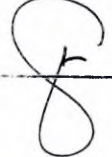


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'22 JUL 14 P3:44

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S. B. No. 637

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS QUALITY
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The nursing profession in the Philippines is currently guided by Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as "The Philippine Nursing Act of 2002". At the time of the law's enactment, there were only 251 schools offering nursing courses. Almost two decades after, this number has ballooned to 397 higher education institutions offering a BS Nursing program. Between 2014 and 2018, some 243,258 students enrolled in these nursing programs, while up to 77,349 graduated.

Unfortunately, the number of Filipino nurses has been inversely proportional to the quality of education provided by our nursing schools. This is demonstrated by the continuously dismal results of the Nurse Licensure Exam (NLE). For years 2016 to 2021, out of 123,541 graduates that took the NLE, only 57,858 passed, bringing the average national passing rate of NLE at 46.83.

Further, the nurse to patient ratio in our hospitals remains high at 1:50 up to 1:80¹ – a far cry from achieving the ideal nurse to patient ratio of 1:12. In fact, during the height of COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Filipino Nurses United, the recommended nurse to patient ratio in COVID-19 wards should be at 1:3 for moderate to severe cases and 1:1 for those needing critical care – however, in reality, a single nurse handles an average of 12 severe cases and takes care of two

¹ <https://opinion.inquirer.net/110714/overworked-underpaid-nurses>

to three more patients in the intensive care unit.² Clearly, there is an urgent need for reforms.

This bill proposes to expand the role and responsibilities of Filipino nurses and equip them for independent practice. With this measure's enactment, nurses should be prepared not just for primary health care, but also have the foundational skills for leadership and governance, as well as more specialized and advanced practice.

The Philippine nursing profession must extend beyond institution and employment-based care services to help realize access to Universal Health Care. The practice of Nursing must be proactively responsive to both local and global demands and developments.

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



SONNY ANGARA
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² <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/04/06/2089299/enough-beds-not-sufficient-health-workers-private-hospitals-group>

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

ARTICLE I

General Provisions

1
2
3 Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Comprehensive Nursing*
4 *Law of 2022.*"

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the state to
6 uphold the dignity of the nurses and assume responsibility for the protection,
7 respect, and improvement of the nursing profession by insisting measures towards
8 competent and relevant nursing practice for health and safety of the public, just and
9 humane conditions of work, and promotion of professional growth. Thus, the State
10 recognizes nurses as prime movers of national development and contributors to
11 international cooperation and understanding.

12 The State further guarantees the delivery of accessible, affordable, and
13 available quality health care to all the people through implementation of adequate
14 and competent Nursing Personnel System (NPS) throughout the country.

15 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms when used in this Act shall
16 mean:

- 1 (a) *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to a
2 professional organization of nurses duly accredited by the Professional
3 Regulation Commission as per Republic Act No. 8981;
- 4 (b) *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)* refers to a nurse who acquired
5 substantial theoretical knowledge and decision making skills in the specialty
6 area of nursing practice and proficient clinical utilization of this knowledge in
7 implementing independent and inter-dependent nursing interventions.
8 Specialties can be differentiated in categories, according to function, disease,
9 pathology, systems, age, sex, acuity, setting, technology, and therapies. They
10 must be given certification/credentialing by the Board. An APN must be a
11 master's degree holder in nursing;
- 12 (c) *Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)* refers to the basic program for nursing
13 education;
- 14 (d) *Certification/Credentialing* refers to process undertaken by an individual nurse
15 to be recognized to practice in a specifically defined professional tract i.e.
16 General Nursing, Nursing Specialty/Advanced Practice, Nursing Education, and
17 Leadership and Governance. The Board confers the certification or credential
18 after a validation process based on promulgated guidelines and mechanisms;
- 19 (e) *Commission on Higher Education (CHED)* refers to the body created by law to
20 promulgate policies, standards and guidelines in the implementation of basic
21 and graduate program for nursing education;
- 22 (f) *Health Facility* refers to an institution, establishment, clinic that offers health
23 services and nursing care, such as hospitals, barangay health centers, and
24 clinics;
- 25 (g) *Nurse*, as provided for in this Act, refers to a person who passed the
26 Philippine Nurse Licensure Exams (PNLE) and whose license has not been
27 revoked by the law. Thus, it pertains to a Registered Nurse (RN). A nurse
28 may append before his/her name the title "Nurse," "Nars" or "Nrs." or after
29 his/her name the title R.N.;
- 30 (h) *Nursing Personnel System (NPS)* refers to a system of human resource
31 management in an institution that classifies the structure, organization, and
32 coordination within the workforce both in private and public health care

1 facilities and nursing educational institutions to advance the welfare and
2 protect the rights of the nurses and to ensure the employer-employee
3 relationship, security of tenure, just compensation, humane conditions of
4 work and professional growth;

5 (i) *Philippine Nurse Licensure Exam* (PNLE) refers to the written examination
6 given by the Board in order to obtain license to practice nursing;

7 (j) *Precarious Work* is the term used to describe substandard employment
8 conditions, such as under-payment, absence of salary, no security of tenure,
9 lack of employer – employee relationship, no benefits, poor working
10 conditions; and, deviation from the standard employment relationships, such
11 as contractual, false volunteerism, job orders thru agencies, part time, self-
12 employment, fixed term work, temporary, on call, home workers, call center
13 jobs, few benefits, lack of collective bargaining representation, and no job
14 security;

15 (k) *Professional Regulation Commission* (PRC) refers to the government agency
16 pursuant to Republic Act No. 8981 or as may hereafter be amended or
17 repealed. It shall be referred to in this law as the Commission;

18 (l) *Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing* (PRBON) refers to the administrative
19 body created by law to supervise and regulate the practice of the nursing
20 profession in the Philippines. As such, the Board shall be the ultimate
21 authority in the practice of the profession in the Philippines. It shall be
22 referred to in this law as the Board;

23 (m) *Public Health Institution* (PH) refers to any government-led, owned or
24 controlled institutions which pursues and realizes the lofty goals and
25 objectives of providing and managing safe, efficient, effective and quality
26 public health programs and services and advocacies for health, in all levels of
27 the Health Care Delivery System (HCDS – national to local) which include
28 among others: Rural Health Units (RHUs/Barangay Health Centers); Research
29 Facilities e.g. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, etcetera; Training
30 Resource Facilities e.g. the UP College of Public Health and State or Local
31 Colleges or Universities offering Health-Related Programs; the Department of
32 Health and all retained Health Facilities, and the like;

1 (n) *Special Permit* refers to the permit to practice nursing in the Philippines issued
2 by the Board to licensed nurses of foreign nationalities; and

3 (o) *Temporary Permit* refers to the permit to practice nursing in the Philippines
4 issued by the Board to Filipino nurses, who does not have a professional
5 license from the Philippines or have not renewed their license for five (5)
6 years, but are licensed from foreign countries.

7 **ARTICLE II**

8 **Board of Nursing**

9 *Sec. 4. Creation and Composition of the Board.* – There shall be created a
10 Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing composed of seven (7) members who shall
11 elect among themselves a Chairperson to serve for one (1) term, without a re-
12 election. The President of the Republic of the Philippines shall appoint the members
13 of the Board from among those recommended by the Commission and ranked from
14 a list of three (3) nominees, per vacancy, of the accredited integrated professional
15 organization of nurses in the Philippines and who possess the qualifications in this
16 Act: *Provided*, That the membership of the Board shall comprise the scope of
17 nursing practice.

18 *Sec. 5. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* – The members of the
19 Board must possess the following qualifications:

- 20 (a) Must be a natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines for the past five
21 (5) consecutive years;
- 22 (b) Must be a Nurse in the Philippines and a holder of a valid and updated
23 certificate of registration and a current professional identification card;
- 24 (c) Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing and preferably with a
25 doctorate degree conferred by a university duly recognized by the
26 government;
- 27 (d) Must have at least ten (10) years of continuous practice of the nursing
28 profession prior to appointment: *Provided*, however, That the last five (5)
29 years of which must be in the Philippines; and
- 30 (e) Must be of good moral and has not been convicted of any offense involving
31 moral turpitude.

1 *Sec. 6. Prohibition as Member of the Board.* – A member of the Board shall
2 not hold a position nor have pecuniary interest in any educational institution offering
3 BSN, any review or training center for PNLE, training hospitals and health facilities
4 with nursing affiliates.

5 *Sec. 7. Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall hold office for a
6 term of three (3) years. Any member of the Board may serve for two (2) terms or a
7 maximum of six (6) years.

8 *Sec. 8. Vacancy.* – Any vacancy in the Board must be filled in the manner
9 prescribed in this Act and only for the unexpired portion of the term. Each member
10 of the Board shall take the proper oath of office prior to the performance of duties.

11 *Sec. 9. Compensation.* – The members of the Board shall receive
12 compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances
13 received by the members of other regulatory boards.

14 *Sec. 10. Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records,*
15 *Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the administrative
16 supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for
17 examinations, administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board
18 must be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the
19 Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services
20 to implement the provisions of this Act.

21 *Sec. 11. Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall supervise and
22 regulate the practice of the nursing profession and shall have the following powers,
23 duties and functions:

24 (a) Ensure the proper conduct of the PNLE, which includes the application, test
25 development, examination, correction and release of results. The use of
26 appropriate technologies and modalities during the conduct of the PNLE is
27 encouraged to enhance efficiency while upholding integrity;

28 (b) Issue, suspend, revoke or reissue certificates of registration for the practice of
29 nursing and ensure the widest publication through electronic and written
30 media;

31 (c) Enforce and monitor safe and quality standards of nursing practice, study the
32 conditions affecting the nursing practice in the Philippines, and exercise the

- 1 powers necessary to ensure the maintenance of efficient, ethico-moral,
2 technical and professional standards in the practice of nursing towards the
3 optimal health and common good of the nation;
- 4 (d) Ensure quality nursing education by examining and monitoring higher
5 educational institutions offering and seeking permission to open nursing
6 education programs and to ensure that standards of nursing education are
7 properly complied with and maintained at all times: *Provided*, That the Board
8 and the CHED shall have joint authority to open and close nursing education
9 programs offered by higher educational institutions;
- 10 (e) Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against actively
11 practicing nurses for unethical and unprofessional conduct and violations of
12 this Act, or its rules and regulations and in connection therewith, issue
13 *subpoena duces tecum* and *subpoena ad testificandum* to require the
14 appearance of respondents and witnesses and the production of documents
15 and penalize with contempt persons obstructing, impeding or otherwise
16 interfering with the conduct of such proceedings, upon application with the
17 Board of Nursing;
- 18 (f) Promulgate a Code of Ethics that is responsive to the needs of the nursing
19 profession in coordination with the AIPO of nurses within a year from the
20 effectivity of this Act;
- 21 (g) Prescribe and operationalize, via necessary infrastructures, a National Nursing
22 Career Progression Program to ensure continuing professional development of
23 Filipino nurses, create the Council for Nursing Advancement, Recognition, and
24 Specialization as well as the various Nursing Specialty Boards to assist the
25 Board for this purpose;
- 26 (h) Ensure performance of mandated duties and functions with the provision of
27 operational resources including human, financial and spatial resources to
28 ensure the confidentiality and sanctity of their functions as provided through
29 the annual budget of the Commission as promulgated in the General
30 Appropriations Act;
- 31 (i) Source and utilize funds earmarked for national nursing development;

- 1 (j) Prescribe, adopt, issue and promulgate guidelines, regulations, measures and
2 influence authorities and agencies on decision-making as may be necessary
3 for the improvement of nursing practice, advancement of the profession and
4 for the proper and full enforcement of this Act, subject to review and
5 approval by Commission; and
- 6 (k) Create a council for nursing recognition, accreditation and certification that
7 will assist the Board in:
- 8 i. Recognizing organized nursing groups;
 - 9 ii. Setting standards for advanced nursing practice, education, research and
10 management;
 - 11 iii. Accrediting specialty and advanced nursing programs based on established
12 mechanisms;
 - 13 iv. Credentialing individual registered nurse based on accepted criteria; and
 - 14 v. Monitoring and evaluating specialty and advanced nursing practice,
15 education, research and management.

16 *Sec. 12. Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the close of its calendar year,
17 submit an annual report to the President and Congress of the Philippines through
18 the Commission giving a detailed account of its proceedings and the
19 accomplishments during the year and making recommendations for the adoption of
20 measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of the
21 nursing profession.

22 *Sec. 13. Removal or Suspension of Board Members.* – The President may
23 remove or suspend any member of the board, after due process, on the following
24 grounds:

- 25 (a) Continued neglect of duty or incompetence;
- 26 (b) Commission or toleration of irregularities in the PNLE; and,
- 27 (c) Unprofessional, immoral or dishonorable conduct.

28 **ARTICLE III**

29 **Examination and Registration**

30 *Sec. 14. Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination (PNLE).* – In order to obtain
31 a certificate of registration, professional license, and professional identification card,
32 all nursing graduates must take and pass the PNLE. The Board shall administer the

1 PNLE in such place and date as designated by the Commission: *Provided*, That no
2 nursing educational institution may withhold any requirement or documents, or both,
3 of any nursing graduate for the purpose of preventing them to apply for the PNLE.
4 All nursing educational institution must ensure that their nursing graduates will take
5 the nearest scheduled PNLE after graduation. Any delay in taking the PNEL must be
6 accordingly justified by the President, Registrar of Dean of the educational institution
7 through a public instrument.

8 Sec. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The board shall determine the scope of the
9 PNLE by taking into consideration the nursing core competencies, the nursing
10 curriculum, the scope and areas of nursing practice, and other related disciplines.

11 Sec. 16. *Qualifications for Admission to the PNLE.* – In order to be admitted to
12 the PNLE, an applicant:

- 13 (a) Must be a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a
14 recognized educational institution that complies with the standards of nursing
15 education duly recognized by CHED;
- 16 (b) Must be of good moral character and have not been convicted, by final
17 judgment, of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or guilty of
18 immoral or dishonorable conduct, or any person declared by the court to be
19 of unsound mind; and,
- 20 (c) Must be a citizen of the Philippines, or a citizen or subject of a country which
21 permits Filipino nurses to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis
22 as the subject or citizen of such country: *Provided*, That the requirements for
23 the registration or licensing of nurses in said countries are substantially the
24 same as those prescribed in this Act.

25 Sec. 17. *Fees for Examination and Registration.* – Applicants for licensure and
26 for registration must pay the prescribed fees set by the Commission.

27 Sec. 18. *Ratings.* – In order to pass the PNLE, an examinee must obtain at
28 least seventy-five percent (75%) of tested areas of all competencies. An examinee
29 who has failed the PNLE three (3) times shall not be allowed to take any further
30 PNLE, without having undertaken a refresher program in a duly accredited
31 institution. The board shall issue guidelines on the refresher program requirement.

1 Sec. 19. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration, Professional License and*
2 *Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration and professional
3 license shall be issued to all successful examinees, subject to Section 14 of this
4 Article. A certificate of registration and professional license shall show the full name
5 of the registrant, the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission, and the
6 members of the Board. The certificate shall bear the logo of the Board and the
7 official seal of the Commission.

8 The Commission shall likewise issue the professional identification card. The
9 card must bear the following: full name of the registrant nurse, the serial number,
10 the date of issuance and expiration, the signature of the Chairperson of the
11 Commission, date of registration.

12 Sec. 20. *Oath of Profession.* – All successful examinees must take an oath of
13 profession before the Board or any government official authorized to administer
14 oaths prior to entering upon the nursing practice.

15 Sec. 21. *Roster of Nurses.* – The Commission shall maintain a roster of names
16 pursuant to the PRC Automated System. The Roster of Nurses shall serve as the
17 centralized database for nursing professionals for purposes of documentation,
18 verification of registrants, statistics, research, and development.

19 Sec. 22. *Integration of the Nursing Profession.* – The nursing profession shall
20 be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of nurses that is duly
21 registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The board, subject
22 to approval by the commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and
23 only Accreditation Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered nurses.
24 All nurses whose names appear in the Registry Book of Nurses shall *ipso facto* or
25 automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and
26 privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

27 Members in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall
28 not be a bar to membership in other nursing organizations.

29 Sec. 23. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign nurse shall be given a certificate of
30 registration/professional license and professional identification card or be entitled to
31 any privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which the foreign nurses

1 is a subject or citizen permits Filipino nurses to practice within its territorial limits on
2 the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

3 *Sec. 24. Practice through Special or Temporary Permit.* – The Board may
4 issue a special or temporary permit to the following persons based on qualification,
5 and professional and moral standards as approved by the Commission: *Provided,*
6 That a completion report will be submitted to the Commission after every mission, to
7 wit:

- 8 (a) Licensed nurses from foreign countries whose services are either for a fee or
9 free if they are internationally well-known specialists or outstanding experts in
10 any branch or specialty of nursing;
- 11 (b) Licensed nurses from foreign countries on medical mission whose services
12 shall be free in particular hospital, center or clinic;
- 13 (c) Licensed nurses from foreign countries who are engaged by
14 colleges/universities offering the nursing program as exchange professors in a
15 branch or specialty of nursing; and,
- 16 (d) Licensed nurses from foreign countries who come to aid during declared
17 disasters and calamities.

18 The special or temporary permit shall be effective only for the duration of the
19 project, medical mission or engagement contract.

20 *Sec. 25. Non-registration and Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration,*
21 *Professional License, Professional Identification Card, Special Permit or Temporary*
22 *Permit.* – No person convicted by final judgment of any criminal offense involving
23 moral turpitude or any person guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or any
24 person declared by the court to be of unsound mind may be registered and issued a
25 certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, or a
26 special temporary permit.

27 The Board shall furnish the applicant a written statement setting forth the
28 reasons for the actions, which shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

29 *Sec. 26. Revocation and Suspension of Certificate of Registration, Professional*
30 *License, and Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Special or*
31 *Temporary Permit.* – The Board shall have the power to revoke or suspend the

1 certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, or
2 cancel the special or temporary permit of a nurse upon any of the following grounds:

- 3 (a) Conviction, by final judgment, of any criminal offense involving moral
4 turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or any person declared
5 by the court to be of unsound mind;
- 6 (b) Violation of this Act, its policies, rules and regulations, and of the Philippine
7 code of Ethics for Nurses;
- 8 (c) Gross negligence, grave misconduct, ignorance, and incompetence in the
9 nursing practice;
- 10 (d) Fraud, concealment, misrepresentation, or false statements in obtaining a
11 certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card,
12 special permit or temporary permit; or
- 13 (e) Practice of the nursing profession pending suspension of license.

14 The suspension of the certificate of registration, professional license, and
15 professional identification card, shall be for a period not to exceed four (4) years.

16 *Sec. 27. Reinstatement and Re-Issuance of Revoked Certificates of*
17 *Registration, Professional License, and Professional Identification Card.* – The Board
18 may, after the expiration of a maximum of four (4) years from the date of revocation
19 of a certificate of registration, professional license, and professional identification
20 card, for reasons of equity and justice, and when the cause for revocation has
21 disappeared or has been cured and corrected, upon proper application thereof and
22 the payment of the required fees, reinstate and re-issue the certificate of
23 registration, professional license and professional identification card.

24 **ARTICLE IV**

25 **Nursing Practice**

26 *Sec. 28. Nursing Practice.* – The administration of nursing care through the
27 utilization of the nursing process: assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning,
28 implementation, and evaluation. Nursing practice encompasses various stages of
29 development towards the promotion of health, prevention of illness, health care
30 techniques and procedures, restoration of health, alleviation of suffering, and end-
31 of-life care, may it be performed independently or collaboratively.

1 Sec. 29. *Scope of Nursing Practice.* – The following are the scope of nursing
2 practice: (1) nursing education; (2) nursing service; (3) nursing research; and, (4)
3 nursing leadership and governance.

4 Sec. 30. *Nursing Care.* – Nursing Care includes, but is not limited to: the
5 provision of physiological, psychological, spiritual, social and emotional care;
6 essential health care, safety and comfort measures, health techniques; executing
7 health care techniques and procedures; and, traditional and innovative approaches
8 to individuals, families, population groups and communities from conception to
9 death.

10 A nurse shall be deemed to be practicing nursing when he or she, for a fee,
11 salary or compensation, singly or collaboratively, performs nursing care to
12 individuals, families, population groups and communities.

13 Sec. 31. *Roles, Responsibilities, and Competencies of a Nurse.* – A nurse shall
14 possess and exercise the core competencies in the performance of the roles and
15 responsibilities, in accordance with the standards set by the Board.

16 Sec. 32. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD).* – All nurses shall abide
17 by the requirements, rules and regulation on continuing professional development to
18 be promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the
19 commission, in coordination with the AIPO for nurses or any duly accredited
20 education institutions. For the purpose, a CPD council is hereby created to
21 implement the CPD program.

22 Sec. 33. *Requirement for Inactive Nurses Returning to Practice.* – Nurses are
23 deemed to be inactive when:

24 (a) They are not utilizing nursing competencies as defined in the scope of
25 nursing practice for five (5) consecutive years;

26 (b) They have not renewed their professional identification card for five (5)
27 years; and

28 (c) They do not have proof of five (5) years of continuous nursing practice.

29 Inactive nurses are required to undergo one (1) month didactic training and
30 three (3) months practicum in hospitals accredited by the Board.

1 **ARTICLE V**

2 **Nursing Education**

3 Sec. 34. *Nursing Education.* – Refers to the formal learning and training in the
4 science and art of nursing provided by higher educational institutions duly
5 recognized by the CHED.

6 There shall be a standard of Basic and Graduate Program for Nursing
7 Education which must be pursuant to the CHED Law (RA 7722).

8 Sec. 35. *Basic Program for Nursing Education.* – Refers to the nursing
9 education program which envisions providing sound liberal and professional
10 education and equips basic nursing students with the necessary competencies for
11 entry-level safe and quality nursing practice.

12 Admission to the Basic Program for Nursing Education requires passing a
13 National Nursing Admission Test (NNAT).

14 The curriculum and the Related Learning Experiences (RLE) must be in
15 accordance with the National Nursing Core Competency Standards promulgated by
16 the Board and implemented through the Policies, Standards, and Guidelines of the
17 CHED.

18 Sec. 36. *Graduate Program for Nursing Education.* – Refers to the post
19 baccalaureate nursing program, which builds on the experiences and skills of a nurse
20 towards mastery, expertise, and leadership in practice, research and education. It
21 includes a master's degree and doctorate degree in nursing founded on the
22 philosophies and the scientific body of knowledge and practice.

23 Graduate Program for Nursing Education shall be offered only in higher
24 educational institutions as prescribed by the prevailing CHED Policies, Standards and
25 Guidelines for Graduate Education.

26 Sec. 37. *Qualifications of the Dean.* – The Dean of the College of Nursing
27 (Dean) shall formulate policies, plans in collaboration with the administration/school
28 officials and stakeholders. The Dean must adhere to the prescribed curriculum for
29 the advancement of nursing education.

30 The Dean:

- 31 (a) Must be a holder of a certificate of registration and a current professional
32 identification card issued by the Commission;

- 1 (b) Must have the appropriate certificate of nursing proficiency, or its equivalent,
2 to be issued by the PRBON;
- 3 (c) Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing, conferred by a university
4 duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines;
- 5 (d) Must have at least five (5) years of experience in teaching and supervision in
6 Nursing Education; and
- 7 (e) Must have at least three (3) years clinical experience in a general nursing
8 service.

9 *Sec. 38. Qualifications of the Faculty. –*

10 (1) Basic Program for Nursing Education. – A member of the faculty in a College
11 of Nursing teaching professional courses:

- 12 a. Must be a registered nurse in the Philippines and holder of a certificate of
13 registration and a current professional identification card issued by the
14 Commission;
- 15 b. Must have at least three (3) years nursing practice;
- 16 c. Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing, conferred by a university
17 duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; and
- 18 d. Must have the appropriate certificate of nursing proficiency, or its
19 equivalent, to be issued by the PRBON.

20 (2) Graduate Program for Nursing Education. – A member of the faculty teaching
21 graduate professional courses:

- 22 a. Must follow prescriptions 1 and 2 of basic nursing education; and
- 23 b. Must be a holder of a doctoral degree in nursing conferred by a university
24 duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

25 *Sec. 39. Faculty-to-Student Ratio. –* The faculty-to-student ratio must be in
26 accordance with the standard to be determined and prescribed by the CHED.

27 **ARTICLE VI**

28 **Nursing Service**

29 *Sec. 40. Nursing Service. –* Nursing Service is the promotion of health and
30 prevention of illness which includes, but not limited to, nursing care provided by a
31 nurse, either independently or collaboratively, to any individual, family or group in
32 various health care settings.

1 Nursing Service shall include the following functions: (1) Provide health
2 education to individuals, families and communities; (2) Ensure that information on
3 healthy lifestyle are incorporated in his or her health teachings; (3) Seek
4 opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle within his or her influence; (4) Accept
5 that he or she is a role model for a healthy lifestyle; (5) Enable people to increase
6 control over their health and to improve health; (6) Build healthy public policy; (7)
7 Create supportive environment; (8) Strengthen community action for health; and (9)
8 Establish linkages with community resources and coordination of services with the
9 health team.

10 Sec. 41. *Nursing Interventions.* – Nursing interventions include, but is not
11 limited to: any or combination of essential primary health care, the application of
12 traditional and innovative approaches, health counseling, and administration of
13 written prescription for treatment, therapies, oral, topical, and parental medications,
14 perform peripartal care covering pre-intra-postpartum care including the
15 performance of internal examination during labor in the absence of antenatal
16 bleeding, attend to normal delivery and suturing of perineal laceration and
17 immediate care of the newborn; perform perioperative care covering pre-intra-post-
18 surgical care interventions; care during emergency and disaster.

19 Sec. 42. *Health Interventions in Collaboration with Other Members of the*
20 *Health Team.* – In the various stages of nursing practice from promotion of health
21 to end-of-life care, Nurses shall collaborate with other members of the health team.

22 Sec. 43. *Advanced Practice Nursing.* – Advanced Practice Nursing is the
23 specialized and expanded role of an Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). It
24 involves certification of nurses with a higher degree of qualifications by the Board
25 and the PRC thereby providing opportunities for role recognition within the human
26 resource for health framework and expanded professional scope of practice. A nurse
27 who has graduated from an accredited HEI and who is Board-recognized to practice
28 is designated the title “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” (APRN).

29 The broad scope of nursing practice reflects all the roles and activities
30 undertaken by APRN to address the full range of human experiences and responses
31 to health and illness across the lifespan. This includes advanced and expert care

1 with a focus on health promotion, health protection, health maintenance, health
2 restoration, rehabilitation, and palliations management.

3 The scope of practice includes individual-based and population-based health
4 services as defined in Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as "The Universal
5 Health Care Act."

6 The APRN is eligible to receive performance-driven, close-end, prospective
7 payments from the PhilHealth based on disease, diagnosis related groupings or
8 appropriate groupings and validated costing methodologies as described in RA No.
9 11223.

10 An APRN must have the following minimum qualifications:

- 11 1. A graduate with relevant master's degree from a government recognized
12 HEI, with substantial specialty experience as may be determined by the
13 Board;
- 14 2. A graduate of an HEI with a specified post-graduate curriculum with:
 - 15 a) minimum advanced practice core courses,
 - 16 b) minimum competencies in Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and
17 Risk Reduction,
 - 18 c) Supervised clinical practicum with an experienced APRN or physician
19 in accordance with approved CHED curriculum for APN practicum;
20 The Board shall provide the details of the advanced practice core
21 courses, minimum competencies and APN- supervised clinical
22 practicum requirements in the implementing rule and regulations to
23 be issue for this purpose;
- 24 3. Must have satisfied the requirements for certification as promulgated by
25 the Board; and
- 26 4. Preferably be a member of the appropriate Board-credentialed Specialty
27 organization.

28 The APRN will provide general physical exams, screening services, preventive
29 care, protocol-based diagnosis and participate in the treatment of episodic, short-
30 term and stable chronic health problems. The APRN will participate in the diagnosis
31 and treatment of acute or unstable conditions in consultation and collaboration with
32 the primary collaborative physician or a specialist designated by the primary

1 collaborating physician. Limited rights to order, furnish, and renew orders for
2 appropriate medications and treatments under a protocol-based collaborative
3 disease management approach are within APRN scope.

4 **ARTICLE VII**

5 **Nursing Research, Policy Development, and Planning**

6 *Sec. 44. Nursing Research and Policy Development.* – Nursing Research and
7 Policy Development shall involve study and pursuit of nurse related issues
8 encompassing the following areas:

- 9 (a) Professional nursing practice such as advancing nursing knowledge to ensure
10 quality nursing care for all and advocacy for sound health policies globally;
- 11 (b) Nursing regulation on credentialing, code of ethics, standards and
12 competencies; and
- 13 (c) Socio-economic welfare for nurses like occupational health and safety, human
14 resources planning and policy, remuneration, career development.

15 *Sec. 45. Studies for Nursing Human Resource Needs, Production, Utilization*
16 *and Development.* – The Board, in coordination with the accredited integrated
17 professional organization of registered nurses and the appropriate government or
18 private agencies shall initiate, undertake and conduct studies on healthcare human
19 resources production, utilization and development.

20 *Sec. 46. Advanced Practice Nursing Program.* – Within ninety (90) days from
21 the effectivity of this Act, the Board in coordination with the accredited integrated
22 professional organization of registered nurses, recognized specialty organizations,
23 and the Department of Health (DOH) is hereby mandated to formulate and develop
24 an Advanced Practice Nursing Program that would upgrade the level of skill and
25 competence of APRNs in the country: *Provided,* That the beneficiaries of this
26 program are obliged to serve in any Philippine hospital for a period of at least two
27 (2) years of continuous service.

28 *Sec. 47. Salary.* – To enhance the general welfare, commitment to service,
29 and professionalism of nurses, the Organization, Position Classification and
30 Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is
31 hereby directed to conduct a compensation study for the nursing profession, with

1 **ARTICLE IX**

2 **Nursing Personnel System**

3 Sec. 51. *Nursing Personnel System.* – The nursing personnel system covers
4 the following fields: nursing service administration in the hospital setting, community
5 health practice, and the academe.

6 There shall be a nursing service office in every health institution, may it be
7 administrative or clinical, with at least ten nurses. The nursing service office must be
8 under the control and management of a chief nursing officer.

9 Sec. 52. *Ratio.* – The ratio of a staff nurse to a patient in a general nursing
10 service or general ward of a hospital shall be set at least 1:12, in order to effectuate
11 the quality nursing care for patients. There shall be a nurse for every barangay and
12 industrial establishment: *Provided,* That the nurse shall supervise other health
13 workers in the work area.

14 There shall be a nurse for every school, whether private or public, primary,
15 secondary or tertiary, subject to the applicable ratio prescribed by the appropriate
16 government agency.

17 Sec. 53. *Beginning Registered Nurse.* – A beginning registered nurse shall
18 provide for safe and quality care to an individual, family, or group that is
19 independent or provided as part of a team. The nurse must be able to assess, plan,
20 implement, and evaluate the care provided to clients based on evidence derived
21 from research.

22 A beginning registered nurse must have the following minimum qualifications:

- 23 (1) Must be a Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate from a higher educational
24 institution recognized by the CHED;
- 25 (2) Must be a registered nurse with current certificate of registration and
26 professional identification card issued by the Commission;
- 27 (3) Must be physically, mentally and psychologically fit to practice nursing; and
28 (4) Must not be convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

29 Sec. 54. *Nursing Service Management.* – Nursing Service Management refers
30 to the Management and Administration of Nursing Services by Nurses equipped with
31 the necessary competencies on governance and leadership, to wit:

- 1 (1) *First Level Manager*, is responsible directly for the physical set-up of the unit,
2 structure and other human resources for health care provision;
- 3 (2) *Middle Level Manager*, is responsible for the department or section handling
4 more than one (1) or two (2) units, taking care of the financial, logistic,
5 operational functions and others;
- 6 (3) *Top Level Manager*, oversees all nursing units in terms of financial and human
7 resources for health such as nurses and nursing assistants/adjuncts.

8 Nursing Service Managers must have the following minimum qualifications in
9 addition to the requirements of a Beginning Registered Nurse:

- 10 (a) *For first level managerial position in nursing*, must have at least eighteen (18)
11 units of nursing management and clinical subjects in Master of Arts in Nursing
12 or Master of Science in Nursing, at least three (3) years of clinical work
13 experience, and must have participated in at least one (1) research project to
14 improve quality of care;
- 15 (b) *For middle level managerial position in nursing*, must have completed all
16 academic requirements in Master of Arts in Nursing or Master of Science in
17 Nursing and must have at least three (3) years of clinical work and two (2)
18 years of management experience, and must have initiated at least one (1)
19 research project to improve quality of care;
- 20 (c) *For top level managerial position in nursing*, must have a post-graduate
21 degree in nursing or health management – related sciences and at least three
22 (3) years of clinical work and three (3) years of management experience, and
23 must have initiated at least two (2) research projects to improve quality of
24 care; and
- 25 (d) *For all managerial positions* – Must present the appropriate Certificate of
26 Nursing Proficiency, or its equivalent, from the Board in observance of the
27 Nursing Leadership and Governance Certification Program (Nurse
28 Administrator I, Nurse Administrator II, Nursing Administration Specialist).

29 The above qualifications shall apply to all nurses occupying supervisory or
30 managerial positions across all health facilities.

31 *Sec. 55. Public Health Practice.* – A nursing service shall be organized and
32 operationalized in every local health agencies in order to ensure the nursing

1 component of public health programs. Thus, an ideal of having at least one (1)
2 nurse in every barangay shall be the thrust of public health in order to provide
3 accessible, affordable quality health care to all. More so, the ideal of having at least
4 one (1) nurse in every school, whether private or public, shall be prioritized in every
5 primary, secondary and tertiary educational institution in order to instill health
6 awareness at an early stage and to improve the health status of the students.

7 *Sec. 56. The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).* – The nursing service and delivery
8 of healthcare in a public health practice or community set-up must be under the
9 control and management of the Chief Nursing Officer or CNO. The CNO shall carry
10 full administrative responsibility and shall have the authority on planning, organizing,
11 directing and controlling of public health nurses. A CNO must have a minimum of
12 three (3) years practice in a community setting as a Public Health Nurse, and must
13 have at least five (5) years of experience in relevant nursing practice setting. In
14 addition, the CNO public health agency must be a master’s degree holder in relevant
15 nursing practice setting, conferred by an educational institution duly recognized by
16 the Government of the Philippines.

17 The CNO is responsible for the formulation of policies, strategic and
18 operational planning, financial plan and resource allocation, policies and procedure
19 development, professional and organizational involvement to address epidemiologic
20 problems and provide statistical data, and shall exercise good governance and
21 accountability of the nursing personnel in a public health setting. The CNO shall also
22 act as the advocate for the rights and welfare of public health nurses.

23 *Sec. 57. Nurse Supervisor (NS).* – The Nurse Supervisor or NS shall be in
24 charge of planning, organizing, directing and controlling activities within a
25 demographic unit. A NS must have a minimum of three (3) years practice in a
26 community setting as a Public Health Nurse, and must be a master’s degree holder
27 in Public Health Nursing or its equivalent.

28 *Sec. 58. The Public Health Nurse (PHN).* – The Public Health Nurse or PHN
29 shall perform the functions and activities of health promotion, such as the
30 prevention and treatment of various diseases and illnesses, in a particular public
31 setting. The PHN shall exercise a supervisory role to the midwives and barangay

1 health workers within her area. The PHN shall initiate and participate in developing
2 policies and guidelines to promote basic nursing services.

3 **ARTICLE X**

4 **Prohibited Acts and Penal**

5 *Sec. 59. Prohibited Acts.* – Any of the following shall constitute unlawful and
6 illegal acts:

7 (a) Any person who is practicing the nursing profession in the Philippines:

- 8 1. Without a certificate of registration, professional license, professional
9 identification card, special permit or temporary permit or without having
10 been declared exempt from examination in accordance with the provision
11 of this Act;
- 12 2. Who uses a certificate of registration, professional license, professional
13 identification card, special permit or temporary permit of another;
- 14 3. Who uses an invalid certificate of registration, professional license, a
15 suspended or revoked certificate of registration, professional license, or an
16 expired or cancelled special or temporary permits;
- 17 4. Who, by any means of misrepresentation, false evidence, or concealment,
18 obtained a certificate of registration, professional license, professional
19 identification card, special permit or temporary permit;
- 20 5. Who falsely poses or advertises as a registered and licensed nurse or uses
21 any other means that tend to convey the impression that he/she is a
22 registered and licensed nurse;
- 23 6. Who appends "Nurse," "Nars", or "Nrs" before his or her name or
24 B.S.N./R.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing/Registered Nurse) after his or
25 her name without having been conferred said degree or registration; or
- 26 7. Who, as a registered and licensed nurse, abets or assists to the illegal
27 practice of a person who is not lawfully qualified to practice nursing;

28 (b) Any natural or juridical person, educational institutions offering BSN without
29 full compliance with the requirements prescribed by law conducts Continuing
30 Professional Development for nurses without accreditation from the Board; or
31 any natural or juridical person or health facility who undertakes or offers *in*

1 *service* training programs, for a fee and without permit/clearance from the
2 Board of the Commission;

3 (c) Any natural or juridical person or health facility who subscribes to
4 substandard quality of nursing care and/or nursing practice, such as non-
5 compliance with the nurse-to-patient ratio;

6 (d) Any natural or juridical person or health facility who exercises and promotes
7 precarious working conditions to nurses, such as, but not limited to, the
8 following:

- 9 1. Contracting or availing of the services of a nurse either without salary, for
10 allowance, for salary below the applicable wage prescribed under this Act,
11 whether or not under the pretext of a training, development program,
12 certification course and/or seminar;
- 13 2. Depriving or denying a nurse of the incentives and benefits as provided for
14 the existing laws;
- 15 3. Collecting any fees from a nurse or from any person or agent in his or her
16 behalf in exchange for a nurse's voluntary services in a health facility;
- 17 4. Requiring or obliging a volunteer nurse to perform the regular work
18 functions and/or regular work load expected from a regular staff nurse
19 employed by the health facility without proper compensation, to render
20 full-time service as a condition for the continued availment of his/her
21 volunteer services, and/or to be the sole nurse on duty, except during
22 disasters, calamities, public emergencies and war;
- 23 5. Contracting or availing of the services of a volunteer nurse, under the
24 pretext of On-The-Job Training (OJT), contract of service, and/or job
25 orders, in order to fill-up a vacant position that requires the hiring of a
26 full-time regular employed nurse, or for free in exchange for any type of
27 certification to be issued by the health facility for purposes of the nurse's
28 employment application; or
- 29 6. Contracting or availing of the services of a nurse, under the pretext of
30 training or certification course, but requiring the nurse to render the tasks
31 and responsibilities expected of a regular staff or public health nurse, in
32 violation of Section 48 hereof;

1 (e) Any violation of the provisions of this Act.

2 Sec. 60. *Sanctions.* – A fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos
3 (P100,000.00) nor more than three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) or
4 imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years, or both,
5 upon the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon violation of any prohibited
6 acts enumerated in Section 59 (a) hereof.

7 A fine of not less than three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) nor more
8 than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) and/or imprisonment of not less
9 than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years shall be imposed upon violation of any
10 prohibited acts enumerated in Section 59 (b), (c), (d), and (e) hereof. In addition,
11 suspension or revocation of license to operate the health facility may be issued upon
12 the discretion of the court. In case the violation is committed by a partnership,
13 corporation, association, or any other juridical person, the managing partner,
14 president, director/s, or manager who has committed or consented such violation
15 shall be held directly liable and responsible for the acts, as principal or as co-
16 principal/s with the other participants, if any.

17 Sec. 61. *Refund and Compensation.* – A nurse found to have been a victim of
18 Section 59 (d) hereof shall be entitled to a full refund of all fees illegally collected
19 fees and charges and the payment of unpaid salary, if any which should not be less
20 than the applicable wage for services rendered.

21 **ARTICLE XI**

22 **Miscellaneous**

23 Sec. 62. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Health (DOH) is
24 hereby designated as the agency tasked with monitoring the compliance with and
25 implementation of the provisions of this Act by public health facilities. The
26 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is designated as the agency tasked
27 with monitoring the compliance with and implementations of the provisions of this
28 Act by private health facilities. The Commission and the Board are designated as the
29 agencies tasked with monitoring the compliance with and implementations of the
30 provisions of this Act by educational institutions, CPD providers and health facilities.
31 The CHED is similarly designated as the agency tasked with monitoring the

1 compliance with and implementations of the provisions of this Act by educational
2 institutions with regard to nursing education programs and curriculum.

3 *Sec. 63. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
4 of this Act shall be charged to savings of the concerned agencies immediately upon
5 effectivity hereof. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary to effectively
6 implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the
7 concerned agencies to be incorporated in the General Appropriations (GAA).

8 In order to effectively carry out the advance practice of the nursing program,
9 the annual financial requirement needed to train at least ten percent (10%) of the
10 nursing staff of the participating government hospitals and institutions shall be
11 chargeable against the income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)
12 and the Philippine Amusement And Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), which shall
13 equally share in the costs; the same shall be released to the Department of Health
14 subject to the usual accounting and auditing procedures: *Provided*, That the
15 Department of Health shall set the budget for, as well as the criteria for the
16 availment of this program.

17 *Sec. 64. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety days (90) after
18 the effectivity of this Act, the Commission, the Board, the AIPO for registered
19 nurses, the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Budget and Management,
20 the Department of Health and other concerned nursing organizations and
21 government agencies, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations
22 necessary to carry-out the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and
23 regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
24 newspapers of general circulation.

25 *Sec. 65. Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared
26 unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and
27 operational.

28 *Sec. 66. Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the
29 “Philippine Nursing Act of 2002” is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, orders,
30 circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent
31 with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 Sec. 67. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation
3 in the Philippines.

Approved,