

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 754, June 18, 1952]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF CHEMISTRY 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.—Organization of Board

SECTION 1. *Definitions.*—Unless otherwise specified the following terms used in this Act shall mean;

- a. *Chemistry.*—Chemistry may be defined as the science which studies the properties of matter; the changes in composition which substances undergo; the energy involved in; and the conditions necessary for the transformation of matter.

Scope of Chemistry.—The analysis, synthesis, preparation, and manufacture of chemical, biochemical and mineral Products and materials; the sale of chemicals, chemical apparatus, and chemical equipment; consultation work on problems related to change of matter, and/or to chemical or physico-chemical process or processes.

- b. *Chemist.*—Any person, who for fee, salary or other compensation or reward to himself or to another person renders professional service requiring the use and application of chemical knowledge, and/or chemical or physico-chemical processes.

- c. *Board.*—The Board of Examiners for Chemists created by this Act.

- d. *Registration.*—The authority given a chemist to practice chemistry.

SEC. 2. *Creation and composition of the Board.*—Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Chemists, to be composed of a Chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service from among registered chemists of recognized standing in the Philippines as may be certified by the *bona fide* national professional organization or association of chemists in the Philippines and possessing the qualifications prescribed in section four of this Act: *Provided*, That the first Board of Examiners for Chemists to be created pursuant to this Act shall each be issued a certificate of registration as chemist without prior examination in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Powers vested in the Board.*—The Board of Examiners for Chemists is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act, to administer the provisions thereof, to issue, suspend and revoke certificates of registration for the practice of chemistry and to administer oaths.

- a. In carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, the Board, may, under the hand of its Chairman and the seal of the Board, *subpoena* witnesses and compel their attendance, and also may require the production of books, documents, and papers, in a case involving the revocation of registration or the practice without registration. Any member of the Board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Board. If any person shall refuse to obey a *subpoena* so issued or shall refuse to testify or produce any book, document, or other paper, the Board may present a petition to the Court of First Instance, setting forth the facts, and thereupon such court shall, in a proper case, issue its *subpoena* to such person, requiring his attendance before such court and thereto testify or produce such books, documents, or papers, as may be deemed necessary and pertinent by the Board. Any person failing or refusing to obey the *subpoena* or order of said court may be proceeded against in the same manner as for refusal to obey other *subpoena* or order of the court.
- b. The Board shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act, shall study the conditions affecting the practice of chemistry, in all parts of the Philippines, as well as courses in chemistry leading to Baccalaureate degrees, and shall make recommendations to the Commissioner of Civil Service who shall take appropriate action thereon, calculated to improve the ethical and educational standards in the practice of chemistry.
- c. Unless authorized by the other Boards of Examiners concerned in the exercise of the powers vested in them by law, no chemical laboratory or factory using chemical or physico-chemical process or processes shall operate without obtaining a license from the Board of Examiners for Chemists.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of Board members.*—Each member of the Board shall at the time of his appointment be:

1. A citizen of the Philippines and resident thereof.
2. At least thirty years of age.
3. A duly registered chemist in the Philippines, who has at least ten years experience along chemical work previous to his appointment.
4. Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where a regular course in chemistry is taught, nor have pecuniary interest in such institution. The members of the first Board of Examiners for Chemists appointed under this Act, shall be considered registered or licensed for the purpose thereof, and shall be issued upon Payment of ten pesos a certificate of registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Term of office.*—The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years after their appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and have duly qualified. 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. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to entering upon the performance of his duties.

SEC. 6. *Executive Officer and Secretary of the Board.*— The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the executive officer of the Board, shall conduct the examination given by the Board. The Secretary of the Boards of Examiners appointed under Republic Act Numbered Five hundred forty-six shall also be the Secretary of the Board of Examiners for Chemists. All records and minutes of the deliberations of the Board, including examination papers, shall be kept by the Bureau of Civil Service under the direct custody of the Secretary.

SEC. 7. *Removal of Board members.*—The President of the Philippines may remove any member of the Board for continuous neglect of duty or incompetency or for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, after having given the member concerned an opportunity to defend himself in the proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 8. *Compensation of Board.*—The members of the Board shall each receive a compensation of not exceeding ten pesos for each applicant examined and five pesos for each applicant granted a certificate of registration as chemist without examination. Any chemist in the service of the Republic of the Philippines appointed as member of the Board shall also receive the compensation herein provided. All fees shall be received by the officer designated by competent authority as collecting officer for the Bureau of Civil Service, and such officer shall pay all authorized expenses of the Board, including the compensation provided for by this Act for the members of the Board.

SEC. 9. *Annual report.*—The Board shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines after the close of each fiscal year, giving detailed account of its proceedings during the year and making such recommendations as it may deem proper.

ARTICLE II.—*Registration and Examination*

SEC. 10. *Inhibition against the practice of chemistry.*— Unless exempt from registration, or not subject to the requirements of this Act as provided in section twenty-four hereof, no person shall practice or offer to practice as a chemist in the Philippines, without having previously obtained a certificate of registration from the Board.

SEC. 11. *Exemption from registration.*—Registration shall not be required of the following classes of persons:

- a. Chemists from other countries called in for consultations or for a project not requiring more than six months' residence in the Philippines in any twelve months' period: *Provided*, That such chemists are legally qualified to practice chemistry in their own state or country in which the requirements and qualifications for obtaining a certificate of registration are not lower than those specified in this Act.