Filipino nurses are world-renowned for their skill, inherent compassion, and eagerness to provide care. The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) estimates more than 13,000 health care professionals, mostly nurses and nursing assistants, leave the country every year.

Despite the skill and knowledge of Filipino nurses, it cannot be denied that nursing education in the country needs improvement. The education programs employed by our local nursing educational institutions seem to focus merely on producing graduates without taking into account future educational opportunities for nurses for further education and advanced programs.

Advanced nursing education programs can provide our nurses with an additional advantage and greater opportunities, whether here or abroad. They can have access to education that can lead to leadership roles, specialization in specific practice areas, and recognition in the fields of research and advanced nursing education.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  }
Second Regular Session  }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 7265

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR AN ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Advanced Nursing Education Act".

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession by instituting measures that will result in relevant nursing education, humane working conditions, better career prospects and a dignified existence for our nurses.

SEC 3. Section 25 of Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 25. [Nursing Education Program. — The nursing education program shall provide sound general and professional foundation for the practice of nursing.

The learning experiences shall adhere strictly to specific requirements embodied in the prescribed curriculum as promulgated by the Commission on Higher Education's policies and standards of nursing education.]

NURSING EDUCATION. – NURSING EDUCATION SHALL REFER TO THE FORMAL LEARNING AND TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF NURSING PROVIDED BY HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DULY RECOGNIZED AND ACCREDITED BY THE CHED.

THERE SHALL BE STANDARD BASIC AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CHED LAW"."

SEC 4. A new Section 26 is hereby inserted after Section 25 of RA 9173, to read as follows:

"SEC 26. BASIC AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR NURSING EDUCATION. – THERE SHALL BE A BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL PROVIDE SOUND LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, AND SHALL EQUIP BASIC NURSING STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY COMPETENCIES FOR ENTRY-LEVEL SAFE AND QUALITY
NURSING PRACTICE. THE CURRICULUM AND RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES SHOULD INCLUDE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND IMMERSION TO ENCOURAGE MORE GRADUATES TO WORK IN A COMMUNITY SETTING. ADMISSION TO THE BASIC PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE PASSING A NATIONAL NURSING ADMISSION TEST (NNAT). THE CURRICULUM AND THE RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL NURSING CORE COMPETENCY STANDARDS TO BE PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES OF THE CHED.

THERE SHALL ALSO BE A GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION WHICH SHALL BE A POST BACCALAUREATE NURSING PROGRAM, WHICH BUILDS ON THE EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS OF A NURSE TOWARDS MASTERY, EXPERTISE, AND LEADERSHIP IN PRACTICE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION. SUCH PROGRAMS SHALL DEVELOP HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SKILLS NEEDED FOR NURSING PRACTICE IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF ADVANCED NURSING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING, AMBULATORY CARE NURSING, CRITICAL CARE NURSING, PALLIATIVE CARE NURSING, REHABILITATION NURSING, AND OTHER SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF ADVANCED NURSING. IT SHALL INCLUDE 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.

THE FACULTY-TO-STUDENT RATIO MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS TO BE DETERMINED AND PRESCRIBED BY THE CHED.”

SEC 5. Section 26 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered to Section 27.

SEC 6. Section 27 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered and amended, to read as follows:
SEC. [27] 28. Qualifications of the Faculty. — [A member of the faculty in a college of nursing teaching professional courses must:
(a) Be a registered nurse in the Philippines;
(b) Have at least one (1) year of clinical practice in a field of specialization;
(c) Be a member of good standing in the accredited professional organization of nurses; and
(d) Be a holder of a master’s degree in nursing, education, or other allied medical and health sciences conferred by a college or university duly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.
In addition to the aforementioned qualifications, the dean of a college must have a master’s degree in nursing. He/she must have at least five (5) years of experience in nursing.

(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 OF 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 BOARD OF NURSING.

(2) GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR NURSING EDUCATION. — A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY TEACHING GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COURSES:
   A. MUST COMPLY WITH PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) ABOVE ON 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 7. Section 28 of RA 9173 is hereby renumbered as Section 29, and all succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Board and the Professional Regulatory Commission, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

SEC 9. Separability Clause. — Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC 10. Repealing Clause. — All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and other executive issuances which are not consistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended.

SEC 11. Effectivity clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,