

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 1567

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Introduced by **HONORABLE ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS QUALITY**  
**HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 9173 or "The Philippine Nursing Act of 2002" covers the practice of nursing profession in the Philippines. At present, there are some 397 higher education institutions offering BS Nursing Program from which some 77, 349 graduated out of 243, 258 students who enrolled from 2014 to 2018.

However, despite the seemingly large number of nursing graduates, there is a continuous decrease in the results of the Philippine Nurse Licensure Exam, hence from 2014 to 2018, the national passing rate decreased from 47.46% in 2014 to 41.71% in 2018.

The Department of Health Standards of nurse to patient ratio is 1:12 but in the Philippines the nurse to patient ratio ranges from 1:50 to 1:80, thus due to the shortage of competent nurses, 7 out of 10 Filipinos die without ever seeing a health professional.

This bill seeks to improve the nursing profession in the Philippines by incorporating measures which will develop not only the foundational skills for health care but it also includes education, service, research, leadership and governance for nurses. The Philippine Nursing Profession must constantly respond to both local and global demands and standards through continuous development not only of the usual health care services but also of the other aspects that go with it.

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

  
**ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA**  
*Representative*  
Lone District, Province of Aurora

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS QUALITY  
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**ARTICLE I  
General Provisions**

Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Comprehensive Nursing Law of 2019.*"

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the state to uphold the dignity of the nurses and assume responsibility for the protection, respect, and improvement of the nursing profession by insisting measures towards competent and relevant nursing practice for health and safety of the public, just and humane conditions of work, and promotion of professional growth. Thus, the State recognizes nurses as prime movers of national development and contributors to international cooperation and understanding.

The State further guarantees the delivery of accessible, affordable, and available quality health care to all the people through implementation of adequate and competent Nursing Personnel System (NPS) throughout the country.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms when used in this Act shall mean:

- (a) *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to a professional organization of nurses duly accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission as per Republic Act No. 8981;
- (b) *Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)* refers to a nurse who acquired substantial theoretical knowledge and decision making skills in the specialty area of nursing practice and proficient clinical utilization of this knowledge in implementing

- 1 independent and inter-dependent nursing interventions. Specialties can be  
2 differentiated in categories, according to function, disease, pathology, systems,  
3 age, sex, acuity, setting, technology, and therapies. They must be given  
4 certification/credentialing by the Board. An APN must be a master's degree holder  
5 in nursing;
- 6 (c) *Bachelor of Science in Nursing* (BSN) refers to the basic program for nursing  
7 education;
- 8 (d) *Certification/Credentialing* refers to process undertaken by an individual nurse to  
9 be recognized to practice in a specifically defined professional tract i.e. General  
10 Nursing, Nursing Specialty/Advanced Practice, Nursing Education, and Leadership  
11 and Governance. The Board confers the certification or credential after a validation  
12 process based on promulgated guidelines and mechanisms;
- 13 (e) *Commission on Higher Education* (CHED) refers to the body created by law to  
14 promulgate policies, standards and guidelines in the implementation of basic and  
15 graduate program for nursing education;
- 16 (f) *Health Facility* refers to an institution, establishment, clinic that offers health  
17 services and nursing care, such as hospitals, barangay health centers, and clinics;
- 18 (g) *Nurse*, as provided for in this Act, refers to a person who passed the Philippine  
19 Nurse Licensure Exams (PNLE) and whose license has not been revoked by the  
20 law. Thus, it pertains to a Registered Nurse (RN). A nurse may append before  
21 his/her name the title "Nurse," "Nars" or "Nrs." or after his/her name the title R.N.;
- 22 (h) *Nursing Personnel System* (NPS) refers to a system of human resource  
23 management in an institution that classifies the structure, organization, and  
24 coordination within the workforce both in private and public health care facilities  
25 and nursing educational institutions to advance the welfare and protect the rights  
26 of the nurses and to ensure the employer-employee relationship, security of  
27 tenure, just compensation, humane conditions of work and professional growth;
- 28 (i) *Philippine Nurse Licensure Exam* (PNLE) refers to the written examination given  
29 by the Board in order to obtain license to practice nursing;
- 30 (j) *Precarious Work* is the term used to describe substandard employment conditions,  
31 such as under-payment, absence of salary, no security of tenure, lack of employer  
32 – employee relationship, no benefits, poor working conditions; and, deviation from  
33 the standard employment relationships, such as contractual, false volunteerism,  
34 job orders thru agencies, part time, self-employment, fixed term work, temporary,  
35 on call, home workers, call center jobs, few benefits, lack of collective bargaining  
36 representation, and no job security;

- 1 (k) *Professional Regulation Commission* (PRC) refers to the government agency  
2 pursuant to Republic Act No. 8981 or as may hereafter be amended or repealed.  
3 It shall be referred to in this law as the Commission;
- 4 (l) *Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing* (PRBON) refers to the administrative  
5 body created by law to supervise and regulate the practice of the nursing  
6 profession in the Philippines. As such, the Board shall be the ultimate authority in  
7 the practice of the profession in the Philippines. It shall be referred to in this law  
8 as the Board;
- 9 (m) *Public Health Institution* (PH) refers to any government-led, owned or controlled  
10 institutions which pursues and realizes the lofty goals and objectives of providing  
11 and managing safe, efficient, effective and quality public health programs and  
12 services and advocacies for health, in all levels of the Health Care Delivery System  
13 (HCDS – national to local) which include among others: Rural Health Units  
14 (RHUs/Barangay Health Centers); Research Facilities e.g. Research Institute for  
15 Tropical Medicine, etcetera; Training Resource Facilities e.g. the UP College of  
16 Public Health and State or Local Colleges or Universities offering Health-Related  
17 Programs; the Department of Health and all retained Health Facilities, and the like;
- 18 (n) *Special Permit* refers to the permit to practice nursing in the Philippines issued by  
19 the Board to licensed nurses of foreign nationalities; and
- 20 (o) *Temporary Permit* refers to the permit to practice nursing in the Philippines issued  
21 by the Board to Filipino nurses, who does not have a professional license from the  
22 Philippines or have not renewed their license for five (5) years, but are licensed  
23 from foreign countries.

## 24 **ARTICLE II**

### 25 **Board of Nursing**

26 Sec. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board.* – There shall be created a  
27 Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing composed of seven (7) members who shall elect  
28 among themselves a Chairperson to serve for one (1) term, without a re-election. The  
29 President of the Republic of the Philippines shall appoint the members of the Board from  
30 among those recommended by the Commission and ranked from a list of three (3)  
31 nominees, per vacancy, of the accredited integrated professional organization of nurses  
32 in the Philippines and who possess the qualifications in this Act: *Provided, That* the  
33 membership of the Board shall comprise the scope of nursing practice.

34 Sec. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* – The members of the Board  
35 must possess the following qualifications:

- 1 (a) Must be a natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines for the past five (5)  
2 consecutive years;
- 3 (b) Must be a Nurse in the Philippines and a holder of a valid and updated certificate  
4 of registration and a current professional identification card;
- 5 (c) Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing and preferably with a doctorate  
6 degree conferred by a university duly recognized by the government;
- 7 (d) Must have at least ten (10) years of continuous practice of the nursing profession  
8 prior to appointment: *Provided, however, That the last five (5) years of which must*  
9 *be in the Philippines; and*
- 10 (e) Must be of good moral and has not been convicted of any offense involving moral  
11 turpitude.

12 *Sec. 6. Prohibition as Member of the Board.* – A member of the Board shall not  
13 hold a position nor have pecuniary interest in any educational institution offering BSN,  
14 any review or training center for PNLE, training hospitals and health facilities with nursing  
15 affiliates.

16 *Sec. 7. Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of  
17 three (3) years. Any member of the Board may serve for two (2) terms or a maximum of  
18 six (6) years.

19 *Sec. 8. Vacancy.* – Any vacancy in the Board must be filled in the manner  
20 prescribed in this Act and only for the unexpired portion of the term. Each member of the  
21 Board shall take the proper oath of office prior to the performance of duties.

22 *Sec. 9. Compensation.* – The members of the Board shall receive compensation  
23 and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by the  
24 members of other regulatory boards.

25 *Sec. 10. Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records,*  
26 *Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the administrative  
27 supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for  
28 examinations, administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board must  
29 be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary  
30 of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement  
31 the provisions of this Act.

32 *Sec. 11. Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall supervise and regulate  
33 the practice of the nursing profession and shall have the following powers, duties and  
34 functions:

- 35 (a) Ensure the proper conduct of the PNLE, which includes the application, test  
36 development, examination, correction and release of results. The use of

- appropriate technologies and modalities during the conduct of the PNLE is encouraged to enhance efficiency while upholding integrity;
- (b) Issue, suspend, revoke or reissue certificates of registration for the practice of nursing and ensure the widest publication through electronic and written media;
- (c) Enforce and monitor safe and quality standards of nursing practice, study the conditions affecting the nursing practice in the Philippines, and exercise the powers necessary to ensure the maintenance of efficient, ethico-moral, technical and professional standards in the practice of nursing towards the optimal health and common good of the nation;
- (d) Ensure quality nursing education by examining and monitoring higher educational institutions offering and seeking permission to open nursing education programs and to ensure that standards of nursing education are properly complied with and maintained at all times: *Provided, That the Board and the CHED shall have joint authority to open and close nursing education programs offered by higher educational institutions;*
- (e) Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against actively practicing nurses for unethical and unprofessional conduct and violations of this Act, or its rules and regulations and in connection therewith, issue *subpoena duces tecum* and *subpoena ad testificandum* to require the appearance of respondents and witnesses and the production of documents and penalize with contempt persons obstructing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the conduct of such proceedings, upon application with the Board of Nursing;
- (f) Promulgate a Code of Ethics that is responsive to the needs of the nursing profession in coordination with the AIPO of nurses within a year from the effectivity of this Act;
- (g) Prescribe and operationalize, via necessary infrastructures, a National Nursing Career Progression Program to ensure continuing professional development of Filipino nurses, create the Council for Nursing Advancement, Recognition, and Specialization as well as the various Nursing Specialty Boards to assist the Board for this purpose;
- (h) Ensure performance of mandated duties and functions with the provision of operational resources including human, financial and spatial resources to ensure the confidentiality and sanctity of their functions as provided through the annual budget of the Commission as promulgated in the General Appropriations Act;
- (i) Source and utilize funds earmarked for national nursing development;

- 1 (j) Prescribe, adopt, issue and promulgate guidelines, regulations, measures and  
2 influence authorities and agencies on decision-making as may be necessary for the  
3 improvement of nursing practice, advancement of the profession and for the  
4 proper and full enforcement of this Act, subject to review and approval by  
5 Commission; and
- 6 (k) Create a council for nursing recognition, accreditation and certification that will  
7 assist the Board in:
- 8 i. Recognizing organized nursing groups;  
9 ii. Setting standards for advanced nursing practice, education, research and  
10 management;  
11 iii. Accrediting specialty and advanced nursing programs based on established  
12 mechanisms;  
13 iv. Credentialing individual registered nurse based on accepted criteria; and  
14 v. Monitoring and evaluating specialty and advanced nursing practice, education,  
15 research and management.

16 **Sec. 12. *Annual Report.*** – The Board shall, at the close of its calendar year, submit  
17 an annual report to the President and Congress of the Philippines through the Commission  
18 giving a detailed account of its proceedings and the accomplishments during the year and  
19 making recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve  
20 the conditions affecting the practice of the nursing profession.

21 **Sec. 13. *Removal or Suspension of Board Members.*** – The President may remove  
22 or suspend any member of the board, after due process, on the following grounds:

- 23 (a) Continued neglect of duty or incompetence;  
24 (b) Commission or toleration of irregularities in the PNLE; and,  
25 (c) Unprofessional, immoral or dishonorable conduct.

### 26 **ARTICLE III**

#### 27 **Examination and Registration**

28 **Sec. 14. *Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination (PNLE).*** – In order to obtain a  
29 certificate of registration, professional license, and professional identification card, all  
30 nursing graduates must take and pass the PNLE. The Board shall administer the PNLE in  
31 such place and date as designated by the Commission: *Provided,* That no nursing  
32 educational institution may withhold any requirement or documents, or both, of any  
33 nursing graduate for the purpose of preventing them to apply for the PNLE. All nursing  
34 educational institution must ensure that their nursing graduates will take the nearest  
35 scheduled PNLE after graduation. Any delay in taking the PNEL must be accordingly



justified by the President, Registrar or Dean of the educational institution through a public instrument.

Sec. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The board shall determine the scope of the PNLE by taking into consideration the nursing core competencies, the nursing curriculum, the scope and areas of nursing practice, and other related disciplines.

Sec. 16. *Qualifications for Admission to the PNLE.* – In order to be admitted to the PNLE, an applicant:

- (a) Must be a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a recognized educational institution that complies with the standards of nursing education duly recognized by CHED;
- (b) Must be of good moral character and have not been convicted, by final judgment, of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct, or any person declared by the court to be of unsound mind; and,
- (c) Must be a citizen of the Philippines, or a citizen or subject of a country which permits Filipino nurses to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subject or citizen of such country: *Provided,* That the requirements for the registration or licensing of nurses in said countries are substantially the same as those prescribed in this Act.

Sec. 17. *Fees for Examination and Registration.* – Applicants for licensure and for registration must pay the prescribed fees set by the Commission.

Sec. 18. *Ratings.* – In order to pass the PNLE, an examinee must obtain at least seventy-five percent (75%) of tested areas of all competencies. An examinee who has failed the PNLE three (3) times shall not be allowed to take any further PNLE, without having undertaken a refresher program in a duly accredited institution. The board shall issue guidelines on the refresher program requirement.

Sec. 19. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration, Professional License and Professional Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration and professional license shall be issued to all successful examinees, subject to Section 14 of this Article. A certificate of registration and professional license shall show the full name of the registrant, the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission, and the members of the Board. The certificate shall bear the logo of the Board and the official seal of the Commission.

The Commission shall likewise issue the professional identification card. The card must bear the following: full name of the registrant nurse, the serial number, the date of



1 issuance and expiration, the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission, date of  
2 registration.

3       Sec. 20. *Oath of Profession.* – All successful examinees must take an oath of  
4 profession before the Board or any government official authorized to administer oaths  
5 prior to entering upon the nursing practice.

6       Sec. 21. *Roster of Nurses.* – The Commission shall maintain a roster of names  
7 pursuant to the PRC Automated System. The Roster of Nurses shall serve as the  
8 centralized database for nursing professionals for purposes of documentation, verification  
9 of registrants, statistics, research, and development.

10       Sec. 22. *Integration of the Nursing Profession.* – The nursing profession shall be  
11 integrated into one (1) national professional organization of nurses that is duly registered  
12 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The board, subject to approval by  
13 the commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only Accreditation  
14 Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered nurses. All nurses whose names  
15 appear in the Registry Book of Nurses shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members  
16 thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon  
17 payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

18       Members in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not  
19 be a bar to membership in other nursing organizations.

20       Sec. 23. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign nurse shall be given a certificate of  
21 registration/professional license and professional identification card or be entitled to any  
22 privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which the foreign nurses is a  
23 subject or citizen permits Filipino nurses to practice within its territorial limits on the same  
24 basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

25       Sec. 24. *Practice through Special or Temporary Permit.* – The Board may issue a  
26 special or temporary permit to the following persons based on qualification, and  
27 professional and moral standards as approved by the Commission: *Provided,* That a  
28 completion report will be submitted to the Commission after every mission, to wit:

- 29       (a) Licensed nurses from foreign countries whose services are either for a fee or free  
30       if they are internationally well-known specialists or outstanding experts in any  
31       branch or specialty of nursing;
- 32       (b) Licensed nurses from foreign countries on medical mission whose services shall be  
33       free in particular hospital, center or clinic;
- 34       (c) Licensed nurses from foreign countries who are engaged by colleges/universities  
35       offering the nursing program as exchange professors in a branch or specialty of  
36       nursing; and,

(d) Licensed nurses from foreign countries who come to aid during declared disasters and calamities.

The special or temporary permit shall be effective only for the duration of the project, medical mission or engagement contract.

*Sec. 25. Non-registration and Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration, Professional License, Professional Identification Card, Special Permit or Temporary Permit.* – No person convicted by final judgment of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or any person guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or any person declared by the court to be of unsound mind may be registered and issued a certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, or a special temporary permit.

The Board shall furnish the applicant a written statement setting forth the reasons for the actions, which shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

*Sec. 26. Revocation and Suspension of Certificate of Registration, Professional License, and Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Special or Temporary Permit.* – The Board shall have the power to revoke or suspend the certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, or cancel the special or temporary permit of a nurse upon any of the following grounds:

- (a) Conviction, by final judgment, of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or any person declared by the court to be of unsound mind;
- (b) Violation of this Act, its policies, rules and regulations, and of the Philippine code of Ethics for Nurses;
- (c) Gross negligence, grave misconduct, ignorance, and incompetence in the nursing practice;
- (d) Fraud, concealment, misrepresentation, or false statements in obtaining a certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, special permit or temporary permit; or
- (e) Practice of the nursing profession pending suspension of license.

The suspension of the certificate of registration, professional license, and professional identification card, shall be for a period not to exceed four (4) years.

*Sec. 27. Reinstatement and Re-Issuance of Revoked Certificates of Registration, Professional License, and Professional Identification Card.* – The Board may, after the expiration of a maximum of four (4) years from the date of revocation of a certificate of registration, professional license, and professional identification card, for reasons of equity and justice, and when the cause for revocation has disappeared or has been cured

1 and corrected, upon proper application thereof and the payment of the required fees,  
2 reinstate and re-issue the certificate of registration, professional license and professional  
3 identification card.

#### 4 **ARTICLE IV**

#### 5 **Nursing Practice**

6 Sec. 28. *Nursing Practice.* – The administration of nursing care through the  
7 utilization of the nursing process: assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning,  
8 implementation, and evaluation. Nursing practice encompasses various stages of  
9 development towards the promotion of health, prevention of illness, health care  
10 techniques and procedures, restoration of health, alleviation of suffering, and end-of-life  
11 care, may it be performed independently or collaboratively.

12 Sec. 29. *Scope of Nursing Practice.* – The following are the scope of nursing  
13 practice: (1) nursing education; (2) nursing service; (3) nursing research; and, (4)  
14 nursing leadership and governance.

15 Sec. 30. *Nursing Care.* – Nursing Care includes, but is not limited to: the provision  
16 of physiological, psychological, spiritual, social and emotional care; essential health care,  
17 safety and comfort measures, health techniques; executing health care techniques and  
18 procedures; and, traditional and innovative approaches to individuals, families, population  
19 groups and communities from conception to death.

20 A nurse shall be deemed to be practicing nursing when he or she, for a fee, salary  
21 or compensation, singly or collaboratively, performs nursing care to individuals, families,  
22 population groups and communities.

23 Sec. 31. *Roles, Responsibilities, and Competencies of a Nurse.* – A nurse shall  
24 possess and exercise the core competencies in the performance of the roles and  
25 responsibilities, in accordance with the standards set by the Board.

26 Sec. 32. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD).* – All nurses shall abide by  
27 the requirements, rules and regulation on continuing professional development to be  
28 promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the approval of the commission, in  
29 coordination with the AIPO for nurses or any duly accredited education institutions. For  
30 the purpose, a CPD council is hereby created to implement the CPD program.

31 Sec. 33. *Requirement for Inactive Nurses Returning to Practice.* – Nurses are  
32 deemed to be inactive when:

33 (a) They are not utilizing nursing competencies as defined in the scope of nursing  
34 practice for five (5) consecutive years;

35 (b) They have not renewed their professional identification card for five (5) years;

36 and

(c) They do not have proof of five (5) years of continuous nursing practice.  
Inactive nurses are required to undergo one (1) month didactic training and three (3) months practicum in hospitals accredited by the Board.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Nursing Education**

**Sec. 34. *Nursing Education.*** – Refers to the formal learning and training in the science and art of nursing provided by higher educational institutions duly recognized by the CHED.

There shall be a standard of Basic and Graduate Program for Nursing Education which must be pursuant to the CHED Law (RA 7722).

**Sec. 35. *Basic Program for Nursing Education.*** – Refers to the nursing education program which envisions providing sound liberal and professional education and equips basic nursing students with the necessary competencies for entry-level safe and quality nursing practice.

Admission to the Basic Program for Nursing Education requires passing a National Nursing Admission Test (NNAT).

The curriculum and the Related Learning Experiences (RLE) must be in accordance with the National Nursing Core Competency Standards promulgated by the Board and implemented through the Policies, Standards, and Guidelines of the CHED.

**Sec. 36. *Graduate Program for Nursing Education.*** – Refers to the post baccalaureate nursing program, which builds on the experiences and skills of a nurse towards mastery, expertise, and leadership in practice, research and education. It includes a master's degree and doctorate degree in nursing founded on the philosophies and the scientific body of knowledge and practice.

Graduate Program for Nursing Education shall be offered only in higher educational institutions as prescribed by the prevailing CHED Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Graduate Education.

**Sec. 37. *Qualifications of the Dean.*** – The Dean of the College of Nursing (Dean) shall formulate policies, plans in collaboration with the administration/school officials and stakeholders. The Dean must adhere to the prescribed curriculum for the advancement of nursing education.

The Dean:

- (a) Must be a holder of a certificate of registration and a current professional identification card issued by the Commission;

- (b) Must have the appropriate certificate of nursing proficiency, or its equivalent, to be issued by the PRBON;
- (c) Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing, conferred by a university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines;
- (d) Must have at least five (5) years of experience in teaching and supervision in Nursing Education; and
- (e) Must have at least three (3) years clinical experience in a general nursing service.

*Sec. 38. Qualifications of the Faculty. –*

(1) Basic Program for Nursing Education. – A member of the faculty in a College of Nursing teaching professional courses:

- a. Must be a registered nurse in the Philippines and holder of a certificate of registration and a current professional identification card issued by the Commission;
- b. Must have at least three (3) years nursing practice;
- c. Must be a holder of a master's degree in nursing, conferred by a university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; and
- d. Must have the appropriate certificate of nursing proficiency, or its equivalent, to be issued by the PRBON.

(2) Graduate Program for Nursing Education. – A member of the faculty teaching graduate professional courses:

- a. Must follow prescriptions 1 and 2 of basic nursing education; and
- b. Must be a holder of a doctoral degree in nursing conferred by a university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

*Sec. 39. Faculty-to-Student Ratio. –* The faculty-to-student ratio must be in accordance with the standard to be determined and prescribed by the CHED.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Nursing Service**

*Sec. 40. Nursing Service. –* Nursing Service is the promotion of health and prevention of illness which includes, but not limited to, nursing care provided by a nurse, either independently or collaboratively, to any individual, family or group in various health care settings.

Nursing Service shall include the following functions: (1) Provide health education to individuals, families and communities; (2) Ensure that information on healthy lifestyle are incorporated in his or her health teachings; (3) Seek opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle within his or her influence; (4) Accept that he or she is a role model for a healthy lifestyle; (5) Enable people to increase control over their health and to improve

health; (6) Build healthy public policy; (7) Create supportive environment; (8) Strengthen community action for health; and (9) Establish linkages with community resources and coordination of services with the health team.

**Sec. 41. *Nursing Interventions.*** – Nursing interventions include, but is not limited to: any or combination of essential primary health care, the application of traditional and innovative approaches, health counseling, and administration of written prescription for treatment, therapies, oral, topical, and parental medications, perform peripartal care covering pre-intra-postpartum care including the performance of internal examination during labor in the absence of antenatal bleeding, attend to normal delivery and suturing of perineal laceration and immediate care of the newborn; perform perioperative care covering pre-intra-post surgical care interventions; care during emergency and disaster.

**Sec. 42. *Health Interventions in Collaboration with Other Members of the Health Team.*** – In the various stages of nursing practice from promotion of health to end-of-life care, Nurses shall collaborate with other members of the health team.

**Sec. 43. *Advanced Practice Nursing.*** – Advanced Practice Nursing is the specialized and expanded nursing care pursuant to SEC. 46 hereof. Advanced Practice Nursing involves specialty training, through an Advanced Practice Nursing Program formulated by the concerned agencies with certification to be issued by the Board after passing the qualifying examination. A Registered Nurse (RN) who seeks to be an Advance Practice Nurse (APN) must have a master’s degree in Nursing.

## ARTICLE VII

## Nursing Research, Policy Development, and Planning

**Sec. 44. *Nursing Research and Policy Development.*** – Nursing Research and Policy Development shall involve study and pursuit of nurse related issues encompassing the following areas:

- (a) Professional nursing practice such as advancing nursing knowledge to ensure quality nursing care for all and advocacy for sound health policies globally;
- (b) Nursing regulation on credentialing, code of ethics, standards and competencies; and
- (c) Socio-economic welfare for nurses like occupational health and safety, human resources planning and policy, remuneration, career development.

Sec. 45. *Studies for Nursing Human Resource Needs, Production, Utilization and Development.* – The Board, in coordination with the accredited integrated professional organization of registered nurses and the appropriate government or private agencies shall initiate, undertake and conduct studies on healthcare human resources production, utilization and development.

Sec. 46. *Advanced Practice Nursing Program.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board in coordination with the accredited integrated professional organization of registered nurses, recognized specialty organizations, and the Department of Health (DOH) is hereby mandated to formulate and develop an Advanced Practice Nursing Program that would upgrade the level of skill and competence of specialty nurse clinicians in the country, such as, but not limited to, the areas of critical care, oncology, renal and such other areas as may be determined by the Board: *Provided,* That the beneficiaries of this program are obliged to serve in any Philippine hospital for a period of at least two (2) years of continuous service.

Sec. 47. *Salary.* – To enhance the general welfare, commitment to service, and professionalism of nurses, the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby directed to conduct a compensation study for the nursing profession, with the end view of developing and recommending to the President a competitive compensation and remuneration system for nurses.

Sec. 48. *Incentives and Benefits.* – The Board, in coordination with the DOH, other concerned government and non-government institutions, association of hospitals and the AIPO for registered nurses, shall establish an incentive and benefit system in the form of free hospital care for nurses and their dependents, scholarship grants and other non-cash benefits.

## ARTICLE VIII

## Nursing Leadership and Governance

Sec. 49. *Nursing Leadership.* – Nursing is a dynamic field that requires leaders who will go through the changing aspects of the health sector as they are part of the workforce that will toil and labor for the improvement of the health of the citizenry. Nurses adopt specific roles in organizational structure, from being the policy makers in health facilities and giving guidance to senior management on best practices in nursing and patient care. They work with healthcare leaders to establish compensation and benefit programs and are involved in nurse recruitment, training and retention. Thus, nurses in management positions shall develop patient-care programs, manage nursing budgets, plan new patient services, establish nursing policies and procedures, participate in cross-departmental decision making, conduct performance improvement activities and represents the scope of nursing practices at Board of director meetings and other stakeholder.

**Sec. 50. *Nursing Governance.*** – Governance in nursing practice is shifting from the traditional view that nurses are subordinate and passive employees towards having more proactive involvement of taking charge of the organization to be the antecedent in



1 decision making and implementation of plans and policies for the patients and  
2 communities. Governance in the practice of nursing shall empower each nurse in decision-  
3 making over their professional practice while extending their power and control over the  
4 administrative aspect of their practice.

5 **ARTICLE IX**

6 **Nursing Personnel System**

7 Sec. 51. *Nursing Personnel System.* – The nursing personnel system covers the  
8 following fields: nursing service administration in the hospital setting, community health  
9 practice, and the academe.

10 There shall be a nursing service office in every health institution, may it be  
11 administrative or clinical, with at least ten nurses. The nursing service office must be  
12 under the control and management of a chief nursing officer.

13 Sec. 52. *Ratio.* – The ratio of a staff nurse to a patient in a general nursing service  
14 or general ward of a hospital shall be set at least 1:12, in order to effectuate the quality  
15 nursing care for patients. There shall be a nurse for every barangay and industrial  
16 establishment: *Provided, That* the nurse shall supervise other health workers in the work  
17 area.

18 There shall be a nurse for every school, whether private or public, primary,  
19 secondary or tertiary, subject to the applicable ratio prescribed by the appropriate  
20 government agency.

21 Sec. 53. *Beginning Registered Nurse.* – A beginning registered nurse shall provide  
22 for safe and quality care to an individual, family, or group that is independent or provided  
23 as part of a team. The nurse must be able to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate the  
24 care provided to clients based on evidence derived from research.

25 A beginning registered nurse must have the following minimum qualifications:

- 26 (1) Must be a Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate from a higher educational  
27 institution recognized by the CHED;  
28 (2) Must be a registered nurse with current certificate of registration and professional  
29 identification card issued by the Commission;  
30 (3) Must be physically, mentally and psychologically fit to practice nursing; and  
31 (4) Must not be convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

32 Sec. 54. *Nursing Service Management.* – Nursing Service Management refers to  
33 the Management and Administration of Nursing Services by Nurses equipped with the  
34 necessary competencies on governance and leadership, to wit:

- 35 (1) *First Level Manager*, is responsible directly for the physical set-up of the unit,  
36 structure and other human resources for health care provision;

1 (2) *Middle Level Manager*, is responsible for the department or section handling more  
2 than one (1) or two (2) units, taking care of the financial, logistic, operational  
3 functions and others;

4 (3) *Top Level Manager*, oversees all nursing units in terms of financial and human  
5 resources for health such as nurses and nursing assistants/adjuncts.

6 Nursing Service Managers must have the following minimum qualifications in  
7 addition to the requirements of a Beginning Registered Nurse:

8 (a) *For first level managerial position in nursing*, must have at least eighteen (18) units  
9 of nursing management and clinical subjects in Master of Arts in Nursing or Master  
10 of Science in Nursing, at least three (3) years of clinical work experience, and must  
11 have participated in at least one (1) research project to improve quality of care;

12 (b) *For middle level managerial position in nursing*, must have completed all academic  
13 requirements in Master of Arts in Nursing or Master of Science in Nursing and must  
14 have at least three (3) years of clinical work and two (2) years of management  
15 experience, and must have initiated at least one (1) research project to improve  
16 quality of care;

17 (c) *For top level managerial position in nursing*, must have a post-graduate degree in  
18 nursing or health management – related sciences and at least three (3) years of  
19 clinical work and three (3) years of management experience, and must have  
20 initiated at least two (2) research projects to improve quality of care; and

21 (d) *For all managerial positions* – Must present the appropriate Certificate of Nursing  
22 Proficiency, or its equivalent, from the Board in observance of the Nursing  
23 Leadership and Governance Certification Program (Nurse Administrator I, Nurse  
24 Administrator II, Nursing Administration Specialist).

25 The above qualifications shall apply to all nurses occupying supervisory or  
26 managerial positions across all health facilities.

27 Sec. 55. *Public Health Practice*. – A nursing service shall be organized and  
28 operationalized in every local health agencies in order to ensure the nursing component  
29 of public health programs. Thus, an ideal of having at least one (1) nurse in every  
30 barangay shall be the thrust of public health in order to provide accessible, affordable  
31 quality health care to all. More so, the ideal of having at least one (1) nurse in every  
32 school, whether private or public, shall be prioritized in every primary, secondary and  
33 tertiary educational institution in order to instill health awareness at an early stage and  
34 to improve the health status of the students.

35 Sec. 56. *The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)*. – The nursing service and delivery of  
36 healthcare in a public health practice or community set-up must be under the control and

1 management of the Chief Nursing Officer or CNO. The CNO shall carry full administrative  
2 responsibility and shall have the authority on planning, organizing, directing and  
3 controlling of public health nurses. A CNO must have a minimum of three (3) years  
4 practice in a community setting as a Public Health Nurse, and must have at least five (5)  
5 years of experience in relevant nursing practice setting. In addition, the CNO public health  
6 agency must be a master's degree holder in relevant nursing practice setting, conferred  
7 by an educational institution duly recognized by the Government of the Philippines.

8 The CNO is responsible for the formulation of policies, strategic and operational  
9 planning, financial plan and resource allocation, policies and procedure development,  
10 professional and organizational involvement to address epidemiologic problems and  
11 provide statistical data, and shall exercise good governance and accountability of the  
12 nursing personnel in a public health setting. The CNO shall also act as the advocate for  
13 the rights and welfare of public health nurses.

14 Sec. 57. *Nurse Supervisor (NS)*. – The Nurse Supervisor or NS shall be in charge  
15 of planning, organizing, directing and controlling activities within a demographic unit. A  
16 NS must have a minimum of three (3) years practice in a community setting as a Public  
17 Health Nurse, and must be a master's degree holder in Public Health Nursing or its  
18 equivalent.

19 Sec. 58. *The Public Health Nurse (PHN)*. – The Public Health Nurse or PHN shall  
20 perform the functions and activities of health promotion, such as the prevention and  
21 treatment of various diseases and illnesses, in a particular public setting. The PHN shall  
22 exercise a supervisory role to the midwives and barangay health workers within her area.  
23 The PHN shall initiate and participate in developing policies and guidelines to promote  
24 basic nursing services.

25 **ARTICLE X**

26 **Prohibited Acts and Penal**

27 Sec. 59. *Prohibited Acts*. – Any of the following shall constitute unlawful and illegal  
28 acts:

- 29 (a) Any person who is practicing the nursing profession in the Philippines:
- 30 1. Without a certificate of registration, professional license, professional  
31 identification card, special permit or temporary permit or without having been  
32 declared exempt from examination in accordance with the provision of this Act;
- 33 2. Who uses a certificate of registration, professional license, professional  
34 identification card, special permit or temporary permit of another;

3. Who uses an invalid certificate of registration, professional license, a suspended or revoked certificate of registration, professional license, or an expired or cancelled special or temporary permits;
  4. Who, by any means of misrepresentation, false evidence, or concealment, obtained a certificate of registration, professional license, professional identification card, special permit or temporary permit;
  5. Who falsely poses or advertises as a registered and licensed nurse or uses any other means that tend to convey the impression that he/she is a registered and licensed nurse;
  6. Who appends "Nurse," "Nars", or "Nrs" before his or her name or B.S.N./R.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing/Registered Nurse) after his or her name without having been conferred said degree or registration; or
  7. Who, as a registered and licensed nurse, abets or assists to the illegal practice of a person who is not lawfully qualified to practice nursing;
- (b) Any natural or juridical person, educational institutions offering BSN without full compliance with the requirements prescribed by law conducts Continuing Professional Development for nurses without accreditation from the Board; or any natural or juridical person or health facility who undertakes or offers *in service* training programs, for a fee and without permit/clearance from the Board of the Commission;
- (c) Any natural or juridical person or health facility who subscribes to substandard quality of nursing care and/or nursing practice, such as non-compliance with the nurse-to-patient ratio;
- (d) Any natural or juridical person or health facility who exercises and promotes precarious working conditions to nurses, such as, but not limited to, the following:
1. Contracting or availing of the services of a nurse either without salary, for allowance, for salary below the applicable wage prescribed under this Act, whether or not under the pretext of a training, development program, certification course and/or seminar;
  2. Depriving or denying a nurse of the incentives and benefits as provided for the existing laws;
  3. Collecting any fees from a nurse or from any person or agent in his or her behalf in exchange for a nurse's voluntary services in a health facility;
  4. Requiring or obliging a volunteer nurse to perform the regular work functions and/or regular work load expected from a regular staff nurse employed by the health facility without proper compensation, to render full-time service as a

condition for the continued availment of his/her volunteer services, and/or to be the sole nurse on duty, except during disasters, calamities, public emergencies and war;

5. Contracting or availing of the services of a volunteer nurse, under the pretext of On-The-Job Training (OJT), contract of service, and/or job orders, in order to fill-up a vacant position that requires the hiring of a full-time regular employed nurse, or for free in exchange for any type of certification to be issued by the health facility for purposes of the nurse's employment application; or

6. Contracting or availing of the services of a nurse, under the pretext of training or certification course, but requiring the nurse to render the tasks and responsibilities expected of a regular staff or public health nurse, in violation of Section 48 hereof;

(e) Any violation of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 60. *Sanctions.* – A fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) nor more than three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years, or both, upon the discretion of the court, shall be imposed upon violation of any prohibited acts enumerated in Section 59 (a) hereof.

A fine of not less than three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) nor more than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) and/or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than six (6) years shall be imposed upon violation of any prohibited acts enumerated in Section 59 (b), (c), (d), and (e) hereof. In addition, suspension or revocation of license to operate the health facility may be issued upon the discretion of the court. In case the violation is committed by a partnership, corporation, association, or any other juridical person, the managing partner, president, director/s, or manager who has committed or consented such violation shall be held directly liable and responsible for the acts, as principal or as co-principal/s with the other participants, if any.

Sec. 61. *Refund and Compensation.* – A nurse found to have been a victim of Section 59 (d) hereof shall be entitled to a full refund of all fees illegally collected fees and charges and the payment of unpaid salary, if any which should not be less than the applicable wage for services rendered.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Miscellaneous**

1       Sec. 62. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Health (DOH) is hereby  
2 designated as the agency tasked with monitoring the compliance with and  
3 implementation of the provisions of this Act by public health facilities. The Department of  
4 Labor and Employment (DOLE) is designated as the agency tasked with monitoring the  
5 compliance with and implementations of the provisions of this Act by private health  
6 facilities. The Commission and the Board are designated as the agencies tasked with  
7 monitoring the compliance with and implementations of the provisions of this Act by  
8 educational institutions, CPD providers and health facilities. The CHED is similarly  
9 designated as the agency tasked with monitoring the compliance with and  
10 implementations of the provisions of this Act by educational institutions with regard to  
11 nursing education programs and curriculum.

12       Sec. 63. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
13 this Act shall be charged to savings of the concerned agencies immediately upon  
14 effectivity hereof. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary to effectively implement  
15 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the concerned agencies  
16 to be incorporated in the General Appropriations (GAA).

17       In order to effectively carry out the advance practice of the nursing program, the  
18 annual financial requirement needed to train at least ten percent (10%) of the nursing  
19 staff of the participating government hospitals and institutions shall be chargeable against  
20 the income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine  
21 Amusement And Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), which shall equally share in the costs;  
22 the same shall be released to the Department of Health subject to the usual accounting  
23 and auditing procedures: *Provided*, That the Department of Health shall set the budget  
24 for, as well as the criteria for the availment of this program.

25       Sec. 64. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety days (90) after the  
26 effectivity of this Act, the Commission, the Board, the AIPO for registered nurses, the  
27 Civil Service Commission, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department  
28 of Health and other concerned nursing organizations and government agencies, shall  
29 formulate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry-out the provisions  
30 of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall be published in the Official  
31 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

32       Sec. 65. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared  
33 unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and  
34 operational.

35       Sec. 66. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the  
36 “Philippine Nursing Act of 2002” is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, orders,

1 circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with  
2 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

3       **Sec. 67. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
4 in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the  
5 Philippines.

Approved,