriptions and Prescription Switching.* – Pharmacists shall not compound or dispense prescriptions, recipes or formulas which are written in ciphers, codes or secret keys or prescriptions of drugs using unusual names which differ from those in standard pharmacopeias or formularies.

The pharmacist dispensing or compounding prescriptions should not substitute the drug or drugs called for in the prescription with any other drug or substance or ingredient without prior consultation with, and a written consent of the person prescribing, except in accordance with Republic Act No. 6675, known as the Generics Act of 1988, and other pertinent laws and regulations.

SEC. 38. *Label of Dispensed Medicines.* – Upon every box, bottle or package containing medicine compounded or dispensed by a registered and licensed pharmacist based on prescription, there shall be pasted, affixed or imprinted a seal or label bearing, among others, name of patient, generic name of drug; brand name, if any, strength, expiry date, directions for use, and name and address of drugstore and other requirements prescribed by Republic Act No. 9502, otherwise known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008", and its implementing rules and regulations.

Every prescription which in its preparation contains any quantity of a drug, which is habit-forming, or a derivative of such drug, shall have an auxiliary label or a notation, "Warning – May be habit forming". Such prescriptions should comply with the requirements of Republic Act No. 9165,

otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002", and any future amendments thereto.

Filled prescription for external use shall bear the auxiliary label, "For External Use Only".

SEC. 39. *Record Books for Prescription.* – All prescriptions dispensed in the drugstore shall be recorded in the book or an equivalent recording system approved by the FDA for this purpose indicating therein, among others, the prescription number, name of prescriber, generic name and brand, dosage strength, quantity of drug, name of the patient and address, and initials of pharmacist. It shall be open to inspection by the proper authorities at any time of the day when the pharmacy is open to the public and must be preserved for a period of not less than two (2) years after the last entry in it has been made.

All prescriptions shall be attached to the prescription book or compiled (for equivalent recording system) and numbered consecutively and shall be preserved for the same period of time as required.

All required information on dangerous drugs dispensed by a pharmacy shall be recorded in the Dangerous Drugs book or an equivalent recording system as required by Republic Act No. 9165.

SEC. 40. *Requirements for the Opening and Operation of Retail Drug Outlet or Establishment.* – The minimum requirements necessary for the opening of retail drug outlet or establishment shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the FDA in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

The application for the opening of a retail drug outlet or other business establishments shall not be approved unless applied for by a Filipino registered pharmacist either as owner or as pharmacist-in-charge pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 41. *Handling of Drugs by Persons Other than a Pharmacist.* – For the purpose of this section, persons handling drugs other than the

pharmacist are: professional medical representatives, pharmacy assistants, pharmacy aides/clerks, and other persons who assist pharmacists in dispensing medicines or any other person performing functions involving the handling of drugs and drug products. It is preferred that these positions are occupied by those who finished pharmacy degree, not necessarily licensed as pharmacists and who have undergone the prescribed training from a Commission-accredited provider.

The professional medical representative or detail man is one who represents any duly authorized manufacturer, distributor, trader and wholesaler of drugs, pharmaceuticals, biologic products and devices, whose primary duty is to introduce said products to legitimate prescribers and which forms part of their program for promotion by describing its use, composition, action, dosage, administration, contraindication, advantages and other relevant information about the drugs being promoted.

The pharmacy assistant is one who helps the pharmacist in compounding, dispensing of medicines and giving of information on proper use of medicines while the pharmacy aide/clerk is involved in other aspects of operation assigned by the pharmacist.

Any person who shall be employed or engaged as professional medical representative or pharmacy aide/clerk shall undergo comprehensive standardized training programs approved by the Board with providers approved and/or accredited by the Board in accordance with criteria established therefor.

ARTICLE V

ACCREDITED INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

SEC. 42. *The Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Pharmacists.* – The pharmacists are integrated under one national accredited professional organization that is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to the approval by the

Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the only integrated national organization for registered pharmacists (and pharmacy assistants). All pharmacists (and pharmacy assistants) whose names appear in the registry shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges accorded to its members upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership to the foregoing shall not be a bar to membership in any other association of pharmacists.

SEC. 43. *Membership to the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO).* – All registered pharmacists (and pharmacy assistants) must be members of the AIPO and must maintain membership throughout the duration of the practice of the profession The professional identification card shall not be renewed if the requirements for membership with the AIPO are not met including credit units for attendance to duly accredited continuing professional education (CPE) activities.

ARTICLE VI

VIOLATIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

SEC. 44. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and Cancellation of Temporary or Special Permit.* – The Board shall have the power upon notice and hearing to revoke or suspend the certificate of registration of a registered pharmacist or to cancel a temporary or special permit granted to a foreign pharmacist on the basis of the following:

(a) Violation of this Act on unauthorized practice of pharmacy, violation of any provision of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) thereof, the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists, the Code of Good Governance, the Code of Technical Standards for the practice of pharmacy, policy and measure of the Board and/or the Commission;

(b) Malpractice or gross incompetence, negligence or imprudence resulting in death or injury of the patient;

(c) Dishonorable conduct and/or conviction by a competent court of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude;

(d) Fraud or deceit in the acquisition of the certificate of registration, professional identification card or temporary or special permit or renewal of license;

(e) Display of certificate of registration of a pharmacist who is not actually employed in such an establishment as required by law;

(f) Addiction to alcoholic beverages or to any habit-forming drug rendering him/her incompetent to practice his/her profession;

(g) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a nonregistered and licensed person by allowing him/her the use of his/her certificate of registration and/or professional identification card or his/her special/temporary permit;

(h) Acting as a dummy of an alien or a person who is not qualified to establish and operate a retail drugstore;

(i) Insanity or any mental disorder that would render the person incompetent to practice his/her profession;

(j) False, extravagant or unethical advertisements and product endorsements where the pharmacist's name, professional organization he/she represents, and similar information are used;

(k) Manufacture, sale, offering for sale of counterfeit drugs and committing other acts in violation of Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8203, the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs;

(l) Illegal manufacturing, sale, possession, dispensing of dangerous drugs and other pertinent acts in violation of Republic Act No. 9165, the Dangerous Drugs Act;

(m) Committing acts in violation of Section 6 of Presidential Decree No. 881 on Hazardous Substances;

(n) Practicing pharmacy while under suspension; and

(o) Practicing with an expired professional identification card.

SEC. 45. *Grounds for Nonrenewal of License.* – The following are the grounds for the nonrenewal of professional certificate of registration:

(a) Refusal to join or to remain a member of good standing of the AIPO;

(b) Nonpayment of annual registration fees for three (3) continuous years; and

(c) Noncompliance with the continuing professional development requirement, for the renewal of one's professional identification card.

The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and revise as the need arises subject to the approval of the Commission.

Any person, entity or organization may file charges according to the provision of this section against any registrant, or the Board may investigate violation of any of the abovementioned causes. An affidavit of complaint under oath shall be filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary evidence with the Board through the Legal and Investigation Office. The move to conduct an investigation shall be embodied in a formal charge to be signed by at least a majority of the members of the Board. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern the hearing or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act No. 8981 and its rules and regulations thereof, and the Rules of Court.

SEC. 46. *Administrative Investigation/Sanctions.* – Administrative investigations shall be conducted by the Board assisted by the Legal or Hearing Officer of the Commission. The existing rules of evidence shall also be observed and applied during administrative investigations.

If the Board, by a majority vote of its members, shall find that the charges are sustained by evidence adduced, it may, at its discretion, reprimand the respondent or revoke or suspend the certificate of registration.

SEC. 47. *Procedure and Rules.* – The Board upon receipt of a formal complaint under oath against any pharmacist shall furnish the latter a copy of the complaint, which shall be answered in writing within ten (10) days from receipt thereof. If the Board, after careful study of the records, finds that there is a valid ground to the charge, it shall conduct a formal investigation and set the dates of the hearing thereof. For this purpose, a subpoena and/or subpoena *duces tecum* may be issued by the Chairperson of the Board or by the Chief of the Legal and Investigation Division. The investigation proceedings shall at all times be recorded. The investigation shall be resolved and terminated within ninety (90) days from the time the first date of hearing shall be set and heard.

SEC. 48. *Rights of Respondent.* – The respondent pharmacist is entitled to be heard or be represented by counsel; to have speedy public hearing, to confront and to cross-examine the witness or witnesses; to summon and present witness or witnesses in one's behalf; or to avail of any other process for the protection of one's constitutional rights.

SEC. 49. *Motion for Reconsideration.* – A motion for reconsideration within the prescribed period may be made based on any of the following grounds:

(a) Grave abuse of discretion by the Board; and

(b) Findings not supported by substantial evidence and irregularity in the conduct of investigation.

SEC. 50. *Appeal/Finality of Decision.* – The decision of the Board shall automatically become final and executory fifteen (15) days from the appropriate service of the decision to the respondent, unless the latter within the same period, has appealed the decision to the Commission: *Provided,* That the decision of the Board and/or the Commission may be appealed to the Court of Appeals.

ARTICLE VII

PENAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 51. *Penal Provisions* – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of the practice of pharmacy as defined in the following provisions of Article IV shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to a fine of not less than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php250,0000.00) but not exceeding Five hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) or to imprisonment of not less than one (1) year and one (1) day but not more than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court:

Registration Certificate (Sections 30 and 31):

(a) Allowing the display of the certificate of registration in an outlet or establishment by a pharmacist where one is not employed; and

(b) Display of a pharmacist's certificate of registration by an outlet or establishment when the pharmacist is not employed.

Dispensing and compounding (Sections 25, 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38 and 41):

(a) Dispensing or offering for sale of prescription drugs in a place not licensed by the FDA as drug outlet;

(b) Dispensing of prescription drugs and pharmacist-only over-the-counter drugs by a person other than those under the direct and immediate supervision of a registered pharmacist;

(c) Compounding and dispensing not in accordance with current good manufacturing practice, good laboratory practice and good pharmacy practice;

(d) Selling of prescription drugs and pharmacist-only over-the-counter drugs by manufacturers, importers and wholesalers to unlicensed drug outlets and other drug establishments;

(e) Substitution of prescription drugs which are not generically equivalent to what was on the prescription without the consent of the prescriber;

(f) Forcing, coercing or intimidating a registered pharmacist to compound or dispense drugs not in accordance with this Act;

(g) Preparation and compounding of pharmaceutical products in quantities greatly in excess of single therapeutic doses without a registered pharmacist;

(h) Noncompliance with the labeling requirement for dispensed medicines by a drug outlet;

(i) Allowing pharmacy assistants to dispense without the supervision of a pharmacist;

(j) Manufacturing and selling of pharmaceutical products under fraudulent name and address;

(k) Adulteration and misbranding of drugs;

(l) Manufacturing and selling of unsafe, substandard and counterfeit drugs; and

(m) Operating an online pharmacy service or selling of drugs online (Section 32).

SEC. 52. *Other Penalties* – Any person who shall violate any of the following provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00) or to an imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days but not more than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court, thus:

(a) Affixing of the title, R.Ph. by a person who is not a pharmacist and a graduate of pharmacy degree and who is not registered with the PRC (Section 20);

(b) Practice of pharmacy in the Philippines by a foreigner without special permit (Section 28);

(c) Non-indication by a pharmacist of one's registration number and Professional Tax Receipt number in official documents requiring such information (Section 29);

(d) Failure to display the original certificate of registration of a pharmacist in drug establishment requiring such (Section 31);

(e) Refusal to display the certificate of registration of a pharmacist in a prominent and conspicuous place by an establishment/outlet (Section 31);

(f) Refusal by an establishment to comply with compensation requirement as provided in Section 33 of this Act;

(g) Noncompliance by a pharmacist with the requirement on the filling of prescription (Section 35);

(h) Noncompliance by a registered pharmacist on the requirement for partially filled prescription (Section 35);

(i) Selling of physician's samples (Section 36);

(j) Distribution of physician's samples of drugs classified as antibiotics, anti-infectives or anti-TB (Section 36);

(k) The removal, erasure and alteration of mark or label of physician's sample (Section 36);

(l) The use of cipher, codes or secret keys or unusual names and terms in prescriptions (Section 37);

(m) Filling of prescriptions where ciphers, codes, secret keys or unusual names and terms are used (Section 37);

(n) Noncompliance with the Provisions on Record Books for Prescription by a drug outlet (Section 39);

(o) Employment of persons in a pharmacy or pharmaceutical operation without the provision of the required training and certification (Section 41); and

(p) Rendering dispensing-related services by non-pharmacists in a drug establishment without undergoing the required training (Section 41).

Any person other than the citizens of the Philippines having been found guilty of any violation as provided for in this section and the preceding section shall, after having paid the fine or having served his sentence, or both, when so adjudged, shall be immediately deported.

For any violation of the provisions of this Act penalized under this section and the preceding section which also constitutes or considered as punishable offense or described as a violation of other laws, the applicable penalty shall be that of the law providing for a higher penalty.

For any violation of the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act, the appropriate penalty shall be imposed.

ARTICLE VIII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 53. *Enforcement.* – The Commission shall be the enforcement agency of this Act. As such, the Commission shall implement the appropriate provisions of this Act, enforce its implementing rules and regulations as adopted by the Board, assist the Board in the investigation of complaints against violators of this Act, its rules and regulations, Code of Ethics for pharmacists, professional standards and other policies of the Board and the Commission.

The Commission and/or the Board shall call upon or request any department, instrumentality, office, bureau, institution or agency of the government, including local government units, to render such assistance as it may require, or to coordinate or cooperate in order to carry out, enforce or implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 54. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 55. *Transitory Provisions.* – The incumbent Chairperson and members of the Board shall, in an interim capacity, continue to function as such until the Chairperson and members of the new Board created under this Act shall have been appointed, constituted and/or organized pursuant thereto.

SEC. 56. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, in consultation with the AIPO, shall issue and formulate the rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics and professional standards for pharmacists, to effectively implement this Act.

SEC. 57. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate, impair any other part thereof, but such judgment shall be merely confined to the clause, provision, paragraph or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment has been rendered.

SEC. 58. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 5921, known as the Pharmacy Law, as amended by Executive Order No. 174 and Presidential Decree No. 1363, and all other laws are hereby repealed. Presidential decrees, executive orders and other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 59. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any major daily newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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