



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8528

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ALEJANO, YU, MARINO, NOGRALES (K.A.),  
ZAMORA (M.C.), SY-ALVARADO, ROBES, SUANSING (E.),  
BORDADO, BARBERS, DE VERA, DATOL, DALIPE, BRAVO (M.V.),  
GONZALES (A.P.), SALCEDA, GARCIA (J.E.), BATAOIL, SALO,  
GO (M.), SALON, BONDOC, BATOCABE, ROMUALDO AND  
HERRERA-DY, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 918

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AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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2  
3 SECTION 1. *Short Title of Act.* – This Act shall be known  
4 as the “Philippine Occupational Therapy Law”.

5 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the  
6 importance of occupational therapists in nation building. Hence, it  
7 shall develop and nurture competent, productive, and well-rounded  
8 occupational therapists whose standards of practice and service  
9 shall be excellent, world-class, and globally competitive through  
10 honest, effective, and credible licensure examinations and through

1 regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their  
2 professional development.

3 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

4 (a) *Occupational therapist* refers to a person who holds a  
5 valid certificate of registration and professional identification card  
6 issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational  
7 Therapy and the Professional Regulation Commission, and who is  
8 legally qualified to practice occupational therapy in the Philippines  
9 in accordance with this Act.

10 (b) *Occupational therapy* refers to a client-centered health  
11 profession concerned with promoting health and well-being. The  
12 primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to  
13 meaningfully participate in the activities of everyday life.  
14 Occupational therapists achieve this outcome by working with  
15 people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the  
16 occupations they want, need, or are expected to do, or by modifying  
17 the occupation or the environment to better support their  
18 occupational engagement.

19 (c) *Occupational therapy technician* refers to a person who,  
20 under the direct supervision of an occupational therapist, may  
21 assist in various aspects of occupational therapy service operations  
22 and who performs delegated tasks based on the standard  
23 occupational therapy procedures and processes. The practice of  
24 occupational therapy technicians shall be monitored and guided by  
25 the Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy,  
26 hereinafter referred to as the Board, and the Accredited Integrated

1 Professional Organization (AIPO) in accordance with the provisions  
2 of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

3       SEC. 4. *Scope and Nature of the Practice of Occupational*  
4 *Therapy.* - The practice of occupational therapy shall embrace the  
5 analysis and application of purposeful and meaningful activities  
6 specifically directed to occupational performance in the areas of  
7 self-care, work, play, and leisure. For purposes of this Act, the  
8 reference to occupation is in the context of the individual's  
9 goal-directed use of time, energy, interest, and attention. Upon  
10 referral, occupational therapists interpret and intervene or address  
11 problems impeding functional or adaptive performance with the  
12 purpose of preventing limitations in participation and to promote,  
13 maintain, or restore occupational performance, health, and  
14 psychosocial well-being. Occupational therapy may be part of the  
15 health and social services in hospitals, community settings such  
16 as residential, vocational, leisure centers, day programs, private  
17 agencies, the schools, clinics, the workplace, and other organizations  
18 which provide preventive or health promotive services. Occupational  
19 therapists may delegate certain tasks that do not require clinical  
20 judgment to occupational therapy technicians under their direct  
21 supervision.

## 22   ARTICLE II

### 23                               THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD

#### 24   OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

25       SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* - There is  
26 hereby created a Board, under the administrative supervision and  
27 control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter

1 referred to as the Commission, composed of a chairperson and  
2 two (2) members appointed by the President of the Philippines upon  
3 the recommendation of the Commission from among occupational  
4 therapists of good standing, nominated by the AIPO of occupational  
5 therapists.

6 SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Board  
7 shall have the following powers and functions:

8 (a) Administer and implement the provisions of this Act;

9 (b) Promulgate rules and regulations, administrative orders,  
10 and issuances necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;

11 (c) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and  
12 practice of occupational therapy in the Philippines;

13 (d) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of  
14 this Act;

15 (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

16 (f) Maintain a roster of occupational therapists indicating  
17 therein the basic information about the registered professionals;

18 (g) Issue, suspend, revoke and reinstate the certificate of  
19 registration and professional identification card or special/  
20 temporary permit for the practice of occupational therapy;

21 (h) Study and monitor the conditions affecting the practice of  
22 occupational therapy and adopt such measures as may be deemed  
23 necessary for the enhancement of the profession and maintenance of  
24 high professional and ethical standards;

25 (i) Ensure, in collaboration with the AIPO and Occupational  
26 Therapy Technical Committee of the Commission on Higher  
27 Education (CHED), that all higher educational institutions offering

1 occupational therapy education comply with the prescribed policies,  
2 standards, and guidelines;

3 (j) Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for  
4 occupational therapists and occupational therapy technicians  
5 endorsed by the AIPO of occupational therapists;

6 (k) Hear or investigate any violation of this Act, its IRR and  
7 the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for occupational  
8 therapists, and for this purpose, issue subpoena *duces tecum* and/or  
9 *ad testificandum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and/or the  
10 production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided*, That  
11 the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to the Commission,  
12 become final and executory fifteen (15) days from receipt of  
13 judgment or decision;

14 (l) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination, their  
15 corresponding syllabi, Tables of Specifications (TOS) and relative  
16 weights, score and rate examination papers, and submit the results  
17 to the Commission;

18 (m) Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice  
19 of occupational therapy in accordance with the provisions of this  
20 Act;

21 (n) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the  
22 licensure examination;

23 (o) Issue a special/temporary permit to foreign occupational  
24 therapists admitted to the practice of occupational therapy for a  
25 specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced  
26 studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the



1 enrichment of the profession in accordance with the provisions of  
2 this Act; and

3 (p) Perform such other powers and functions as deemed  
4 necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

5 The policies, resolutions, rules, and regulations issued or  
6 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of  
7 the Commission. However, the Board's decisions, resolutions, and  
8 orders rendered in administrative cases shall be subject to review  
9 only if on appeal.

10 SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – The members of  
11 the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the  
12 following qualifications:

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

15 (b) A duly registered occupational therapist under this Act,  
16 with a valid certificate of registration and professional identification  
17 card;

18 (c) Has engaged in rendering occupational therapy services  
19 for at least five (5) continuous years immediately preceding  
20 appointment;

21 (d) A member in good standing of the AIPO, but not an officer  
22 or trustee thereof;

23 (e) No prior conviction by final judgment by any competent  
24 court of an offense involving moral turpitude; and

25 (f) No pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school,  
26 college or university or institution conferring an academic degree  
27 necessary for admission to the practice of occupational therapy; or

1 where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are  
2 offered or conducted; or be a member of the faculty or  
3 administration thereof.

4       SEC. 8. *Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall  
5 hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors  
6 have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of  
7 the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall  
8 hold office for the following terms: the chairperson for three (3)  
9 years, one (1) member for two (2) years, and the other member for  
10 one (1) year: *Provided, further*, That a chairperson or member  
11 may be reappointed for a second term, but may not serve more than  
12 two (2) consecutive three (3)-year terms or six (6) consecutive years.  
13 Interim vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

14       SEC. 9. *Removal of Board Members.* – Any member of the  
15 Board may, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after due  
16 process of law and investigation conducted by the Commission, be  
17 suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such as  
18 gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism,  
19 immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, conviction by final  
20 judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, and manipulation or  
21 rigging of the licensure examination results.

22       SEC. 10. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board.* – The  
23 chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation  
24 and allowances comparable to those being received by the  
25 chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards under the  
26 Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

1           SEC. 11. *Supervision of the Board, Custody of Records,*  
 2 *Secretariat, and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the  
 3 administrative supervision and control of the Commission. All  
 4 records of the Board, including applications for examination,  
 5 examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation,  
 6 administrative cases, and other investigations involving  
 7 occupational therapists and occupational therapy technicians, shall  
 8 be kept by the Commission.

9           The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board  
 10 and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to  
 11 implement the provisions of this Act.

12           SEC. 12. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the close of  
 13 each calendar year, submit an annual report to the Commission,  
 14 giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments  
 15 during the year and recommending measures to be adopted, with  
 16 the end in view of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting  
 17 the practice of occupational therapy in the Philippines.

### 18                                   ARTICLE III

#### 19                   LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

20           SEC. 13. *Examination Required.* – All applicants for  
 21 registration for the practice of occupational therapy shall be  
 22 required to undergo a licensure examination to be administered by  
 23 the Board in such places and dates as the Commission may  
 24 designate, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed  
 25 by the Commission.

26           SEC. 14. *Qualifications for Examination.* – An applicant for  
 27 the licensure examination for occupational therapists shall establish



1 to the satisfaction of the Board that the following qualifications are  
2 met:

3 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or of a foreign country which  
4 has a policy of reciprocity with the Philippines on the practice of  
5 occupational therapy;

6 (b) Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral  
7 turpitude;

8 (c) A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Occupational  
9 Therapy degree or its equivalent degree, conferred by a higher  
10 educational institution, whether here or abroad, which is duly  
11 recognized or accredited by the Occupational Therapy Technical  
12 Committee of the CHED.

13 SEC. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The licensure examination  
14 for occupational therapists shall cover the basic sciences and health  
15 science foundations integrated into the following domains:

16 (a) Occupational Therapy Application I

17 (1) Occupational Therapy Theories and Frames of Reference

18 (2) Growth and Human Development

19 (3) Occupational Performance and Behavior Across the  
20 Lifespan

21 (4) Occupation-based Practice

22 (b) Occupational Therapy Application II

23 (1) Adult Physical Dysfunction

24 (2) Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics

25 (3) Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics

26 (4) Psychosocial Dysfunction

27 (5) Community-based Practice

- 1 (c) Occupational Therapy Application III  
2 (1) Professional Reasoning and Behavior  
3 (2) Professional Competence and Ethics  
4 (3) Organization, Administration and Management  
5 (4) Research Process

6 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise  
7 or exclude any of the subjects or add new ones as the need arises,  
8 and may adjust or modify the percentage weight of the subjects in  
9 order to keep the examination abreast and in conformity with the  
10 latest developments in the profession here and abroad.

11 SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Examination.* – To be certified as  
12 having passed the licensure examination for occupational  
13 therapists, a candidate must have obtained a general average of at  
14 least seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty  
15 percent (60%) in any given subject.

16 SEC. 17. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the  
17 Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10)  
18 calendar days after the examination, unless extended for just cause.

19 SEC. 18. *Oath of Occupational Therapists.* – Successful  
20 examinees qualified for registration shall be required to take an  
21 oath of profession before any member of the Board or any  
22 government official authorized by the Commission to administer  
23 oaths, prior to entering into the practice of occupational therapy in  
24 the Philippines.

25 SEC. 19. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and*  
26 *Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration  
27 shall be issued to an examinee who has passed the licensure

1 examination for occupational therapists, subject to the payment of  
2 fees prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of registration  
3 shall bear the signatures of the chairperson of the Commission and  
4 the chairperson and members of the Board, stamped with the  
5 official seals of the Commission and the Board, indicating that the  
6 person named therein is entitled to practice the occupational  
7 therapy profession with all the benefits and privileges appurtenant  
8 thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in full force and  
9 effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

10 A professional identification card bearing the registration  
11 number, and dates of issuance and expiry, duly signed by the  
12 chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to every  
13 registrant upon payment of the required fees. The professional  
14 identification card shall be renewed every three (3) years, upon  
15 completion of the other requirements of the Board and the  
16 Commission.

17 SEC. 20. *Professional Appendage.* - Only registered  
18 occupational therapists shall have the right to affix to their  
19 names, the title "Occupational Therapist Registered-Philippines"  
20 or "OTRP".

21 SEC. 21. *Refusal to Register.* - The Board shall not register  
22 any successful examinee who has been convicted by final judgment  
23 by a court of competent jurisdiction for any offense involving moral  
24 turpitude or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable  
25 conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be  
26 of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in  
27 writing.

1           SEC. 22. *Suspension or Revocation of the Certificate of*  
2 *Registration and Professional Identification Card or Cancellation of*  
3 *Special/Temporary Permit.* – The Board, upon proper notice and  
4 hearing to the party concerned, may suspend or revoke a certificate  
5 of registration and professional identification card or special/  
6 temporary permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in  
7 Section 29 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct,  
8 malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its IRR,  
9 or the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for occupational  
10 therapists.

11           SEC. 23. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of*  
12 *Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card and*  
13 *Replacement of Special/Temporary Permit.* – Two (2) years after  
14 the date of revocation, the Board may, upon application and for  
15 reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate any suspended or  
16 revoked certificate of registration and professional identification  
17 card of a registered occupational therapist, and in so doing, may, in  
18 its discretion, exempt the applicant from taking another  
19 examination.

20           A suspended certificate of registration and professional  
21 identification card may be reinstated: *Provided*, That the  
22 suspended occupational therapist has established fitness to  
23 practice anew. The Board shall issue a resolution to effect such  
24 reinstatement.

25           SEC. 24. *Vested Rights.* – An occupational therapist whose  
26 name appears in the roster of occupational therapists prior to the

1 approval of this Act shall automatically or *ipso facto* be registered as  
2 an occupational therapist upon its effectivity.

3 SEC. 25. *Indication of Licensure and Professional Tax*  
4 *Receipt.* – The certificate of registration number and date of  
5 issuance, the professional identification validity period, and the  
6 professional tax receipt number must be indicated in all documents  
7 that the occupational therapist signs, uses, or issues in connection  
8 with the practice of the profession.

9 SEC. 26. *Roster of Occupational Therapists.* – The Board  
10 shall prepare, update and maintain a roster of occupational  
11 therapists which shall contain the name, the residence and office  
12 address, date of registration of each registered occupational  
13 therapist, and other data which the Board may deem pertinent.

14 SEC. 27. *Issuance of Special/Temporary Permit.* – A special/  
15 temporary permit may, upon recommendation of the AIPO of  
16 occupational therapists, and subject to the approval of the  
17 Commission and payment of the fees, be issued by the Board to the  
18 following persons:

19 (a) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists called for  
20 consultation or a specified purpose that is deemed essential to  
21 national development: *Provided*, That the practice shall be limited  
22 only to the particular work being engaged: *Provided, further*, That  
23 there is no Filipino therapist qualified for such consultation or  
24 purpose;

25 (b) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists whose services  
26 shall be free and who are highly needed under a particular setting;



1 (c) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists engaged as  
2 professors, lecturers, or critics in fields essential to occupational  
3 therapy education in the Philippines, whose engagement is limited  
4 to teaching only; and

5 (d) Foreign-licensed occupational therapists recognized as  
6 experts or specialists whose services are deemed essential to the  
7 advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

8 The special/temporary permit shall, among other things,  
9 include these limitations and conditions: (1) validity for a period not  
10 exceeding one (1) year but which may be renewed at the discretion  
11 of the Board; and (2) shall only be used for a particular undertaking  
12 or engagement.

13 The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, shall  
14 prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this  
15 particular section.

#### 16 ARTICLE IV

#### 17 PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

#### 18 SEC. 28. *Prohibition on the Practice of Occupational Therapy.*

19 – No person shall practice or offer to practice occupational therapy,  
20 or offer to be an occupational therapist, or use the title, word, letter,  
21 figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression that the person  
22 is an occupational therapist, or advertise or indicate in any manner  
23 whatsoever to be qualified to perform the work of an occupational  
24 therapist without having been issued a certificate of registration  
25 and professional identification card or special/temporary permit.  
26 Any person who violates this provision shall be punished in  
27 accordance with Section 33 of this Act.

1           SEC. 29. *Prohibited Acts.* – Any occupational therapist or  
2 any foreign-licensed occupational therapist who shall commit the  
3 following acts shall be punished in accordance with Section 33 of  
4 this Act:

5           (a) Practicing as an occupational therapist during the time  
6 that the certificate of registration and professional identification  
7 card or special/temporary permit has been suspended or revoked;

8           (b) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of occupational  
9 therapy by allowing a non-registered and non-licensed person the  
10 use of one's certificate of registration and professional identification  
11 card or special/temporary permit;

12           (c) Using the certificate of registration and professional  
13 identification card or special/temporary permit of another person;  
14 or

15           (d) Violating any provision of the Code of Ethics and  
16 Standards of Practice for occupational therapists.

17           SEC. 30. *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for*  
18 *Occupational Therapists.* – The Board shall adopt and promulgate  
19 the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for occupational  
20 therapists and occupational therapy technicians prescribed and  
21 issued by the AIPO of occupational therapists.

22           SEC. 31. *Integration of All Occupational Therapists.* – All  
23 registered occupational therapists shall become members of one (1)  
24 national professional organization of occupational therapists which  
25 shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange  
26 Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the  
27 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and

1 only AIPO of occupational therapists. All occupational therapists  
2 whose names appear in the Registry Book of Occupational  
3 Therapists shall *ipso facto* become members thereof and shall  
4 receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon  
5 payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

6 Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to membership in  
7 other organizations of occupational therapists.

8 SEC. 32. *Foreign Reciprocity.* - No foreigner shall be  
9 admitted to the licensure examination for occupational therapists,  
10 or be issued a certificate of registration or professional identification  
11 card to practice as an occupational therapist, nor be entitled to any  
12 of the privileges under this Act, unless the requirements for the  
13 registration or licensing in the foreign country or state of which the  
14 foreigner is a citizen are substantially the same as those required  
15 and contemplated by the laws of the Philippines, and that the laws  
16 of such foreign country or state specifically permit Filipino  
17 occupational therapists to practice within its territorial limits on the  
18 same basis as the subjects or citizens of such foreign country or  
19 state.

## 20 ARTICLE V

### 21 PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

22 SEC. 33. *Penal Provisions.* - Any person who shall violate  
23 any of the provisions of this Act or its IRR as promulgated by the  
24 Board and the Commission shall, upon conviction by final judgment,  
25 be punished by a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos  
26 (P200,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos  
27 (P500,000.00), or by imprisonment for a minimum period of four (4)

1 months and one (1) day to a maximum of four (4) years and two (2)  
2 months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

3       SEC. 34. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the  
4 Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's budget  
5 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall  
6 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7       SEC. 35. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within  
8 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board and the  
9 Commission, in coordination with the AIPO, the Department of  
10 Health, and the Department of Budget and Management, shall  
11 promulgate rules and regulations to implement its provisions and  
12 those of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for  
13 occupational therapists and occupational therapy technicians.

14       SEC. 36. *Act Not Affecting Other Professions.* – This Act  
15 shall not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other  
16 legally recognized profession.

17       SEC. 37. *Transitory Provisions.* – The existing Board of  
18 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy shall continue to  
19 function until such time that the new and separate Professional  
20 Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy shall be constituted  
21 pursuant to this Act.

22       SEC. 38. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of  
23 this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not  
24 invalidate any other section or provision of this Act.

25       SEC. 39. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders,  
26 issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the

1 provisions of this Act are hereby superseded or repealed. Republic  
2 Act. No. 5680 is hereby modified accordingly.

3       SEC. 40. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
4 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper  
5 of general circulation.

Approved,

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