

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4419, June 19, 1965 ]**

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**ARTICLE I.—Title of Act**

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*—This Act shall be known as "The Philippine Dental Act of 1965."

**ARTICLE II.—Objectives and Implementation**

SEC. 2. *Objectives.*—This Act provides for (a) the regulation, control and supervision of the practice of dentistry in the Philippines; (b) the giving of licensure examinations to graduates of recognized dental schools for the purpose of registration; (c) the regulation and standardization of dental education; (d) the promotion and development of dental research in the country; and (e) the stipulation of penalties for infractions or violation's of this Act, or any other laws, rules and regulations authorized under the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementation.*—For the purpose of attaining or carrying out the objectives of this Act, and in order to implement the other provisions thereof, there are created the following agencies: (a) The Board of Dental Examiners; (b) The Council on Dental Education; and (c) The Council for the Advancement of Dental Research.

**ARTICLE III.—The Board of Dental Examiners**

SEC. 4. *Composition.*—The Board of Dental Examiners shall be composed of five members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among candidates certified by the Philippine Dental Association and/or any other *bona fide* dental association, upon the recommendation of its constituent chapter societies or affiliate organizations, as possessing the qualifications prescribed in Section five of this Act, said appointments being subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications.*—The members of the Board shall, at the time of appointment: (a) be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and actually resident thereof; (b) be a duly registered dentist in the Philippines; (c) must have had at least ten years practice of the profession; (d) must not be a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where dentistry is taught, nor shall have, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest in such institution; (e) must not be connected in any capacity with any business enterprise, firm or company engaged in the buying, selling or manufacture of dental goods, equipment, materials or supplies; and (f)

must be a member of good standing of the Philippine Dental Association and/or any other bona fide dental association for the last five years.

SEC. 6. *Tenure of Office.*—The members of the Board shall serve for a term of five years: *Provided, however,* That not more than one member shall be appointed for the full term within the same calendar year, and that appointments shall be made to fill existing vacancies only, so that the term of one member shall be due to expire every year: *Provided, further,* That the member serving the last year of his term shall automatically become the chairman of the Board, and shall not be entitled to succeed himself immediately after the expiration of his tenure of office.

SEC. 7. *Compensation.*—The members of the Board shall each receive as compensation a fee of ten pesos per capita of the candidates examined. The chairman of the Board shall receive no extra compensation.

SEC. 8. *Removal from office.*—Any member of the Board, including the chairman, may be removed for incompetency or continued neglect of duty, for commission or toleration of irregularities in the examination, or, for unprofessional dishonorable conduct, after a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 9. *Powers vested in Board.*—The Board of Dental Examiners is vested with authority, conformably with the provisions of this Act, to issue, suspend or revoke certificates of registration for the practice of dentistry, or to reissue the same, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines. The Board shall have the power to administer oaths, to investigate violations of this Act or other laws and regulations within the jurisdiction of the Board, and for this purpose, it may, under the hand of its chairman and seal of the Board, issue a summons, *subpoena* or *subpoena duces tecum* to alleged violators of this Act and witnesses thereof, and thereby compel their attendance. The Board shall also have the power to visit dental schools to determine whether the minimum requirements prescribed by law and/or the Council on Dental Education are complied with. The Board shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act, shall from time to time look into the conditions affecting the practice of dentistry in the Philippines, and whenever necessary, adopt or recommend such measures, or discharge such duties, as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession, the maintenance of accepted ethical and technical standards, and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Rules and regulations.*—The Board of Dental Examiners, with the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Service, shall promulgate and adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement or carry out the provisions of this Act, especially those relating to the proper conduct of the examinations, custody and correction of examination papers, registration of dentists, and enforcement of the Code of Ethics for dentists.

SEC. 11. *Secretary of the Board.*—The secretary of the Boards of Examiners appointed in accordance with Section one of Republic Act Numbered Five hundred forty-six shall also be the secretary of the Board of Dental Examiners. All records and minutes of the deliberations and proceedings of the Board, including examination papers and other confidential documents, shall be kept by the Civil Service Commission under the direct custody of the secretary of the Board. The secretary shall also keep a complete register of all persons to whom certificates of registration as dentist have been issued, indicating the name, sex, age, date and

place of birth, post office address, the name of the school or university where the registrant graduated, date of graduation, and the date when he passed the qualifying examinations.

SEC. 12. *Annual report.*—The Board shall, within sixty days after the close of each fiscal year, prepare and submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines which shall include a detailed account of the proceedings of the Board during the year, an up-to-date register of dentists in the country, indicating those in private practice and those in the government service, and embodying such recommendation as the Board may desire to make.

#### **ARTICLE IV.—*Examination and Registration***

SEC. 13. *Prerequisite to the practice of dentistry.*—Unless specifically exempt and authorized by this Act, no person shall engage in the practice of dentistry in the Philippines without a certificate of registration as dentist issued to him by the Board of Dental Examiners after successfully passing the required qualifying examination.

SEC. 14. *Definition of practice of dentistry.*—A person shall be regarded as engaged in the practice of dentistry or rendering dental service, within the meaning and intent of this Act, who shall, for a fee, salary, compensation, or any form of reward, paid to him or through another, or even without such compensation or reward, perform any operation or part of an operation, upon the human mouth, jaws, teeth, and surrounding tissues; prescribe drugs or medicines for the treatment of oral diseases and lesions; or correct malpositions of the teeth: *Provided, however,* That this provision shall not apply to artisans or technicians engaged in the mechanical construction of artificial dentures or fixtures and other oral devices, as long as none of such procedures is done inside the mouth of the patient; nor shall this provision apply to students of dentistry undergoing practical training in a legally constituted dental school or college under the direction or supervision of a member of the faculty who is duly licensed to practice dentistry in the Philippines; or to registered dental hygienists serving as dentists assistants who may be allowed to perform oral prophylaxis and such other procedures which the law regulating the practice of dental hygienists may permit.

SEC. 15. *Exemption from registration.*—Certificates of registration shall not be required of commissioned dental Officers of the army, navy and air forces of any foreign country, whose operations in the Philippines are permitted by the Government, while rendering service as such for the members of said forces only; and of dentists or oral surgeons from other countries who are invited for consultations or demonstrations, provided that in such cases their work shall be limited to the specific tasks assigned to them, and provided further, that a previous authority has been granted by the Board of Dental Examiners, who shall have the discretion to determine the duration of said authority, but in no case shall it exceed the period of thirty days.

SEC. 16. *Frequency of examination.*—Licensure examinations for candidates desiring to practice dentistry in the Philippines shall be conducted by the Board twice a year in Manila, the first examination to be held not earlier than two months nor late than three months after the termination of the school year, the second one to be held six months thereafter, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Service. The Board shall publish or cause to be published the dates of examination, or any

change thereof, at least ninety days before the scheduled examination.

SEC. 17. *Qualifications for admission to examination.*—In order to be admitted to the licensure examination for dentists, an applicant must, at the time of filing his application therefor, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that: (a) he is a citizen of the Philippines; (b) he possesses good moral character; (c) he had finished at least a two-year pre-dental course which complies with the minimum requirements of the Council on Dental Education; and (d) he shall be a holder of the degree of either Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.), or their equivalents, conferred by a recognized and legally constituted university, college, school or institute.

SEC. 18. *Scope of examination.*—The licensure examination for the practice of dentistry in the Philippines shall consist of both written and performance tests, the scope of which shall be determined and prescribed by the Board, taking into consideration the teaching plans and educational standards of the state and private dental colleges in the country. It shall include such subjects as general anatomy, oral anatomy, general histology, oral histology and embryology, general pathology, oral pathology, general physiology, oral physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, biochemistry, oral diagnosis and treatment planning, oral surgery, anesthesia, dental roentgenology, periodontics, endodontics, nutrition, dental materials, restorative dentistry, prosthodontics, orthodontics, public health dentistry, dental jurisprudence, dental economics, ethics, and private management. It shall be the duty of the Board to prepare the schedule of subjects in the written and performance tests and to publish the same as approved at least two months before the date of examination wherein they are to be used.

SEC. 19. *Report of ratings.*—The Board of Dental Examiners shall, within one hundred days after the last day of the examination, report the ratings obtained by each candidate to the Commissioner of Civil Service, who shall, with his recommendations, submit such results to the President of the Philippines for approval and release. Failure on the part of the Board to report the ratings within the specified time shall mean forfeiture of fifty percent of the compensation due the members of the Board in that particular examination.

SEC. 20. *Issuance of certificates.*—Certificate of registration as dentist shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, be issued to any applicant who, after the approval of his ratings by the Commissioner of Civil Service and the President of the Philippines and the payment of the required registration fee, has satisfactorily met all the requirements specified in this Act: *Provided, however,* That no certificate of registration shall be issued to any applicant who has not reached the age of twenty-one years.

Every certificate of registration shall show the full name of the registrant, shall have a serial number, and must be signed by the chairman and members of the Board, the Commissioner of Civil Service and the secretary of the Board, and shall be authenticated by the official seal of the Board. The issuance by the Board of a certificate of registration to the registrant shall be evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a registered dentist while said certificate remains unrevoked or unsuspended.

SEC. 21. *Fees for examination and registration.*—Every applicant to the licensure