

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10847, May 23, 2016 ]**

**AN ACT LOWERING THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS  
TAKING THE BOARD EXAMINATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS,  
PROVIDING FOR 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:*

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act Numbered Forty-Three Hundred Seventy-Three (R.A. No. 4373) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. *Name and Composition of the Board.* – There shall be created a Professional Regulatory Board for Social Workers, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of a Chairperson and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) nominees for each position submitted by the accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO) for social workers and ranked by the Commission, and who, at the time of their appointment shall:

- (a) -do-
- (b) -do-
- (c) -do-
- (d) -do-
- (e) -do-
- (f) -do-."

SEC. 2. Section 12 of the same Act is hereby further amended:

"SEC. 12. *Qualification of Applicants.* – In order to be admitted to take the social work examination, an applicant must, at the time of filing of application therefor:

- (a) Be a citizen of the Philippines;
- (b) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(c) Be in good health and of good moral character;

(d) Have a bachelor's degree or masteral degree or its equivalent in social work from an institution, college, or university duly accredited and legally constituted: *Provided*, That, the provisions of Republic Act Numbered Twenty – Two Hundred and Sixty (R.A. No. 2260), otherwise known as the Civil Service Act of 1959, as amended, insofar as cultural minorities are concerned, shall be applied; and

(e) Have completed a minimum period of one thousand (1,000) case hours of practical training in an established social work agency under the direct supervision of a fully trained and qualified social worker: *Provided*, That, in the institution, college, or university's undergraduate program, the academic courses preceded the required field practice of one thousand (1,000) case hours: *Provided, further*, That, the required field practice complies with the social work curriculum approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Board."

SEC. 3. The same Act is hereby amended by inserting Sections 26, 27 and 28 on Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Integration of the Social Work Profession and the Issuance of Special Temporary Permit (STP), respectively:

"SEC. 26. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*. – All registered social workers must provide proof of earning forty-five (45) units of continuing CPD courses given by any CPD provider duly accredited by the CPD Council for social workers as a requirement for the renewal of the professional identification card of social workers.

All local government units (LGUs) and employer organizations shall allocate the necessary funding to support the professional development of social workers under their employ, regardless of employment status, for the purpose of complying with the CPD requirement."

"SEC. 27. *Integration of the Social Work Profession*. – All registered and licensed social workers shall be united and integrated into one (1) national organization which shall be accredited by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, as the AIPO for social workers. All registered and licensed social workers shall become members of the AIPO and shall consequently be entitled to all the benefits and privileges incidental thereto upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to membership in any other professional organization."

"SEC. 28. *Issuance of Special Temporary Permits*. – Special Temporary Permits (STPs) may be issued by the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission and payment of the prescribed fees, to any of the following:

(a) Foreign social workers called by the Philippine Government for a specific public purpose or project;

(b) Foreign social workers to be employed by any domestic private