COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 918

Submitted by the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation and Committee on Appropriations on __________April 19, 2021_________

Re: House Bill No. __________9216_________

Recommend its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5132, 5505, and 5865

Sponsors: Representatives Frederick W. Siao and Eric Go Yap

Honorable Speaker:

The Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation and the Committee on Appropriations to which were referred House Bill No. 5132 introduced by Representative Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr. entitled:

AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

House Bill No. 5505 introduced by: Rep. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales

AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

and House Bill No. 5865 introduced by: Rep. Kristine Alexi B. Tutor

AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. __________9216_________, entitled:

AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR


Respectfully submitted:

ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

FREDERICK W. SIAO
Chairperson, Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Short Title of Act. This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Physical Therapy Law”.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. The State recognizes the importance of physical therapists in nation building. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, productive, and well-rounded physical therapists whose standards of practice and service shall be...
excellent, and globally competitive, resulting not only from their education and training but through, honest, effective, and credible licensure examinations, regulatory measures, programs, and activities that foster their continuing professional growth.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act.

a. *Physical Therapy* refers to a health profession concerned with providing relevant services to individuals and populations to develop, maintain, and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. Such services are provided in circumstances where movement and function are threatened by aging, injury, pain, diseases, disorders, conditions, or environmental factors, and with the understanding that functional movement is central to healthy and well-being. Physical therapy is also known as physiotherapy.

b. *Physical Therapist* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid registration and professional license issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy and the Professional Regulation Commission, and who is legally qualified to practice physical therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

**SEC. 4. Scope and Nature of the Practice of Physical Therapy.** The practice of physical therapy shall include identifying and maximizing quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment, intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass physical, psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing. Physical therapists are qualified and professionally required to:

a. Undertake a comprehensive examination or assessment of a patient or client or needs of a client group;

b. Evaluate the findings from the examination or assessment to make clinical judgments regarding patients or clients;

c. Formulate a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and plan;

d. Provide consultation within their expertise and determine when patients or clients need to be referred to another professional;

e. Implement a physical therapy intervention or treatment program;

f. Determine the outcomes of any interventions or treatments; and

g. Make recommendations for self-management.

The scope of physical therapy practice is not limited to direct patient or client care, but also includes: formulating and implementing responsive public health strategies;
advo
cating for patients’ or clients’ health; supervising and delegating to others; leading;
managing; teaching; researching and developing and implementing health policy at the
local, national, and international levels.

ARTICLE II

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

SEC. 5. Creation and Composition of the Members of the Board. There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy, hereafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Members appointed by the President of the Philippines within six (6) months from the enactment of this Act and upon the recommendation of the PRC from among physical therapists recognized and nominated by the accredited integrated professional organization (AIPO) of physical therapists.

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Members of the Board. The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

a. Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
b. Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure, and practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
c. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
d. Adopt an official seal of the Board;
e. Maintain a roster of physical therapists indicating therein the basic information about the registered professionals;
f. Issue, reinstate, suspend or cancel the registration and license, or special permits for the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines;
g. Study and monitor conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the profession and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards;
h. Work in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or its equivalent, to ensure that all educational institutions offering education comply with the prescribed policies, standards, and guidelines;
i. Prescribe the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical therapists as endorsed by the AIPO organization of physical therapists;
j. Hear or investigate any violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, code of ethics, and ethical standards of practice, and for this purpose,
k. Issue *subpoena duces tecum* or *subpoena ad testificandum*, or both, to ensure the appearance of witnesses, and the production of documents in connection therewith: *Provided, That* the decision of the Board shall become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of judgment or decision unless appealed to the PRC;
l. Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for physical therapists;
m. Prescribe the subjects in the licensure examination and table specifications, determine the syllabi of the subjects and their relative weights, score, and rate the examination papers, and submit the results to the PRC within the period provided for in the rules of the PRC;

n. Administer the examinations to applicants for the practice of physical therapy in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
o. Adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
p. Grant an application for registration without examination subject to the approval of the PRC;
q. Issue special permits to persons admitted to the practice of physical therapy for a specific duration of time, and certificates of recognition for advanced studies, researches, and accomplishments that contribute to the enrichment of the profession; and
r. Perform such other powers and functions as deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders, or decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval of the PRC.

**SEC. 7. Qualifications of the Members of the Board.** The members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

a. Has resided in the Philippines for at least (5) years;
b. Is a duly registered physical therapist under this Act, with a valid certificate of registration and professional license;
c. Has engaged in the practice of physical therapy for at least ten (10) years, with the last five (5) years as a continuous period immediately preceding the appointment;
d. Has demonstrated an exemplary degree of competence and ethics in one professional practice as a physical therapist;

e. Is a member of good standing of the AIPO of physical therapists, and not an officer thereof;

f. Has no prior conviction by a competent court of an offense involving moral turpitude; and

g. Has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any school, college, or university or institution conferring an academic degree for admission to the practice of physical therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be a member of faculty or administration thereof.

SEC 8. Term of Office. The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years: Provided, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms: the Chairperson for three (3) years, two (2) Members for two (2) years, and the other two (2) Members for one (1) year; Provided, Further, that a Chairperson or Member may be appointed for a second term, but may not serve more than two consecutive three year terms, or six (6) consecutive years. Interim vacancies be filled for the unexpired term only, or until their successors have been appointed and duly qualified.

SEC 9. Removal of the Members of the Board. Any member of the Board may upon the recommendation of the PRC after due process of law and investigation, be suspended or removed by the President from office for cause such as gross neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct, final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude, manipulation of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination, or tampering of grades.

SEC 10. Compensation and Allowances of the Members of the Board. The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the Chairpersons and Members of existing regulatory boards under the PRC, as provided for in the annual General Appropriations Act.
SEC 11. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat, and Support Services. The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the PRC. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases, and other investigations involving physical therapists, shall be kept by the PRC. The PRC shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC 12. Annual Report. The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the PRC, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and recommending measures to be adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and improving conditions affecting the practice of physical therapy in the Philippines.

ARTICLE III

LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 13. Examination Required. All applicants for registration for the practice of physical therapy shall be required to undergo a licensure examination to be given by the Board in such places and dates as the PRC may designate, subject to compliance with the requirements prescribed by the PRC.

SEC. 14. Qualifications for Examination. An applicant for the licensure examination for physical therapists shall establish, to the satisfaction of the Board, that the following qualifications are met:

a. A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has a formal reciprocity agreement with the Philippines;

b. Is of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and

c. A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree or its equivalent degree as determined by the Board from a school, college, or university in the Philippines or abroad whose physical therapy program is recognized by the CHED.

SEC. 15. Scope of Examination. The scope of examinations shall, after the necessary stakeholder consultation, be determined by the Board, subject to the approval of the PRC. The Board shall take into consideration the minimum curriculum standards for physical therapy, the current scope of practice, and the latest developments in the profession, locally and globally, that affect the practice and delivery of physical therapy services in the country.
SEC. 16. Ratings in the Examination. To be qualified as having passed the licensure examination for physical therapists, a candidate must have obtained a general average of seventy-five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any of the examination subjects.

SEC 17. Report of Ratings. The Board shall submit to the PRC the ratings obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless extended for just cause.

SEC 18. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration, Professional License, and Professional Identification Card. The certificate of registration and professional identification card shall be issued to examinees who passed the licensure examination for physical therapist subject to payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The certificate of registration shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the PRC and the Chairperson and Members of the Board, stamped with the official seals of the PRC and the Board respectively, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the physical therapy profession, with all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

The professional identification card bearing the registration number, and dates of issuance and expiry duly signed by the Chairperson of the PRC shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The professional identification card shall be renewed every three (3) years, upon compliance with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and submission of a certificate of good standing from the AIPO, and other requirements of the Board and the PRC.

SEC 19. Initials PTRP. The initials PTRP, which stands for Physical Therapist Registered Philippines, shall be used following the name of the registered physical therapist, especially when signing documents pertinent to the practice of the profession.

SEC. 20. Refusal to Register. The Board shall refuse to register any successful examinee who has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

SEC. 21. Cancellation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and Special Permit. The Board may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, cancel the practitioner's certificate of registration and professional
identification card, or be suspended from the practice of the profession; or cancel the
special permit for any of the causes or grounds mentioned in Section 29 of this Act or for
any unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, violation of any of the provisions of
this Act, its rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Ethical Standards of Practice
for physical therapists.

SEC. 22. Reinstatement, Re-issuance or Replacement of Certificate of
Registration and Professional Identification Card. Two (2) years after the date of
revocation, the Board may, upon application and for reasons deemed proper and
sufficient, reinstate any revoked certificate of registration or professional license. A new
certificate of registration or professional identification card, or special temporary permit
may be issued to replace lost, destroyed, or mutilated ones, subject to the rules as
implemented by the Board.

SEC 23. Oath of Physical Therapists. Successful examinees qualified for
registration, and qualified applicants for registration without examination, shall be
required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any government
official authorized by the PRC to administer oaths, prior to entering into the practice of
physical therapy in the Philippines.

SEC 24. Indication of Licensure and Privilege Tax Receipt. All physical
therapists shall be required to indicate on the documents they sign, use or issue in
connection with the practice of their profession, their registration, or professional license
number and date of issuance thereof, the duration of validity of said license, and the
privilege tax receipt number issued to them.

SEC 25. Roster of Physical Therapists. The Board shall prepare, update, and
maintain a roster of physical therapists which shall contain the name of each registered
physical therapist, their residence and office addresses, the date of registration and
issuance of certificates, and other data which the board may deem pertinent.

SEC 26. Issuance of Special and Temporary Permit. A special temporary permit
may be issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the AIPO of physical therapists,
subject to the approval by the PRC and payment of the prescribed fee to the following
persons:

a. Foreign-licensed physical therapists called for consultation or a specified
purpose that is deemed essential to national development, the practice shall be
limited only for the particular work being: Provided That there is no Filipino
physical therapist qualified for such consultation or purpose;
b. Foreign-licensed physical therapists whose service shall be free of charge and who are highly needed under particular settings;

c. Foreign-licensed physical therapists engaged as professors, lecturers, or critics in fields essential to physical therapy education in the Philippines, whose engagement is limited to teaching only; and

d. Foreign-licensed physical therapists recognized as experts or specialists whose service is deemed essential to the advancement of the profession in the Philippines.

The special temporary permit shall include these limitations and conditions: validity for a period of not more than one (1) year, subject to renewal; the branch or specialty of physical therapy which the permit holder can practice; and the specific place or places of practice such as clinic, hospital, therapy center, school, college, or university offering the course of physical therapy. The Board, subject to the approval by the PRC, shall prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of this particular section.

ARTICLE IV

PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

SEC. 27. Delivery of Physical Therapy Service. Physical therapists shall work in partnership with other health service providers or health professionals, patients or clients, families, and communities in the delivery of services in the most effective, cost efficient, and client-centered service.

SEC. 28. Prohibition on the Practice of Physical Therapy. No person shall practice or offer to practice physical therapy, nor offer to be a physical therapist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression of being a physical therapist, nor advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever to be qualified to perform the work of a physical therapist without passing the licensure examination given by the Board, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

SEC. 29. Prohibited Acts. No person shall:

a. Engage in the practice of physical therapy by representing oneself as a physical therapist without a valid certificate of registration, professional identification card, or a valid temporary or special permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act;

b. Represent oneself as a physical therapist during the time that the professional license is not valid or that the certificate of registration has been
suspended or revoked, or that the special temporary permit has been
cancelled;
c. Allow anybody to use the certificate of registration or professional license, or
both and special temporary permit as a physical therapist to enable such
unqualified individual to engage in the practice of physical therapy;
d. Use the certificate of registration, professional identification card, or special
temporary permit of another person; and
e. Violate the provision of the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice
as recommended by the AIPO of physical therapists.

The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of
Practice for physical therapists as prescribed and issued by the AIPO of physical
therapists. All licensed physical therapist shall abide by the principles and standards
embodied in the Code.

SEC. 31. Continuing Professional Development Program. All physical therapists
shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on continuing professional
development to be promulgated by the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical
Therapy, subject to the approval of the PRC, in coordination with the AIPO of physical
therapists or the recognized representative of duly accredited education institutions, or
both. For this purpose, the Board shall create a CPD Council to implement a CPD
program guided by qualifications framework and career progression principles, subject to
the guidelines as may be prescribed by the PRC.

SEC. 32. Integration of the Professional Organization. The physical therapy
profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of physical
therapists, which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
The Board, subject to the approval by the PRC, shall accredit the said organization as
the one and only accredited integrated professional organization of registered physical
therapists. All physical therapists whose names appear in the current Roster of Physical
Therapists shall ipso facto become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits
and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of the required membership fees and
dues. Membership in the accredited integrated professional organization shall not be a
bar to membership in other organizations of physical therapists.

SEC. 33. Foreign Reciprocity. No foreign physical therapist shall be given a
certificate of registration and professional identification card or be entitled to any of the
privileges under this Act unless the country or state of which the foreign physical therapist
is a subject or citizen, permits Filipino physical therapists to practice within its territorial
limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

ARTICLE V

PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 34. Penal Provisions. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of
this Act or any of its implementing rules and regulations as promulgated by the Board,
subject to the approval of the PRC, shall upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not
less than Twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) nor more than Fifty thousand pesos
(Php 50,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than two years nor more than five years,
or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 35. Appropriations. The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately include
in the Commission’s program, the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations. To implement the provisions of
this Act, the Board shall, subject to the approval of the PRC, promulgate the rules and
regulations, as well as the Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical
therapists, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 37. Transitory Provisions. The existing Board of Physical and Occupational
Therapy shall continue to function in the interim until such time that the new and separate
Board for Physical Therapy shall be constituted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 38. Separability Clause. If any part, portion, section, or provision of this Act
shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other part,
portion, section, or provision of this Act and the same shall continue to be in force and
effect.

SEC 39. Repealing Clause. Republic Act No. 5680, otherwise known as the
“Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law” is hereby repealed. All other laws,
decrees, orders, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or repealed.

SEC 40. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9216
In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 5132, 5505 and 5865
(As approved by the Committee on December 16, 2020)

PHYSICAL THERAPY PROFESSIONS ACT


Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION (Primary)
Committee Chairperson: HON. FREDERICK W. SIAO
Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (Secondary)
Committee Chairperson: HON. ERIC GO YAP

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote the development of globally-competitive, highly-motivated, and well-trained Filipino physical therapists by instituting standards for the practice of profession, including those for licensure, registration and continuing education.

KEY PROVISIONS:
• Creates the Professional Regulatory Board of Physical Therapy to provide for a more effective supervision, control and regulation of the practice of physical therapy in the country;

• Requires the licensure of physical therapists in the Philippines and sets the scope and limitations for the licensure examination;

• Proposes the adoption and promulgation of a Code of Ethics and Ethical Standards of Practice for physical therapists;

• Requires physical therapists to undertake the Continuing Professional Development Program for Physical Therapists in the Philippines;

• Proposes the integration of all physical therapists in the country into one (1) accredited and integrated professional organization (AIPO), duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and recognized by the Board of Physical Therapy and the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC);

• Sets the conditions for allowing foreign physical therapists to practice the profession in the Philippines; and

• Penalizes violations of this Act.

RELATED LAWS:

• R.A. No. 5680 or the Philippine Physical and Occupational Therapy Law
• R.A. No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC Modernization Act of 2000, as amended