

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6639

Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sanitarians or sanitary inspectors play an indispensable role in addressing the health hazards and dangers that may put the community at risk. They are in a crucial position to effect change in the sanitary habits and practices of the community. They are also the ones to translate sanitary principles and theories as well as disseminate and explain health rules to the community.

Thus, sanitarians are considered as one of the frontliners of the government in the prevention and control of spread of diseases in the community. However, there is no government agency tasked to regulate the practice of sanitation and hygiene. Such absence of strict supervision may endanger the health of the public.

This bill seeks to acknowledge the vital work of sanitarians by granting them a professional status. This aims to establish a Board under the Professional Regulation Commission that shall professionalize the practice of sanitation and hygiene. This measure shall also institute mechanisms to guarantee the fitness of individuals engaged with the sanitation profession.

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

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION, SUPERVISION AND
PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE, LICENSING AND
REGISTRATION OF SANITARIANS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**— This Act shall be known as the “Sanitarians
2 Professionalization Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 recognize the vital role of sanitarians in promoting the health and general welfare of the
6 people. Towards this end, the State shall ensure and promote the professionalization of
7 sanitary inspection, its development and promotion, supervision and licensing of sanitary
8 inspectors/sanitarians.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For this purpose of this Act:

11
12 (a) *Sanitation and Hygiene Profession or Practice of Sanitation and Hygiene* refers to
13 the profession concerned primarily with education, prevention and control of
14 diseases and other public health concerns using scientific methods and
15 paramedical measures related to sanitation and hygiene;

16
17 (b) *Sanitarians* refer to any person engaged in the practice of Sanitation and Hygiene
18 Profession. This can be used interchangeably with the term “Sanitary Inspector”
19 currently used by the government in the classification of position title;

20
21 (c) *Board* refers to the Board for Sanitarians duly established and constituted under
22 this Act;

1
2 (d) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission.
3

4 **SEC. 4. Description and Scope of Work of Sanitary Inspectors.** – The Sanitary
5 Inspectors' field of work shall involve the education and research, technical supervision,
6 inspection of establishment and public places, monitoring, issuance of permits, control and
7 prevention in the fields of the following:
8

9 (a) Waste management;
10

11 (b) Food and water supply sanitation;
12

13 (c) Vermin and vector control;
14

15 (d) Industrial hygiene;
16

17 (e) Epidemiology;
18

19 (f) Pollution control;
20

21 (g) Environmental health planning and program development and implementation;
22 and
23

24 (h) Other community level activities that pertain to public hygiene.
25

26 **SEC. 5. Creation and Composition of the Board.** – Within sixty (60) days after the
27 approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board for Professional Sanitary Inspectors, a
28 collegial body under the general supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission,
29 herein referred to as the Board, to be composed of a Chairman and three (3) members, who
30 shall be appointed by the President among the recommendees chosen from the list of
31 nominees selected by the accredited association of Sanitary Inspectors, *Provided*, that the
32 members of the First Board appointed shall be automatically registered as Sanitarians and
33 issued with certificate of registration and professional license upon payment of the fees for
34 registration and other fees prescribed by the Commission.
35

36 The Chairman and the members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3)
37 years or until the successor shall have been appointed and shall have duly qualified. The first
38 members of the Board shall hold office for the following terms: one member for one (1) year;
39 one member for two (2) years; one member for three (3) years. Each member of the Board
40 shall qualify upon taking the proper oath of office before entering the performance of his
41 duties. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term.
42

43 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board.** – The Board shall have the following
44 powers and duties:

- 1
- 2 (a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying out
3 the provisions of this Act in accordance with the charter of the Professional
4 Regulation Commission;
- 5
- 6 (b) Prepare a curriculum for the sanitation and hygiene degree to be officially known as
7 the “Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene” (BSSH) and prescribe the syllabi
8 of the subjects and their relative weight in the licensure examination;
- 9
- 10 (c) Prepare examination questions and determine and fix the frequency, dates and places
11 of examination, appoint supervisors, proctors and other personnel as needed who shall
12 be entitled a daily allowance as determined by the Board;
- 13
- 14 (d) Issue, suspend or revoke certification of registration for the practice of sanitation and
15 hygiene;
- 16
- 17 (e) Promulgate rules and regulations including a Code of Ethics, administrative policies,
18 orders and issuances to carry out the provisions of this Act;
- 19
- 20 (f) Administer oaths in connection with the administrative of this Act;
- 21
- 22 (g) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of professional
23 sanitation in the Philippines;
- 24
- 25 (h) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 26
- 27 (i) Investigate the violations of this Act; and
- 28
- 29 (j) Discharge such other powers, duties and functions as the Board may deem necessary
30 for the practice of the sanitation and hygiene profession and upgrading, enhancement,
31 development and growth of sanitarians.
- 32

33 **SEC. 7. Qualification of Chairman and Board Members.** – The Chairman and each
34 member of the Board must possess the following at the time of his appointment:

- 35
- 36 (a) Be a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least five (5) consecutive
37 years;
- 38
- 39 (b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity and high moral turpitude;
- 40
- 41 (c) Not have been convicted by final judgment by any Court of competent authority of
42 any offense involving moral turpitude;
- 43

- 1 (d) Be a holder of degree of Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene (BSSH) and
2 its equivalent from a university, school, college, academy or institutions duly
3 constituted, recognized and accredited by the Philippine government: *Provided*, that
4 this provision shall not apply within the first fifteen (15) years after the approval of
5 this Act;
- 6
- 7 (e) Be a registered Sanitarian with a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid license
8 to practice sanitation and hygiene;
- 9
- 10 (f) Have practiced sanitation and hygiene for a period of not less than ten (10) years prior
11 to his appointment; and
- 12
- 13 (g) Not an official member of the faculty, nor have a pecuniary interest in any university,
14 college, school or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in sanitation and hygiene
15 or its equivalent for at least three (3) years prior to his appointment, nor connected
16 with any review center or with any group where lectures in preparation for the
17 licensure examination are offered or conducted.

18

19 **SEC. 8. Removal of the Members of the Board.** – The Chairman and any member of
20 the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of
21 the Commissioner for neglect of duty, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral or
22 dishonorable conduct, commission or tolerance of anomalies in the examination, after having
23 been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation.

24

25 **SEC. 9. Compensation of the Chairman and the Board Members.** – The Chairman
26 and the members of the Board shall receive compensation comparable received by existing
27 regulatory boards under the Professional Regulation Commission, compute in the basis of the
28 number of examinees or candidates.

29

30 **SEC. 10. Supervision of the Board and Custodian of its Records.** – The
31 Commissioner shall be the executive officer of the Board and shall conduct the examination
32 given by the Board. He shall designate any subordinate officer of the Commission to act as
33 Secretary and Custodian of all records including all examination papers and minutes of the
34 deliberations of the Board.

35

36 **SEC. 11. Examination, Registration and Licensed Required.** – Except as otherwise
37 specifically allowed under the provisions of this Act, all applicants for registration as
38 professional sanitarian shall be required to undergo a written examination which shall be at
39 least once a year in such places and on dates as the Board may determine upon approval by
40 the Commission. A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the
41 Commission shall be required before any person is allowed to practice sanitation and hygiene
42 in the Philippines except as otherwise allowed under this Act.

1 **SEC. 12. *Examination Fees.*** – All applicants for written examination for registered
2 sanitary inspectors shall be subject to payment of fees prescribed by the Commission.
3

4 **SEC. 13. *Scope of Examination.*** – The examination to be given to the applicants for
5 licensure shall include the Code of Sanitation and its implementing rules and regulations
6 together with topics on Arithmetic, Chemistry, Biology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Bio-
7 Statistics and Epidemiology, Food and Milk Sanitation, Household and Industrial Hygiene,
8 Waste Management, Environmental Health Planning, Pollution Assessment and Control,
9 Occupational Health, Practical Problems and others as determined by the Board.
10

11 **SEC. 14. *Qualification Requirements of Applicants.*** – No applicant shall be
12 permitted to take the examination unless, on the date of filing of the application, he shall have
13 the established to the satisfaction of the members of the Board that he possesses the following
14 qualifications:
15

- 16 (a) A citizen of the Republic of the Philippines or an alien whose country has
17 reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of sanitation and hygiene;
18
- 19 (b) At least twenty (20) years of age;
20
- 21 (c) Possesses good health condition and have good reputation with high moral values;
22 *Provided*, that he/she has not finally been convicted by final judgment by any
23 Court of competent authority, of any offense involving moral turpitude; and
24
- 25 (d) A holder of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Sanitation and Hygiene or its
26 equivalent from a university, college, school, academy or institution duly
27 constituted, recognized and accredited by the Philippine government. Toward this
28 end, all government universities and state colleges are encouraged to offer this
29 course.
30

31 **SEC. 15. *Results of Examination.*** – The Board shall within One Hundred Twenty
32 (120) days after the examination shall report the ratings obtained by each candidate to the
33 Commission.
34

35 **SEC. 16. *Re-examination.*** – An applicant who for the third time fails to pass the
36 examination, shall not be allowed to take another examination, except upon showing to the
37 members of the Board a certificate of attendance of review classes and a certificate fully
38 signed by the proctors that he obtained at least a grade of seventy percent (70%) in all the
39 review examinations.
40

41 **SEC. 17. *Oath.*** – All successful candidates in the examination shall be required to
42 take a professional oath before the Board.
43

1 **SEC. 18. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Licenses.** – The
2 registration as a Sanitarian shall commence from the date his name is entered in the roll of
3 registrants or licenses for his profession. A professional license signed by the Commission
4 and bearing the registration number and date of issuance and date of expiry shall be issued to
5 every registrant who has paid the annual registration fee for three (3) consecutive years. This
6 license shall serve as evidence that the license can lawfully practice his profession until the
7 date of expiry.
8

9 **SEC. 19. Integration of the Sanitary Profession.** – The sanitary profession shall be
10 integrated into one national organization which shall be recognized by the Board as the sole
11 integrated and accredited association of registered sanitarians. Membership in the integrated
12 organization shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations.
13

14 **SEC. 20. Revocation of the Certificate of Registration, Suspension from the
15 Practice of the Sanitary Profession and Cancellation of Temporary or Special Permit.** –
16 The Board shall have the power, upon proper notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the
17 certification of any registrant, to reprimand or to cancel the temporary/special permit of a
18 holder thereof who is exempt from registration, for any of the following causes: Conviction
19 for any criminal offense involving moral turpitude by any Court of competent authority;
20 immoral, unprofessional and dishonorable conduct; violation of any of the provisions of this
21 Act, rules and regulations and other policies of the Board and the Code of Professional
22 Ethics; declaration by a court of competent authority for being mentally unsound or insane;
23 chronic inebriety or habitual use of drugs and malpractice of the profession.
24

25 The decision of the Board to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be final and
26 executory unless appealed by the respondent to the Commission within fifteen (15) days from
27 the receipt of such decision. The decision of the Commission or Board is appealable by the
28 respondent to the Regional Trial Court of the place where the Board or Commission holds
29 office within twenty (20) days from receipt of said decision or of the denial of the motion for
30 reconsideration filed in due time.
31

32 **SEC. 21. Re-issuance of Revoked Certificates and Replacement of Lost Certificates.**
33 – Subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, the Board may after
34 one (1) year after the revocation of the Certificate of Registration, re-issue such certificate in
35 the same manner as an application for an original one. It may however, exempt the applicant
36 from the necessity of undergoing an examination. A new certificate of registration may be
37 issued to replace any certificate that has been lost, destroyed or mutilated subject to the rules
38 issued by the Board.
39

40 **SEC. 22. Roster of Professional Sanitarians.** – A roster of professional sanitarians
41 containing the names and addresses of the professional sanitarian, date of registration or
42 issuance of certificate and other data which in the opinion of the Board is pertinent shall be
43 maintained. Copies of the roster shall be provided by the Commissioner to the Board, the

1 Department of Education and the integrated and accredited organization of professional
2 sanitarians.

3

4 **SEC. 23. *Field of Practice.*** – The field of practice for sanitarians shall include the
5 sole authority to sign and seal sanitary plans and other pertinent matter related to the practice
6 of sanitation and hygiene, in its full scope as defined in this Act.

7

8 **SEC. 24. *Prohibition against the Practice of the Sanitation and Hygiene***
9 ***Profession.*** – Except as otherwise provided under this Act, no person shall practice or offer to
10 practice the Sanitation and Hygiene Profession in the Philippines without having previously
11 obtained a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license from the
12 Commission.

13

14 **SEC. 25. *Personnel Required.*** – Except as otherwise provided under this Act, every
15 industrial plant or factory, commercial establishment or any government institution which
16 shall require the services of a sanitarian, shall only employ a duly registered sanitarian to
17 ensure safe operation and to safeguard the public welfare, health and hygiene.

18

19 **SEC. 26. *Enforcement of the Act by Officers of the Law.*** – It shall be the duty of all
20 constituted officers of the law of the National Government or any provincial, city or
21 municipal government to prosecute any person violating the provisions of this Act. The
22 Secretary of Justice or his assistant shall act as legal adviser of the Board and render such
23 legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

24

25 **SEC. 27. *Penalties.*** – Any person who shall violate any provisions of this Act shall be
26 guilty of misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to a fine of not more than
27 Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) but not less than One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos
28 (P150,000.00) and/or imprisonment for a period not less than Thirty (30) days but not more
29 than two (2) years at the discretion of the court.

30

31 **SEC. 28. *Appropriations.*** – The sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is
32 hereby initially appropriated out of any of the funds in the National Treasury not otherwise
33 appropriated, to be disbursed by the Chairman of the Board in accordance with the provisions
34 of this Act. Thereafter, it shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

35

36 **SEC. 29. *Implementing Guidelines.*** – The Board shall formulate and adopt the
37 necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act within
38 ninety (90) days of its approval.

39

40 **SEC. 30. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
41 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in force
42 and effect.

1 **SEC. 31. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and
2 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
3

4 **SEC. 32. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,