

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1485



Introduced by **HONORABLE JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.**

AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MICROBIOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Society benefits from microorganisms in various ways. These microorganisms are employed in the production of foods and condiments such as bread, cheese, beer, soy sauce and pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics, vaccines, and hormones like insulin and vitamins. They are also employed in environmental clean-up and in the production of biogas and bioethanol. Life on earth is preserved with the action of microorganisms in the cycling of major elements, such as carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur, both in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, microorganisms are the source of nutrients at the base of ecological food chains and food webs. As such, microorganisms are employed in scientific research and technology.

The principles of microbiology form the foundation of modern biotechnology, such as genetic engineering and cell and tissue culture. Conversely, microorganisms are responsible for the spoilage of food and manufactured goods and for post-harvest losses in agricultural crops; food poisoning and many diseases in humans such as HIV, pneumonia, typhoid, and cholera; in livestock such as foot and mouth disease; and in crops such as bacterial leaf blight in rice, Sigatoka disease in banana, bunchy top in abaca and damping off in most vegetables.

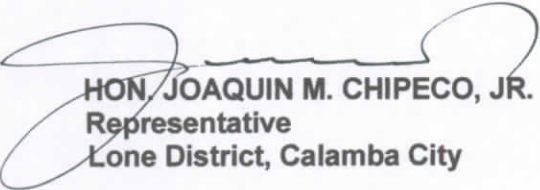
The handling of microorganisms requires special skills and knowledge. Such skills and knowledge are essential in the quality control of processed foods and manufactured

goods, in managing environmental pollution, in remediating degraded soils, in managing/preventing outbreaks or epidemics in human, animal and crop populations, and in efficiently producing microbial-based goods and services. The academic preparation and manpower training of microbiologists are provided by universities and colleges.

The practice of microbiology as a profession has started more than five decades ago. Inevitably due to differences in philosophy, facilities and resources, the content and emphasis of the curriculum and training modules in various institutions differ. Given the important role of microbiologists as stated above, it is imperative that the profession of microbiology be regulated. Regulation of the practice of microbiology will ensure that only the capable and deserving ones are allowed to practice. The licensure exam will also ensure that Universities offering Microbiology courses will be more vigilant in offering quality and updated education since the passing rates in the board exams will be reflective of the performance and standards of their schools. This will redound to more competent professionals in microbiology. Regulation will also allow the continuous monitoring of their competence, updating and professionalism throughout their years of practice of microbiology. Very importantly, this will also give the much-needed recognition of microbiologists as licensed professional practitioners.

In synergy and convergence with other professions regulated by the Professional Regulation Commission where microbiology is an essential component of their practice, Doctors of Medicine, Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, Medical Technologists, Agriculturists, Pharmacists, and Food Technologists, among others, shall continue to practice microbiology without registering under this Act.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.
Representative
Lone District, Calamba City

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Representative Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MICROBIOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

ARTICLE I.

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Microbiology Act of 2018."

SECTION 2. Statement of Policy and Objectives. - The State recognizes the important role of microbiologists in national development. Hence, it is the object of this Act to institute a regulatory system that guarantees the delivery of technical services in a manner that ensures food safety and high quality of manufactured goods, prevents the rapid spread of microbially-caused diseases in human, plant, and animal populations, and helps provide a safe and healthy environment for the general populace. This Act also aims to develop and nurture competent, ethical, globally competitive and well-rounded professionals who shall observe the highest standard of excellence through a credible and relevant licensure examination.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITION OF TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act:

- a. **Accredited Professional Organization (APO)**— shall refer to the professional organization established for the benefit and welfare of professionals of microbiology, the advancement of the microbiology profession and attainment of other professional ends, and compliant to all the requirements for accreditation, subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission).
- b. **Microbiology** - shall refer to a multi-disciplinary study of the structure, form and function of microorganisms such as bacteria, archaea, fungi, algae, protozoa, and acellular infectious agents. It covers several branches of biology such as physiology, molecular biology, genetics, ecology, evolutionary biology, systematics and other related fields.
- c. **Registered Microbiologist** - shall refer to a person who has been issued a Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card by the Board and the Commission.

FIELDS OF MICROBIOLOGY:

- a. **Bacteriology** - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that specifically deals with the biochemistry, physiology, morphology, evolution, genetics, and ecology of bacteria—a large domain of single-celled prokaryotic microorganisms. Bacteriology also deals with the study of medically- and industrially-significant bacteria, such as those which cause major infectious diseases, food spoilage, and those which are able to ferment food or produce valuable pharmaceuticals and enzymes.
- b. **Archaeal Biology** – shall refer to the scientific discipline that concerns with the study of the biology of archaea, a domain of organisms consisting of single, nucleus-free cells, distinct from bacteria and eukaryotes.

- c. **Virology** – shall refer to the branch of microbiology that specifically deals with viruses—sub-microscopic obligate intracellular parasites—and virus-like particles, and subviral particles such as prions and viroids, which usually cause disease in animals, plants, and humans. Virology studies the taxonomic classification and ultrastructure of these agents, their genetic make-up, mode of infection, as well as their interactions with their respective hosts.
- d. **Protozoology** - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies protozoa, a diverse group of eukaryotic, heterotrophic microorganisms. It is concerned with the taxonomy, physiology, evolution, biochemistry and metabolism of protozoans. As several protozoans are disease-causing, protozoology is also concerned with studying their modes of infection, transmission, life cycles, as well as their interaction with their host organisms.
- e. **Phycology** - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies algae, which is a large group of chiefly aquatic macroscopic and microscopic unicellular organisms similar to plants in terms of metabolism and structure. Phycology studies the ultrastructure, biochemistry, metabolism and ecology of these algae, such as different species of seaweeds, phytoplankton and a vast number of others.
- f. **Mycology** - shall refer to the branch of microbiology that studies yeasts, molds and mushrooms, which are collectively referred to as fungi. It is concerned with the physiology, taxonomy, biochemistry, ecology, and genetic properties of fungi. Mycology also deals with the significance and application of fungal species in medicine and industry, as several species could cause disease and can produce antibiotics as well as other valuable secondary metabolites.
- g. **Medical Microbiology**- shall refer to the branch of microbiology that specifically deals with the study of characteristics of pathogens, their modes of transmission, mechanisms of infection and growth. It is also concerned with the interactions of pathogens to hosts and the environment and the applications of microorganisms for the improvement of health. For purposes of this Act, clinical microbiology is excluded from the definition and scope of medical microbiology. Clinical Microbiology shall refer to the branch of

microbiology that relates to the diagnosis, treatment, management, and prevention of infectious diseases in patients in hospital and clinical laboratories. It also includes hospital facility environmental surveillance and monitoring in support of infection control and safety programs as well as quality control. This field of practice encompasses several different sciences applied to hospital and clinical laboratories, including bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, immunology and molecular diagnostics. It involves culture, analysis and identification of pathogenic and other clinically relevant bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites isolated from clinical specimens and/or other non-biological specimens. It also involves susceptibility testing to guide antimicrobial therapy and provide antibiograms to the health facility and/or local community to demonstrate the prevalence of various pathogens and emerging antibiotic resistance.

- h. Environmental Microbiology** – shall refer to the branch of microbiology that deals with study of indigenous microorganisms on earth, water, and air system and their interactions with organic and inorganic pollutants and the application of their products for the benefit of human health and welfare. It is the applied part of microbial ecology which deals with the study of the interactions of microorganisms with the biotic and abiotic environment.

Related Fields in Microbiology - shall include cell biology, helminthology, immunology, molecular biology and biotechnology, parasitology, and plant pathology.

SECTION 4. Scope of Practice of the Microbiology Profession – The practice of microbiology shall refer to the profession requiring the application of the fundamental and known principles of microbiology pertinent to the conditions and requirements of food safety and manufacturing standards, disease prevention, environmental protection, conservation and quality management. This shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a.** Consultation, valuation, investigation and management services on the identification of microbial agents in food, feed, human, plant and animal diseases, and in environmental impact assessments;

- b. Management or supervision and the preparation of designs, plans, specifications, project studies and estimates for microbial-based processes and related manufacturing and waste management facilities;
- c. Conduct of research and development, training and extension work, and consultancy services on the various areas of microbiology, such as general microbiology, food microbiology, agricultural microbiology, industrial microbiology, veterinary microbiology, medical microbiology, aquatic microbiology and environmental microbiology, and on microbiological facilities/services, systems and technologies;
- d. Microbiological testing and inspection of food, pharmaceutical, agricultural, fishery and forest products;
- e. Management, manufacturing and/or marketing of microbial and microbial-based products. Marketing of the microbial and microbial-based products are not exclusive to the practice of microbiology and shall include other professions mentioned in Section 26;
- f. Quality control on microbiological concerns in the manufacture of foods, food additives, flavors, feeds, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, biofuels, biofertilizers and others;
- g. Teaching microbiology subjects and offering degree programs and training courses in microbiology in higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines in conjunction with Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8981 and the rules and regulations of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED); and
- h. Employment with the government or private institution/agency which requires the knowledge and expertise of a registered microbiologist.

ARTICLE III

CREATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR MICROBIOLOGY

SECTION 5. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board for Microbiology –There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board for Microbiology hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision and control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, under the Office of the President (OP). The Board shall be composed of a chairperson and two (2) members, two (2) of whom with at least five (5) years of teaching experience in microbiology, who shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from those recommended by the PRC, from the list of three (3) nominees for each position endorsed by APO. The Board shall be organized not later than sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Board. - The chairperson and members of the Board shall, at the time of appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a. Must be a Filipino citizen;
- b. Be of good moral character;
- c. Has not been convicted by a competent court of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- d. Must be a holder of at least a Master of Science Degree in Microbiology-related fields conferred by a CHED recognized Philippine HEI or foreign university;
- e. Must have at least ten (10) years of practice in microbiology, either in government or in any private institution;
- f. Must not have any financial interest, directly and indirectly, in any HEI conferring academic degree necessary for admission to the practice of microbiology or where review classes in preparation for the microbiology licensure examination are being offered or conducted, nor shall one be a member of the faculty or the administration thereof.

SECTION 7. Tenure of Office for the Chairperson and Members of the Board. - The chairperson and members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have been qualified and appointed.

The chairperson and members of the Board may be reappointed for another term after the expiry of their term. They shall take the proper oath of office prior to assumption of office before a duly authorized officer.

SECTION 8. Meetings of the Board. - The Board shall have a regular meeting once a month. Special meetings may also be held upon the call of the chairperson or request by two (2) of its members. Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given in the manner prescribed by the rules of the Board.

SECTION 9. Compensation and Allowances of the Board. - The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances equivalent to those being received by the chairpersons and members of existing professional regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. Powers and Functions of the Board. - The Board shall be vested with the following powers and functions:

- a. Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;
- b. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and their relative weights, determine the syllabi and Table of Specifications (TOS) for the subjects on which the examination questions shall be based on, and to submit the examination results to the Commission;
- c. Evaluate and approve applications for licensure examination;

- d. Administer oaths and, issue certificates of registration and the professional identification card to persons admitted to the practice of the profession of microbiology;
- e. Submit to the Commission an annual report at the close of each fiscal year on the proceedings and accomplishments of the Board during the year as well as recommendations for the purpose of upgrading and improving the conditions affecting the practice of microbiology in the Philippines;
- g. Oversee the conduct of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for microbiologists;
- h. Recommend measures necessary for the upgrading, enhancement, development and growth of microbiology in the Philippines;
- i. Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of microbiology and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the profession and/or upholding of high professional, ethical and technical standards, and for this purpose, shall conduct inspection and monitoring of establishments where microbiologists are practicing, and higher educational institutions where the microbiology courses are being offered, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- j. Approve registration of microbiologists without examination; and
- k. Issue special temporary permits to microbiologists of foreign nationalities subject to the requirements and conditions prescribed by the Board.

The policies and resolutions, rules and regulations, orders, or decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission; *Provided, That* the decisions, resolutions, and orders rendered by the Board which are interlocutory in an administrative case shall be subject to review on appeal.

SECTION 11. Removal of Board Members. - The chairperson or any Member of the Board may be suspended or removed from office by the President of the Republic of the

Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence, tolerance of irregularities in any examination given by the Board, unprofessional or unethical conduct. Any such person shall be afforded due process according to the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 12. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of the Records, Secretariat and Support Services. - The Board shall be under the general supervision and administrative control of the Commission. The Commission shall keep all records of the Board, including applications for examination papers and results, minutes of deliberations, administrative cases and other investigative cases involving microbiologists.

ARTICLE IV

EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SECTION 13. Licensure Examination. – Unless otherwise provided in the Act, every applicant seeking to be registered and licensed as microbiologist shall take and pass a written examination to be given by the Board at least once a year in such places and dates as the Commission may designate.

SECTION 14. Qualifications for Examination. - Any person applying for admission to the licensure examination for microbiologist shall meet the following requirements:

1. He/she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines: Provided, that citizen of a foreign country may be allowed to take the examination, subject to the requirement of reciprocity pursuant to Section 30 of this Act;
2. He/she is of good moral character;
3. He/she has not been convicted by a competent court of any offense involving moral turpitude; and
4. He/she holds a baccalaureate degree in Microbiology or Biology major in Microbiology, or graduate degree in Microbiology, or any related field with twenty-

four (24) units of microbiology, to include the courses covered in the licensure exam.

SECTION 15. Scope of Examination. - The licensure examination for microbiology shall cover six (6) subjects:

1. General microbiology
2. Code of Ethics for Microbiology and Microbiology Law of 2018
3. Microbial Physiology
4. Microbial Ecology
5. Medical Microbiology
6. Applied Microbiology (Food and Industrial)

The Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, may revise the scope of examination and any of the subjects and their syllabi to conform to technological advances brought about by trends and developments in the profession.

SECTION 16. Release of the Results of Examination. - The Board shall correct and release the licensure examination results within three (3) days from the date of the examination, unless extended for valid reason.

SECTION 17. Rating in Examination. To pass the licensure examination for microbiology, an examinee must obtain a general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) and no rating lower than fifty percent (50%) in any subject. An examinee with a general average of seventy five percent (75%), and with grade lower than fifty percent (50%) in any subject, may retake the subject(s) in which he/she failed, at most twice. If still unsuccessful after the second time, he/she shall be required to retake the entire examination. There is no limit to the number of retakes.

SECTION 18. Oath. – All persons qualified to register with or without examination shall take their oath of profession before the chairperson or any member of the Board, or any authorized officer of the Commission prior to entering the practice of microbiology.

SECTION 19. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card. - Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card shall be issued to a person who has complied with all the requirements for registration under this Act. The Certificate of Registration shall serve as evidence that the microbiologist can lawfully practice his/her profession. It shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, revoked, or suspended in accordance with this Act.

A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number and date of issuance, its expiry date, and the signature of the chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to every qualified registrant. It shall be reissued after every three (3) years upon compliance with all the requirements as may be prescribed by the Board and the Commission.

SECTION 20. Automatic exemption from Examination for Microbiologists. Holders of Master of Science (MS) or Doctoral Degree in Microbiology or related fields from an HEI duly recognized by the CHED, may apply for exemption as microbiologists without examination from the Board. They must submit a copy of undergraduate and graduate diplomas, transcripts and cover pages of MS Thesis /Doctoral Dissertation: Provided, such individual must show evidence he/she has been active in the practice of microbiology for at least five (5) years.

SECTION 21. Registration Without Examination. – The Board shall register without examination any person who can present evidence or proof satisfactory to the Board that:

1. He/she is a Filipino citizen;
2. He/she is a person of good moral character;
3. He/she has twenty-four (24) units of microbiology from an HEI duly recognized by the CHED, passed certification exam conducted by reputable, well established and long-standing professional organization in microbiology *or its equivalencies* in the practice of Microbiology as assessed by the Board and has been actively

practicing microbiology for at least five (5) years. For this purpose, *equivalencies* shall refer to activities which may include, but not be limited to participation/attendance to trainings, scientific conferences/symposia in microbiology in the last 5 years, research publications as prescribed by the Board or national research awards in microbiology, recognized innovations or solutions to microbiological problems in industry.

All qualified applicants must apply for registration within two (2) years from the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act. Thereafter, anyone who wants to be registered will have to take the examination, and those who are exempted under Section 26 of this Act.

SECTION 22. Refusal to Register. - The Board shall refuse to issue the Certificate of Registration to those who have been:

1. Convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisprudence;
2. Found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after due investigation by the Board;
3. Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the general instructions to examinees by the Board; and
4. Declared to be of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisprudence.

In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth the reasons therefor and shall file a copy thereof in its records.

SECTION 23. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration. - The Board shall have the power, after giving proper notice and hearing to the party concerned, to suspend or revoke the practitioner's certificate of registration, or to cancel the special temporary permit granted to a foreigner microbiologist, for any of the grounds or causes cited in Section 22 of this Act, except (3) thereof, or on any of the following grounds:

1. Violation of any provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, Code of Good Governance, Code of Technical Standards for the Practice of Microbiology, or other policy measure of the Board or the Commission;
2. Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining one's Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card, or Special Temporary Permit;
3. Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death, injury or damage;
4. Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and non-licensed person by allowing another to use one's Certificate of Registration or Professional Identification Card, or both, or Special Temporary Permit;
5. Practicing the profession during suspension from the practice; or
6. Proven addiction to drug or alcohol, impairing one's ability to practice the profession, or declared with unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction. In case of drug or alcohol addiction, a finding to this effect of a medical or drug testing facility shall be sufficient.

Any person, firm or association may file charges in accordance with the provision of this section against any registrant, or the Board may, on its own, investigate any of the above-mentioned violations. An affidavit-complaint shall be filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary evidence with the Board, through the Legal Service Office. The Board may conduct an investigation, *motu proprio*, on a matter relating to the commission of a violation: *Provided*, that such decision to investigate shall be embodied in a formal charge to be signed by at least majority of its members. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern the hearing or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act No. 8981 and the Rules of Court.

SECTION 24. Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration, Replacement of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or Special

Temporary Permit. – The Board may, upon petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked Certificate of Registration after two (2) years from the effectivity of the period for revocation, which is the date of surrender of the Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card if still valid, to the Board and the Commission. The Board may not require the holder thereof to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall prove to the Board that there are valid reasons to practice the profession. The Board shall issue a Board Resolution granting the petition, subject to the approval of the Commission.

In the case of a lost or damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or Special Temporary Permit, the replacement may be issued upon application of the valid license holder in accordance with the prescribed procedure and subject to the payment of the prescribed fees.

SECTION 25. Renewal of Professional Identification Card. - The Professional Identification Card shall be renewed every three (3) years upon satisfying the requirements imposed by the Board, such as compliance with a CPD and payment of the corresponding fees.

SECTION 26. Roster of Microbiologists. - The Professional Registry Division of the Commission shall keep a roster of duly registered and licensed microbiologists, indicating their names, registration numbers, and other pertinent information. The Board shall regularly update such roster and make it available to all interested parties subject to the provisions of R. A. No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

SECTION 27. Practice of Microbiology in other Professions Registered with the Professional Regulation Commission. - In synergy and convergence with other professions regulated by the Commission where microbiology is an essential component of their practice, Doctors of Medicine, Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, Medical Technologists, Agriculturists, Pharmacists, and Food Technologists, among others, shall continue to practice microbiology without need of registering under this Act.

SECTION 28. Practice through issuance of Special Temporary Permits. - Without prejudice to the existing laws on the practice of professions by foreigners in the

Philippines, and subject to the approval of the Commission and payment of fees, the Board may issue a special temporary permit to practice microbiology in the Philippines to the following:

1. Foreign registered and/or licensed microbiologist or a recognized expert in microbiology called in by the Philippine government or private institutions for consultation or for any specific activity; and
2. Foreign registered and/or licensed microbiologist who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of specialization, and who are either directly hired or employed as professors/lecturers/instructors in Microbiology by Philippine schools, colleges, universities or research institutions; *Provided*, That their practice of the profession shall be limited to the particular work for which they have been commissioned; *Provided* further, that the special temporary permit shall be valid for a maximum period of one (1) year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Board and the Commission.

ARTICLE V

PRACTICE OF MICROBIOLOGY

SECTION 29. Prohibitions and Limitations in the Practice of Microbiology. - No person shall offer him/herself in the Philippines as a microbiologist without a valid Certificate of Registration and valid Professional Identification, or a valid Special Temporary Permit; or make use of any word, letter, figure or sign whatsoever, tending to convey the impression that he/she is a microbiologist, or advertise that he/she is qualified to perform the work as such, without holding a valid Certificate of Registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act, except as provided under Section 27 hereof. However, persons occupying positions as microbiologists shall be allowed to practice for two (2) years after the promulgation of this Act. After which, they shall take the licensure exam in order to continue practicing as microbiologists.

SECTION 30. Code of Ethics. - The Board, in consultation with the APO, shall formulate the Code of Ethics for Microbiology.

SECTION 31. Foreign Reciprocity. - No foreign microbiologist shall be admitted to the examination unless the country in which he/she is a citizen specifically permits Filipino microbiologists to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the citizens of such foreign state or country.

ARTICLE VI

PENAL AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 32. Penal Clause. -Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be imposed with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000), or with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than five (5) years, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 33. Funding Provisions. - The savings from any item of appropriations of the Commission shall be utilized for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 34. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations within ninety (90) days, to carry out the provisions of this Act, and which shall be effective fifteen (15) working days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) major newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

SECTION 35. Separability Clause. If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other provision, section, or part hereof, but shall be merely confined to the provision, section, or part thereof that is directly involved in the issue upon which judgment has been rendered.

SECTION 36. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Provided, however, That nothing in this Act shall be

construed as repealing or amending any portion of the laws of other professions regulated by Commission.

SECTION 37. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official Gazette.

APPROVED.