

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms
2 shall mean:

3 (a) “Respiratory therapy” is an allied health specialty employed with
4 medical direction in the treatment, management, control, diagnostic evaluation
5 and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities in the cardiopulmonary
6 system.

7 (b) “Respiratory therapist” is a person who is a holder of a valid
8 certificate of registration and professional identification card issued by the
9 Professional Regulatory Board of Respiratory Therapy and the Professional
10 Regulation Commission (PRC), and who is legally qualified to practice
11 respiratory therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

12 (c) “Respiratory therapy technician” is a person who has been
13 registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and professional
14 identification card, and who has undergone a two (2)-year associate or
15 certificate program in respiratory therapy procedures, and whose specific
16 assignments are supervised by a registered respiratory therapist. Such
17 assignments are within the limits of a hospital or an institution of employment.

18 (d) “Accredited respiratory training center” is a respiratory therapy
19 unit or pulmonary laboratory, office, center, agency, clinic, hospital or
20 sanitarium duly approved by the Department of Health (DOH) or its authorized
21 agency.

22 (e) “Recognized school of respiratory therapy” is any school, college
23 or university that offers a course in respiratory therapy as approved by the
24 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in accordance with the
25 requirements under this Act, upon the recommendation of the Board of
26 Respiratory Therapy.

ARTICLE II

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD

OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY

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4 SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* – There is hereby
5 created a Professional Regulatory Board of Respiratory Therapy, hereinafter
6 referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision and control of
7 the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the
8 Commission, to be composed of a chairperson and two (2) members who shall
9 be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3)
10 recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission from among a
11 list of five (5) nominees for each position submitted by the integrated
12 professional organization of respiratory therapists. The Board shall be
13 organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

14 SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* – The chairperson
15 and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the
16 following qualifications:

17 (a) Must be a natural-born citizen and a resident of the Philippines;

18 (b) Must be at least thirty-five (35) years of age if he/she is the
19 chairperson or at least thirty (30) years old if he/she is a member;

20 (c) Must be a duly registered respiratory therapist in the Philippines
21 with a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card:
22 *Provided, That in the case of the first members of the Board of Respiratory*
23 *Therapy, they shall be issued certificates of registration and professional*
24 *identification card as respiratory therapists without prior examination;*

25 (d) Must be a holder of a baccalaureate degree in respiratory therapy
26 with at least fifteen (15) years of professional experience and with at least five

1 (5) years of professional experience as director, supervisor or head of said
2 laboratory or unit of a Department of Health (DOH)-recognized hospital prior
3 to his/her appointment;

4 (e) Must not be an elected officer of the integrated and accredited
5 national organization of respiratory therapists;

6 (f) Must not have been convicted by any competent court of an offense
7 involving moral turpitude; and

8 (g) Must not have any pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any
9 school, college, university or institution conferring an academic degree
10 necessary for admission to the practice of respiratory therapy or where review
11 classes in preparation for the licensure examination are being offered or
12 conducted, nor shall he/she be a member of the faculty or of the administration
13 thereof at the time of his/her appointment to the Board.

14 SEC. 6. *Term of Office of Board Members.* – The chairperson and the
15 members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until
16 their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That
17 members of the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall
18 hold office for the following terms: the chairperson for three (3) years, one (1)
19 member for two (2) years, and the other member for one (1) year: *Provided*,
20 *further*, That the chairperson or any member may be reappointed for another
21 term of three (3) years but in no case shall the whole term exceed six (6) years.
22 The interim vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only.
23 Each member of the first Board shall automatically be registered as respiratory
24 therapist and issued a certificate of registration and professional identification
25 card and shall take the proper oath of office prior to assumption of duty.

1 SEC. 7. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board.* – The
2 chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and
3 allowances comparable to that being received by the chairpersons and
4 members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for
5 in the General Appropriations Act.

6 SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Board shall have
7 the following powers and duties:

8 (a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary
9 for carrying out the provisions of this Act;

10 (b) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;

11 (c) Study the conditions affecting the practice of respiratory therapy in
12 the Philippines and adopt measures for the enhancement of the profession, and
13 the maintenance of high professional ethical standards. The Board may
14 conduct ocular inspection at places where registered respiratory therapists are
15 employed or are working, such as hospitals and clinics, to determine and
16 enforce compliance with the professional regulatory laws and the rules and
17 regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, to aid the Board in formulating or
18 revising policies relating to the practice of respiratory therapy;

19 (d) Ensure, in coordination with the CHED, that all educational
20 institutions offering respiratory therapy education comply with the policies,
21 standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas
22 of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

23 (e) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of
24 respiratory therapy in the Philippines;

25 (f) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

1 (g) Maintain a roster of respiratory therapists indicating therein the
2 basic information about the registered professionals;

3 (h) Issue, reinstate, suspend or revoke the certificate of registration and
4 professional identification card or cancel special permits for the practice of
5 respiratory therapy;

6 (i) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and Standards for the
7 practice of respiratory therapy;

8 (j) Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing
9 rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics and Standards for respiratory
10 therapists, and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the
11 appearance of the witnesses and the production of documents in connection
12 therewith: *Provided*, That the decision of the Board shall, unless appealed to
13 the Commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from
14 receipt of judgment or decision;

15 (k) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of applicants for
16 registration with or without licensure examination and applicants for special
17 permits.

18 (l) Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination, determine the
19 syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, construct test questions in the
20 licensure examination, score and rate the examination papers and submit the
21 examination results to the Commission;

22 (m) Grant registration without examination subject to approval by the
23 Commission;

24 (n) Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of
25 respiratory therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of

1 recognition for advanced studies, researches and accomplishments that
2 contribute to the enrichment of the profession;

3 (o) Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure
4 examination;

5 (p) Prescribe guidelines and criteria in the continuing professional
6 education (CPE) program for respiratory therapists; and

7 (q) Perform such other powers and functions as it may deem necessary
8 to carry out the objectives of this Act.

9 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders or decisions
10 issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval
11 of the Commission.

12 SEC. 9. *Suspension and/or Removal of Board Members.* – Any member
13 of the Board may, upon the recommendation of the Commission after due
14 process of law and investigation conducted by the Commission, be suspended
15 or removed by the President from office for cause such as gross neglect of
16 duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or
17 dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude,
18 manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination results, disclosure of
19 secret and confidential information in the examination questions prior to the
20 conduct of the said examination, and tampering of grades.

21 SEC. 10. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records,*
22 *Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the
23 administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board,
24 including applications, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation,
25 administrative cases, and other investigations involving respiratory therapists
26 shall be kept by the Commission.

1 respiratory therapy clinical internship under the supervision of a competent,
2 duly qualified and registered respiratory therapist;

3 (c) He/She is a graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory
4 Therapy degree from a school, college or university in the Philippines or
5 abroad, recognized and accredited by the CHED;

6 (d) He/She is of good moral character; and

7 (e) He/She must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral
8 turpitude by a competent court.

9 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – The licensure examination for
10 respiratory therapists shall cover the following subjects:

11 (a) Patient Assessment and Electrocardiography;

12 (b) Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology;

13 (c) Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Therapy;

14 (d) Mechanical Ventilation;

15 (e) Acid-Base Physiology and Blood Gas Interpretation;

16 (f) Airway Care and Management;

17 (g) Pulmonary Function Testing;

18 (h) Pulmonary Rehabilitation; and

19 (i) Oxygen Therapy.

20 The Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, may revise or
21 exclude any of the subjects or add new ones as the need arises.

22 SEC. 15. *Ratings in the Examination.* – To be qualified as having
23 passed the licensure examination for respiratory therapists, a candidate must
24 have obtained a general average of seventy-five percent (75%) with no grade
25 lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given subject.

1 *SEC. 16. Registration Without Examination as Respiratory Therapists.*

2 – A person who possesses the pertinent qualifications required for admission in
3 the examination for registration as a respiratory therapist pursuant to the
4 provisions of this Act may be registered without examination: *Provided*, That
5 the applicant files with the Board within two (2) years after its creation an
6 application for registration and issuance of a certificate of registration and
7 professional identification card by submitting credentials showing that the
8 applicant, before the effectivity of this Act, had obtained any of the following:

9 (a) A bachelor of science degree in respiratory therapy with at least ten
10 (10) years of full-time work experience in the practice of respiratory therapy in
11 the Philippines;

12 (b) A bachelor of science degree in allied health professions with at
13 least ten (10) years of work experience in the practice of respiratory therapy;
14 and

15 (c) A holder of non-degree courses such as the certificate in respiratory
16 therapy, certificate in pulmonary therapy, associate in respiratory therapy,
17 associate in pulmonary therapy, with at least fifteen (15) years of work
18 experience in the practice of respiratory therapy.

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

22 *SEC. 18. Oath of Respiratory Therapists.* – All successful examinees
23 qualified for registration and all qualified applicants for registration without
24 examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member
25 of the Board or any government official authorized by the *Commission* to

1 administer oaths, prior to entering into the practice of respiratory therapy in the
2 Philippines.

3 SEC. 19. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and Professional*
4 *Identification Card.* – The Commission, on recommendation of the Board,
5 shall issue a certificate of registration and professional identification card to
6 examinees who passed the licensure examination for respiratory therapists and
7 to qualified applicants for registration without examination subject to payment
8 of fees prescribed by the Commission. The certificate of registration shall bear
9 the signature of the chairperson of the Commission and the members of the
10 Board, stamped with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board,
11 indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession
12 with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. This certificate of registration shall
13 remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with
14 this Act.

15 A professional identification card bearing the registration number, date
16 of issuance, expiry date, duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission
17 shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed fee and
18 this shall be renewable every three (3) years.

19 SEC. 20. *Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall not register any
20 successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent
21 jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or has been
22 found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the
23 Board or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal
24 shall be set forth in writing.

25 SEC. 21. *Indication of Certificate of Registration and Professional Tax*
26 *Receipt.* – The respiratory therapist shall be required to indicate his/her

1 registration number, including the professional tax receipt number on the
2 document he/she signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of his/her
3 profession.

4 SEC. 22. *Professional Suffix.* – The letters “RPRT”, which stands for
5 Registered Philippine Respiratory Therapist, shall be added to the name of the
6 respiratory therapist who successfully passes the examination especially when
7 signing documents pertinent to the practice of his/her profession.

8 SEC. 23. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration*
9 *and Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Temporary/Special*
10 *Permit.* – The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party
11 concerned, revoke the practitioner’s certificate of registration and professional
12 identification card or suspend him/her from the practice of his/her profession
13 or cancel his/her temporary/special permit for any of the causes or grounds
14 under Section 20 of this Act or for any unprofessional or unethical conduct,
15 malpractice, violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its rules and
16 regulations, the Code of Ethics and Standards for respiratory therapists.

17 SEC. 24. *Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificate of*
18 *Registration and Professional Identification Card and Temporary/Special*
19 *Permit.* – Two (2) years after the date of the revocation, the Board may, upon
20 application and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient, reinstate any
21 revoked certificate of registration and reissue a professional identification card,
22 and in so doing, may, in its discretion, exempt the applicant from taking
23 another examination.

24 A new certificate of registration or temporary/special permit, to replace
25 lost, destroyed or mutilated ones may be issued subject to the rules as
26 implemented by the Board.

1 SEC. 25. *Roster of Respiratory Therapists.* – The Board shall prepare,
2 update and maintain a roster of respiratory therapists which shall contain the
3 name of each registered respiratory therapist, his/her residence and office
4 addresses, the date of registration and issuance of certificates, and other data
5 which the Board may deem pertinent. The roster shall be open to the public,
6 copies of which shall be mailed to each person listed therein.

7 SEC. 26. *Issuance of Temporary/Special Permit.* – A temporary/special
8 permit may be issued by the Board to the following persons, subject to the
9 approval of the Commission and payment of the fees it prescribes for the
10 purpose:

11 (a) A foreign respiratory therapist called for consultation or for a
12 specific purpose which, in the judgment of the Board, is essential for the
13 development of the profession: *Provided*, That his/her practice shall be limited
14 only for the particular work that he/she is being engaged: *Provided, further*,
15 That there is no Filipino respiratory therapist qualified for such consultation or
16 specific purpose;

17 (b) A foreign respiratory therapist engaged as professor, lecturer or
18 critic in fields essential to respiratory therapy education in the Philippines and
19 his/her engagement is confined to teaching only; and

20 (c) A foreign respiratory therapist who is an internationally recognized
21 expert or with specialization in any branch of respiratory therapy and his/her
22 service is essential for the advancement of respiratory therapy in the
23 Philippines.

24 The permit shall, among other things, include these limitations and
25 conditions: a validity period of not more than one (1) year subject to renewal;
26 the branch or specialty of respiratory therapy; and the specific place of practice

1 such as clinic, hospital, center, school/college/university offering the course of
2 respiratory therapy. The Board, subject to the approval by the Commission,
3 shall prescribe rules and regulations on the implementation of this particular
4 section.

5 ARTICLE IV

6 PRACTICE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY

7 SEC. 27. *Scope of the Practice of Respiratory Therapy.* – A registered
8 respiratory therapist performs, but is not limited to, the following functions
9 under the direction of a physician:

10 (a) Performs and recommends tentative interpretation of tests obtained
11 from physiological specimens which will assist in the diagnosis and
12 determination of the degree of impairment of relevant aspects of
13 cardiopulmonary efficiency;

14 (b) Implements treatment programs on the basis of test findings within
15 the scope of respiratory therapy;

16 (c) Performs pulmonary function testing (PFT) maneuvers;

17 (d) Performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation and provide an artificial
18 airway;

19 (e) Administers mechanical ventilatory support;

20 (f) Administers pharmacologic agents related to respiratory care
21 procedures;

22 (g) Offers bronchopulmonary hygiene procedures to improve
23 pulmonary status;

24 (h) Participates in the pulmonary rehabilitation of patients with lung
25 disorders;

26 (i) Evaluates polysomnography studies;

- 1 (j) Assists in the performance of bronchoscopy procedures;
2 (k) Participates in research programs and studies for the advancement
3 of the field of respiratory therapy; and
4 (l) Teaches, lectures and reviews subjects given in the licensure
5 examination.

6 SEC. 28. *Prohibition on the Practice of Respiratory Therapy.* – No
7 person shall practice or offer to practice respiratory therapy in the Philippines
8 or offer himself/herself as respiratory therapist, or use the title, word, letter,
9 figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression that he/she is a respiratory
10 therapist, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that he/she is
11 qualified to perform the work of a respiratory therapist unless he/she has
12 satisfactorily passed the licensure examination given by the Board, except as
13 otherwise provided in this Act, and is a holder of a valid certificate of
14 registration and professional identification card or a valid temporary/special
15 permit duly issued to him/her by the Board and the Commission.

16 SEC. 29. *Prohibited Acts.* – No person shall:

- 17 (a) Engage in the practice of respiratory therapy by representing
18 himself/herself as a respiratory therapist without a valid certificate of
19 registration and professional identification card or a valid temporary/special
20 permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;
21 (b) Represent himself/herself as a respiratory therapist during the time
22 that his/her certificate of registration and professional identification card is not
23 valid or has been suspended or revoked, or that his/her temporary/special
24 permit is cancelled;
25 (c) Allow anybody to use his/her certificate of registration and
26 professional identification card or temporary/special permit as a respiratory

1 therapist to enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of
2 respiratory therapy; and

3 (d) Use as his/her own the certificate of registration and professional
4 identification card or temporary/special permit of another.

5 SEC. 30. *Employment of Respiratory Therapists in Pulmonary Units*
6 *and Laboratories.* – Hospitals, clinics, home care, medical centers and similar
7 establishments shall be required to employ and station at least three (3)
8 registered respiratory therapists, under the direction of a physician, who shall
9 be on duty for each shift to ensure that the services they offer comply with
10 professional standards.

11 SEC. 31. *Code of Ethics and Standards for Respiratory Therapists.* –
12 The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Standards for
13 respiratory therapists prescribed and issued by the accredited national
14 organization of respiratory therapists.

15 SEC. 32. *Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Program.* – All
16 respiratory therapists shall abide by the requirements, rules and regulations
17 regarding continuing professional education (CPE) as promulgated by the
18 Board in collaboration with the integrated professional organization of
19 respiratory therapists.

20 SEC. 33. *Integration of Associations of Respiratory Therapists.* – All
21 associations of respiratory therapists shall be integrated into one (1) and only
22 national organization which shall be recognized by the Board, subject to the
23 approval by the Commission, as the only accredited and integrated professional
24 organization of registered respiratory therapists.

25 A respiratory therapist duly registered by the Board and the Commission
26 shall automatically become a member of the said organization and shall receive

1 the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of required fees
2 and dues. Membership in the accredited and integrated professional
3 organization of respiratory therapists shall not be a bar to membership in other
4 associations of respiratory therapists.

5 SEC. 34. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreigner shall be admitted to the
6 examination or be given a certificate of registration or be entitled to any of the
7 privileges under this Act unless the country of which he/she is a subject or
8 citizen specifically permits Filipino respiratory therapists to practice within its
9 territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such foreign
10 state or country.

11 ARTICLE V

12 FINAL PROVISIONS

13 SEC. 35. *Penalties for Violations.* – Any person who shall violate any
14 of the provisions of this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as
15 promulgated by the Board subject to the approval of the Commission shall,
16 upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos
17 (P20,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, at the
18 discretion of the court.

19 SEC. 36. *Funding Provision.* – The chairperson of the Professional
20 Regulation Commission shall include in the Commission's programs the
21 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the
22 annual General Appropriations Act.

23 SEC. 37. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – To implement the
24 provisions of this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the
25 Commission and in coordination with the integrated and accredited
26 professional organization, promulgate the rules and regulations and the Code

1 of Ethics and Standards for respiratory therapists within ninety (90) days after
2 the effectivity of this Act.

3 SEC. 38. *Interpretation of This Act.* – Nothing in this Act shall be
4 construed to effect or prevent the practice of any other legally recognized
5 profession.

6 SEC. 39. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act
7 shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other
8 section or provision of this Act.

9 SEC. 40. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or
10 parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
11 repealed, modified or superseded.

12 SEC. 41. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen
13 (15) days following its publication in two (2) major newspapers of national
14 circulation.

Approved, _____,

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