



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6656

BY REPRESENTATIVES GOLEZ (R.), ESCUDERO, SALVACION, HERRERA-DY,
ZAMORA, CO, BATOCABE AND GARBIN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT
No. 2446

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS
TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS,
PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION AND UPGRADING THE SUNDRY PROVISIONS
RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act Numbered Forty-three hundred
2 seventy-three, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 “SEC. 12. *Qualifications of applicants.* – In order to be
4 admitted to take the social work examination, an applicant must, at
5 the time of filing [his or her] OF THE application[therefor, establish
6 to the satisfaction of the Board that]:

7 “(a) [He or she is] BE a FILIPINO citizen [of the
8 Philippines];

9 “(b) He or she is at least twenty-one years of age;]

10 “[(c)] (B) [He or she is] BE in good health and [is] of good
11 moral character;

1 “(d) (c) [He or she has received] **BE** a diploma [as] holder
2 of a bachelor’s degree **OR MASTER’S DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT**
3 in social work from an institution, college or university duly
4 accredited and legally constituted[.]; **PROVIDED, THAT THE**
5 **PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO**
6 **HUNDRED AND SIXTY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CIVIL**
7 **SERVICE ACT OF 1959”, AS AMENDED, INsofar AS CULTURAL**
8 **MINORITIES ARE CONCERNED, SHOULD BE APPLIED; and**

9 “(e) (d) [He or she h]Has completed a minimum period of
10 one thousand case hours of practical training in an established
11 social work agency under the direct supervision of a fully trained
12 and qualified social worker[.]; **PROVIDED, THAT IN THE**
13 **INSTITUTION, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY’S UNDERGRADUATE**
14 **PROGRAM, THE ACADEMIC COURSES PRECEDED THE REQUIRED**
15 **FIELD PRACTICE OF ONE THOUSAND HOURS: *PROVIDED,***
16 ***FURTHER,* THAT THE REQUIRED FIELD PRACTICE COMPLIED**
17 **WITH THE SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM APPROVED BY THE**
18 **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE BOARD**
19 **FOR SOCIAL WORKERS WHICH SPECIFIED FIELD PRACTICE IN**
20 **WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH SMALL**
21 **GROUPS AND WITH COMMUNITIES.**

22 **“THOSE WHO FAIL TO PASS THREE LICENSURE**
23 **EXAMINATIONS MUST RE-ENROLL IN AT LEAST FIFTEEN UNITS OF**
24 **BASIC PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK SUBJECTS AND PASS THEM,**
25 **AS SHOWN IN AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, BEFORE**
26 **THEY CAN BE ALLOWED TO RE-APPLY TO TAKE ANOTHER**
27 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION. FAILURE TO PASS FOR THE FOURTH**
28 **TIME SHALL AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFY AN APPLICANT FROM**
29 **TAKING ANOTHER SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE EXAMINATION.”**

1 SEC. 2. The same Act is further amended by inserting new sections
2 between Sections 24 and 25 to read as follows:

3 **"SEC. 24-A. CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION. –**
4 **ALL REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF**
5 **ACCOMPLISHING TWENTY UNITS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL**
6 **EDUCATION (CPE) GIVEN BY A CPE PROVIDER ACCREDITED BY**
7 **THE SOCIAL WORK BOARD OF EXAMINERS AS A REQUIREMENT**
8 **FOR THE RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER'S**
9 **LICENSE.**

10 **"SEC. 24-B. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. –**
11 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) AND THE**
12 **PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC. (PASWI)**
13 **SHALL JOINTLY ISSUE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND**
14 **REGULATIONS FOR THIS SPECIFIC PROVISION WITHIN THIRTY**
15 **DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS LAW."**

16 SEC. 3. Section 26 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **"SEC. 26. PENAL PROVISIONS. –** The following shall be
19 punished by a fine of not less than [five hundred] **ONE HUNDRED**
20 **THOUSAND** pesos nor more than [two thousand] **TWO HUNDRED**
21 **THOUSAND** pesos, or imprisonment for not less than [one month]
22 **SIX MONTHS** nor more than two years, or both, in the discretion of
23 the court:

24 **"(a)** Any person who shall practice or offer to practice social
25 work in the Philippines without being registered or exempted from
26 registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

27 **"(b)** Any person presenting or attempting to use as [his]
28 **ONE'S OWN**[,] the certificate of registration of another;

1 “(c) Any person who shall give any false or fraudulent
2 evidence of any kind to the Board or any member thereof in
3 obtaining a certificate of registration as social worker;

4 “(d) Any person who shall impersonate any registrant of like
5 or different name;

6 “(e) Any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or
7 suspended certificate of registration;

8 “(f) Any person who shall in connection with [his or her]
9 ONE’S name, otherwise assume, use[,] or advertise any title or
10 description tending to convey the impression that [he or she] ONE
11 is a social worker without holding a valid registration;

12 “(g) Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act;

13 “(h) Any person or corporate body who shall violate the
14 rules and regulations of the Board or orders promulgated by it, duly
15 approved by the President of the Philippines, for the purpose of
16 carrying out the provisions of this Act; or

17 “(i) Any person, corporation or entity operating as a social
18 work agency without the corresponding certificate of registration
19 issued by the **DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare [Administration]**
20 **AND DEVELOPMENT.**”

21 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held
22 invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation.

23 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws or parts of any law inconsistent
24 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
26 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
27 circulation.

Approved,