



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5575

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ARAGO, ESCUDERO, GONZALEZ, BINAY, GARIN,  
ALMARIO, CAJAYON, ABANTE, GONZALES (N.), DE GUZMAN,  
AGBAYANI, VELARDE AND ROMULO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT  
NO. 1553

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### AN ACT INTEGRATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1           SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the  
2 “Integrated Medical Professional Organization Act of 2008”.

3           SEC. 2. *Membership.* – The Philippine Medical Association, Inc.  
4 (PMA) as the existing umbrella organization of the medical profession is  
5 hereby recognized as the official medical professional organization of the  
6 Philippines.

7           All physicians duly registered by the Professional Regulation  
8 Commission (PRC) shall become members of the PMA. Membership in good  
9 standing in the PMA shall be a mandatory and continuing condition for the  
10 legal practice of medicine in the Philippines.

1           SEC. 3. *Organization.* – The organizational structure of the PMA,  
2 specialty divisions, specialty and subspecialty societies and component  
3 medical societies including the power and authority to define specialization  
4 and the scope of practice of all physicians and, as a nonstock, nonprofit  
5 corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission,  
6 shall be retained.

7           SEC. 4. *Integration.* – The PMA as the recognized medical  
8 professional organization of the Philippines, the Department of Health (DOH)  
9 and the PRC, through the Board of Medicine, shall implement the integration  
10 of the medical profession in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

11           SEC. 5. *Complaints.* – The PMA as the integrated professional  
12 organization of the Philippines shall have the authority to hear and decide  
13 administrative complaints against its members. It shall prescribe its rules and  
14 procedures that shall govern the conduct of its proceedings. The rules shall be  
15 liberally construed and the technical rules of procedures on evidence shall not  
16 be strictly applied in order to have a speedy, just and efficient resolution of  
17 cases. The PMA may initiate, *motu proprio*, cases against erring licensed  
18 physicians.

19           SEC. 6. *Disciplinary Actions.* – A person may file a verified complaint  
20 in the PMA as the integrated medical professional organization of the  
21 Philippines against any member thereof on the following grounds:

22           (a) Final conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction of any  
23 criminal offense involving moral turpitude;

24           (b) Immoral or dishonorable conduct;

25           (c) Insanity;

26           (d) Fraud in the acquisition of the certificate of registration and  
27 professional license or temporary/special permit;

1 (e) Gross negligence, ignorance or incompetence in the practice of  
2 his/her profession resulting in an injury to or death of the patient;

3 (f) Addiction to alcoholic beverages, to any habit-forming drug or to  
4 any form of illegal gambling rendering him/her incompetent to practice his/her  
5 profession;

6 (g) Making or causing to be made false, misleading, or unethical  
7 advertisements as prescribed by the Code of Ethics of the integrated PMA  
8 wherein things other than his/her name, profession, limitation of practice, clinic  
9 hours, office and home addresses are mentioned;

10 (h) Issuance of any false statement or spreading any false news or  
11 rumor which is derogatory to the character and reputation of another physician  
12 without justifiable motive;

13 (i) Knowingly issuing any false medical certificates and/or findings, or  
14 making any fraudulent claims with the government or private health insurance;

15 (j) Performance of, or aiding in, any criminal abortion;

16 (k) Performing any act constituting a practice of an area of medical  
17 specialization without fulfilling the minimum requirements for residency  
18 training or qualification into the prescribed specialty, as prescribed by the  
19 integrated Philippine Medical Association and confirmed by the Board of  
20 Medicine;

21 (l) Knowingly aiding and patronizing or submitting oneself to be a  
22 patient of any person who is unqualified or unregistered to practice medicine  
23 or an area of medical specialization except in aid of training medical students,  
24 performing any act constituting the practice of medicine or an area of medical  
25 specialization in behalf of any such unlicensed or unregistered person:  
26 *Provided, however,* That this provision shall not apply when an act constituting  
27 the practice of medicine or an area of medical specialization is performed in a  
28 hospital, clinic or medical center as an accredited practitioner of such hospital,

1 clinic or medical center. For this purpose, all hospitals, clinics and medical  
2 centers are hereby required to furnish the appropriate regional office of the  
3 DOH a list of all medical practitioners duly accredited to practice within their  
4 respective institutions every three (3) months;

5 (m) Violation of any provision of the Code of Ethics for Physicians as  
6 prescribed by the integrated PMA and adopted and promulgated by the PRC  
7 Board of Medicine, subject to approval by the Commission;

8 (n) Practice of profession during the period of his/her suspension or  
9 revocation of his/her license to practice;

10 (o) Willful failure or refusal to be a member of the integrated PMA or  
11 *expulsion or termination of membership therefrom*;

12 (p) Willful failure or refusal to indicate his/her certificate of  
13 registration number, the number and expiry date of the professional  
14 identification card, and the PMA membership card and the professional tax  
15 receipt number on the prescription and other documents which he/she signs,  
16 uses or issues in connection with the practice of his/her profession; and

17 (q) Violation of this Act, the rules and regulations to be issued pursuant  
18 thereto, and other policies of the Board and the Commission issued in  
19 pursuance of this Act.

20 SEC. 7. *Penalties.* – The PMA as the integrated medical professional  
21 organization of the Philippines shall impose the penalties of reprimand,  
22 suspension or expulsion, depending on the gravity of the offense. If any of the  
23 grounds enumerated in Section 6 hereof shall result in the death or permanent  
24 disability of a patient, the highest penalty of expulsion shall be imposed.

25 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules.* – The DOH, the PRC and the PMA shall  
26 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and guidelines of this Act for its  
27 effective implementation.

1           SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
2 unconstitutional or not valid, other provisions not affected herein shall remain  
3 in full force and effect.

4           SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Provisions on the integration of  
5 professionals/professions in the professional regulatory laws and all provisions  
6 of laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations that are inconsistent with this  
7 Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

8           SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
9 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any major leading newspaper of  
10 national circulation.

Approved,

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