

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, June 19, 1965]

AN ACT REQUIRING THE LICENSURE OF ALL HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE LICENSING AGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall also be known as the Hospital Licensure Act.

SEC. 2. *Definitions.*—As used in this Act—

- a. 'Hospital' means a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of facilities for the diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury or deformity, or in need of obstetrical or other medical and nursing care. The term 'hospital' shall also be construed as any institution, building or place where there are installed beds, or cribs, or bassinets for twenty-four-hour use or longer by patients in the treatment of diseases, diseased-conditions, injuries, deformities; or abnormal physical and mental states, maternity cases, and all institutions such as those for convalescence, sanatorial or sanitarial care, infirmities, nurseries, dispensaries and such other names by which they may be designated.
- b. 'Government hospital' means a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national, provincial, municipal or city government or other political subdivision, or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.
- c. 'Private hospital' means one which is privately owned, established and operated with funds raised or contributed through donations, or by private capital or other means, by private individuals, association, corporation, religious organization, firm, company or joint stock association.
- d. 'Clinic' means a place at which patients avail of medical consultations or treatments on an out-patient basis. However, any clinic or dispensary where there is at least six beds or cribs or bassinets installed for twenty-four hour use by patients shall be construed to fall within the definition of a hospital as described in this Act.
- e. 'Licensee' is the person or persons granted a license to operate and maintain a hospital according to an approved minimum standard.

Sec. 3. *Construction Permit.*—No hospital, government or private, shall be constructed unless plans have been approved and construction permit issued by the licensing-agency as defined in this Act.

Sec. 4. *Registration and license.*—No hospital shall operate or be opened to the public unless it shall have been registered and a license for its operation obtained from the licensing agency provided in this Act.

Sec. 5. *Licensing Agency*.—For purposes of setting standards in hospital construction and operation, the Bureau of Medical Services in addition to its present duties shall act as the licensing agency. The Secretary of Health shall reorganize this Bureau to include a staff of hospital architects, hospital administrators, sanitary engineers and such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act without necessarily increasing the present personnel strength of this Bureau.

SEC. 6. *Powers and duties of the licensing agency*.—The Bureau of Medical Services, or the licensing agency shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To conduct an ocular survey of all existing hospitals in the Philippines, government or private, with a view to determine their fitness to operate considering their facilities and physical plant.
- b. To prescribe standard plans for government hospital plants in consultation with the Division of Architecture, Bureau of Public Works.
- c. To approve plans for hospital plants, government or private, and to issue permits or authority to construct hospitals in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- d. To keep a permanent register of approved hospitals or those issued licenses to operate indicating the name of the hospital, address or location, type of hospital, name of the director or administrator, ownership, number of authorized beds and bassinets and such other pertinent data as may be necessary.
- e. To grant licenses for the operation and maintenance of hospitals or revoke the same in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- f. To make periodic inspection of all hospitals so as to check compliance with rules and regulations legally promulgated or with the provisions of this Act and to make recommendations to directors or administrators of hospitals for the correction of defects found during such inspections.
- g. To publish yearly a list of all approved hospitals indicating the name, location, type, authorized beds, and name of the director or administrator.
- h. To submit yearly reports to the Secretary of Health, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the chairmen and members of the Committees on Health of both Houses of Congress, such reports to include a list of approved hospitals indicating the name of the hospital, location, bed capacity and name of the director or administrator and make recommendations on hospital needs or requirements for hospital service in certain communities that do not enjoy such hospital services.

Sec. 7. *Filing of Application for Construction Permit*.— Application for a permit to construct a hospital shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Bureau of Medical Services in a form prescribed by the latter and accompanied by a plan of the hospital plant proposed to be constructed. The application shall state the name of the hospital, ownership, number of beds proposed to be operated, location and type of hospital to be constructed.

Sec. 8. *Minimum Standards of Construction*.—In order that a permit to construct a hospital can be issued the hospital plan shall provide sufficient bed space for the hospital bed capacity proposed, a laboratory room, an operating- room, including work rooms for sterilization, anesthesia preparation, etc., an X-ray or radiology room, pharmacy, dispensary or out-patient department, delivery room, isolation