ARTICLE IV

PRACTICE OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Section 27. Prohibition Against the Practice of Guidance and Counseling. - No person shall (a) engage in the practice of guidance and counseling without a valid Certificate of Registration and the valid Professional Identification Card or a special permit; (b) make representations to the public or to third person as a licensed Guidance Counselor during the time that the licensed has been revoked or suspended, and, (c) allow anybody to use his/her license as guidance counselor to enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of guidance and counseling.

No corporation, partnership, association or entity shall operate a guidance and counseling office or center, or otherwise engage in the practice of guidance and counseling without securing a permit from the Board, which shall be issued only after it has satisfied itself that such establishment is properly staffed by duly licensed Guidance Counselors

Any unethical practice of guidance and counseling as may be defined in a Code of ethics and Code of Technical Standards to be prepared by the Board in consultation with Guidance Counselors, is prohibited

Section 28. Right to Privilege Communication for Guidance Counselor. - A certified guidance counselor who is allowed to practice guidance and counseling in accordance with this Act, without the consent of the client, be examined as to any communication or information which has been acquired while attending to such client. The protection accorded herein shall also extend to the records and secretary or clerk of a license guidance counselor, who may not be examined concerning any fact, the knowledge of which has been acquired in such capacity.

Any evidence obtained in violation of this provision shall be inadmissible for any purpose and any proceeding

Section 29. Foreign Reciprocity. - No foreign Guidance Counselor shall be admitted to the examinations, or be given a certificate of Registration, or be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which he/she is a subject or citizen permits Filipino Guidance Counselors to Practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizen of said country or state: Provided, that the requirement for certification of Guidance Counselors in said foreign state or country are substantially the same as those required and contemplated under this Act: Provided, further, That the laws such states or country grant the same privilege to Filipino Guidance Counselors on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country

Section 30. Funding Provisions.- The Chairperson of the Commission shall include in the Commission's Programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 31. Assistance of Law Enforcement Agency. - Any law enforcement agency shall, upon call or request of the Commission or the Board, render assistance in enforcing this Act, including all the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by prosecuting the violators thereof in accordance with law and the Rules of Court.

Section 32. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act,

Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, in coordination with the integrated and accredited professional organization, to implement the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation.

Section 33. Penalty Clause. - Any person who violates any provision of this Act and the rules and regulations issued by the Board and the Commission or commits fraud in the acquisition of Certificate of Registration or Special Permit, shall be punished with imprisonment of not less that six (6) months but not more that eight (8) years, or a fine of not less that Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or both in the discretion of the court.

Section 34. Separability Clause.- If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall continue to be valid and operational

Section 35. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, rules and regulations and other issuances, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 36. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect one (1) month after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.