

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6239, June 19, 1971]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY PROFESSION
IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

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

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*—This Act shall be known as "The Forestry Profession Law".

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*—

- a. Any person who offers to perform or who performs for another whether for profit or not, any of the following services shall be deemed to be practicing the forestry profession, to wit: the scientific conservation and management of forests for the continuous and judicious utilization of forests and forest products; including services in the form of forestry consultation, investigation, planning, preparation, and implementation of management plans for forest and national park areas and the determination of the suitability of public forest land for pasture or agricultural land; logging, forest reconnaissance and timber estimate; scaling and grading of logs and lumber; identification of woods and other forestry products; administration, management and supervision of forest plantation and tree farm leases within public forests; protection and conservation of game and wildlife; preparation and implementation of reforestation and afforestation plans; supervision of any forestry activity requiring the application of forestry principles; and such other activities as related to forest protection, silviculture, and maintenance or restoration of necessary ecological balance.

Persons who have had at least three years practical experience in the field or who have completed at least two years of the Forestry Course may be employed to perform the foregoing services under the supervision of a forester who shall be responsible for the satisfactory completion of their work.

- b. The term "forester" as used in this Act is a natural person duly registered with the Board of Examiners as a forester who (1) is duly qualified and exempt from taking the board examination; or (2) who passed the Forestry Board Examination.

SEC. 3. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Examiners for Forester.*— Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Foresters, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of three foresters, who shall be chosen from a list of six (6) nominees recommended by the national Society of Filipino Foresters and appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years after their appointment. The

members of the first Board appointed under this Act shall hold office for the following terms: One member for one year; one member for two years; and one member for three years. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office before entering upon the performance of his duties. The Board shall elect a Chairman from among its members every year, without reelection.

SEC. 4. *Removal, Suspension and Filling of Vacancies.*— Any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice or unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation subject to civil service procedure and regulations. During the investigation, the President shall have the power to suspend the member under investigation and shall appoint a temporary member in his place: *Provided*, That no suspension shall last more than sixty (60) days. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only and no member of the Board shall be reappointed after serving a full term of three years.

SEC. 5. *Powers and duties of the Board.*— The Board is vested with authority, conformably with the provisions of this Act, to administer oaths; issue and revoke certificates of registration for the practice of forestry; investigate cases of malpractice or unethical practices and violations of this Act and the regulations thereunder and, for this purpose, conduct hearings and issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum*; to determine whether educational institutions offering courses in forestry conform to accepted forestry standards, and to this end conduct inspections of such institutions; to endorse for approval by the Office of the President upon recommendation by the National Society of Filipino Foresters, a Code of Ethics and a Code of Forestry Practices; and to discharge such other duties as may be necessary for the maintenance of scientific, ethical, and technological standards of the forestry profession.

The Board shall designate area specialists for each forestry examination who will formulate questions and rate examination papers under the administrative supervision of the Board.

The Board shall be held responsible for the professional competence of the area specialists and shall insure that their identities shall not be revealed. The area specialists shall be qualified foresters and shall not be connected, directly or indirectly, with any educational institution offering courses in forestry at the time of their designation and during the period of their service as area specialists.

SEC. 6. *Qualifications and Disqualification of Board Members.*—Each member of the Board shall at the time of his appointment:

- a. Be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, of good moral character;
- b. Be at least a holder of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry or its equivalent degree in Forestry;
- c. Have been engaged in the practice of forestry for at least ten years; and
- d. Not be connected directly or indirectly, with any educational institution offering courses in forestry. No member of the Board may accept employment or become connected with any such educational institution for a period of six months after his term.