

[**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2674, June 18, 1960**]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DIETETICS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Definition of terms.—As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Dietetics*—the combined science and art of regulating the planning, preparing and serving of meals to individuals or groups according to the principles of nutrition and management with due consideration to economic, social and psychological factors.
- b. *Dietitian*—any person legally qualified to practice dietetics under this Act.
- c. *Dietetic Internship*—a period of practical training in any accredited hospital which provides opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in the administrative and therapeutic phases of dietetics. The Administrative phase includes experience in: the planning, purchasing, preparing and serving of food to patients and personnel within budget allowances; supervising the handling and storage of food supplies and equipment; directing the maintenance of proper sanitary measures within the department; and training of personnel. The therapeutic phase includes experience in the application of scientific knowledge to nutritional problems presented by various diseases.
- d. *Hospital*—national hospitals, provincial hospitals, mental hospitals, sanitarium, government reformatory institutions established for the care of the sick, infirm, indigents and other persons confined therein for violation of law, whether government or private.
- e. *Accredited hospital*—a hospital with at least two qualified dietitians, one of whom shall have a Master's degree in Nutrition or Institution Management, to supervise the training program of dietetic interns.

SEC. 2. *Board of Examiners for Dietitians*.—Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Dietitians, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of a Chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service from among dietitians of recognized standing in the Philippines as may be certified by the *bona fide* national professional organization or association of dietitians in the Philippines and who, at the time of their appointment, shall:

- Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- Be at least thirty years of age, and of good moral character;

- Be a recipient of a bachelor's degree conferred by a reputable and legally constituted school, college or university, with foods and nutrition as a major study;
- Have had at least five years experience, prior to his appointment, as a dietitian, or in any academic or research work in foods or nutrition at a graduate level, or as a professional teacher of such subjects in college, or a nutrition specialist or consultant to any organization of publication;
- Be a registered dietitian duly qualified to practice dietetics under this Act: *Provided*, That this qualification shall not be required of the first appointees to the Board under this Act; and
- Not be a member of the faculty of any school, college or university at the time of appointment nor during the year immediately preceding appointment as member the board, conferring a bachelor's degree with foods and nutrition as major study, nor shall have direct or pecuniary interest in such institution:

Provided, That the first Board of Examiners for Dieticians to be created pursuant to this Act shall each be issued a certificate of registration as dietitian without prior examination in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Functions and duties of the Board.*—The Board is vested with authority and required, conformable with the provisions of this Act, to:

- a. Administer the provisions of this Act;
- b. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- c. Issue, suspend and revoke certificates of registration for the practice of dietetics;
- d. Look, from time to time, into conditions affecting the practice of dietetics in the Philippines and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and standards in the practice of dietetics;
- e. Accredite a hospital for dietetic internship; and
- f. Investigate such violations of this Act or of the regulations issued thereunder as may come to the knowledge of the Board and, for this purpose, issue subpoena and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure appearance of witnesses and production of documents in connection with the charges presented to the Board.

SEC. 4. *Term of office of Board Members.*—The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified: *Provided*, That the first appointees to the Board shall hold office for the following terms; the Chairman for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year. Interim vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

SEC. 5. *Removal of the Board members.*—Any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines, for neglect of duty, incompetency, malpractice, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct, after having been given opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative

investigation: *Provided*, That during the process of investigation, the President shall have the power to suspend such member under investigation and appoint a temporary member in his place.

SEC. 6. *Executive Officer of the Board.*—The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the executive officer of the Board, and shall conduct the examinations given by it according to the rules and regulations promulgated by him and approved by the President of the Philippines. The Secretary of the Board of Examiners appointed in accordance with section ten of Act Numbered Four Thousand seven, as amended by Republic Act Numbered Five Hundred forty-six, shall also be the secretary of the Board. All the records of the Board, including examination papers, minutes of deliberations and records of administrative proceedings and investigations, shall be kept by the Bureau of Civil Service.

SEC. 7. *Compensation of Board members.*—The members of the Board shall each receive as compensation the sum of ten pesos for each applicant examined. Any dietitian in the service of the Government of the Philippines appointed as member of the Board shall receive the compensation herein provided in addition to his salary.

SEC. 8. *Rules and Regulations.*—Subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines and with the advice of the Commissioner on Civil Service, the Board shall set ethical and professional standards for the practice of dietetics and prescribe collegiate courses therefor and, in general, adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Annual Report.*—The Board shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives after the close of each fiscal year, giving a detailed account of the proceedings of the Board during the year and embodying such recommendations as the Board may desire to make.

SEC. 10. *Inhibition against the practice of dietetics.*—Unless exempt from registration or not subject to the requirements of this Act as provided in Sections eleven and seventeen hereof, no person shall practice or offer to practice as a dietitian without having previously obtained a valid certificate of registration from the Board: *Provided*, That registration shall not be required of the following classes of persons:

- a. Dietitians from other countries called in for consultations; and
- b. Dietitians in the service of the United States Armed Forces stationed in the Philippines while rendering services as such for members of the said armed forces.

SEC. 11. *Requirement for Hospitals.*—Every hospital, whether government or private, with more than seventy-five but less than one hundred fifty bed capacity shall employ at least one dietitian; those with more than one hundred fifty but less than three hundred bed capacity shall employ at least one dietitian and two assistant dietitians ; and those with more than three hundred bed capacity shall employ two dietitians and not less than four assistant dietitians: *Provided*, That no person shall be appointed a dietitian in any hospital without having been registered