A RESOLUTION
TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL
ON THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT A NEW NORMAL IN
THE CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS BY EXECUTING AN ELECTRONIC
MEDIA PLATFORM TO BE USED IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PHYSICIAN
LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS AND ALL OTHER FUTURE EXAMINATIONS IT
ADMINISTERS AT THE EARLIEST AND DEFINITIVE TIME

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) has disrupted the operations of all
government and private institutions, and way of life of every people in the world, including
the Philippines;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922 on 8 March 2020
declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines and calling for the
implementation of immediate and crucial measures to contain the spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, as a result of Proclamation No. 922 and to mitigate the rise in the number of
Covid-19 cases, the Civil Service Commission suspended the conduct of the Career Service
Examination-Pen and Paper Test (CSE-PPT) nationwide until further notice;

WHEREAS, the civil service examinations were supposed to be held in 66 testing locations
nationwide with an estimated total of 293,845 individuals nationwide registered to take the
test;

WHEREAS, the suspended examinations included the Qualifying Assessment for Foreign
Medical Professionals (March 14, 2020); Physician Licensure Examination (March 15 and 16,
2020); Medical Technologists Licensure Examination (March 18 and 19, 2020); Licensure
Examination for Professional Teachers (March 29, 2020); Licensure Examination for
Electronic Engineers and Electronic Technicians (April 1 to 3, 2020); Licensure Examination
for Midwives (April 5 and 6, 2020); Licensure Examination for Registered Electrical
Engineers and Registered Master Electricians (April 14 to 16, 2020); and the Licensure Examination for Pharmacists (April 26 and 27, 2020):

WHEREAS, in order to address the immediate need for medical frontliners in the fight against rising cases of Covid-19, medical interns and graduates who were scheduled to take the suspended examinations in March 2020, were called upon to augment the shortage of medical doctors in various medical institutions all over the country. It has been estimated that the country has a shortage of 44,000 medical doctors;

WHEREAS, in an earlier announcement, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine declared that the postponed March 2020 Physician board examinations will push through in September this year;

WHEREAS, a recent pronouncement made the PRC in consultation with the Philippine Medical Association and the Association of Philippine Medical Colleges, however, revealed that there is now a plan to move the examinations from September to November this year;

WHEREAS, it has been disclosed that the postponement has something to do with limitations in the conduct of computer-based examinations as there is still no definite platform and the accompanying procedures to go about the examinations for the more than the 3,500 interns scheduled to take it;

WHEREAS, the several postponements have added to the anxiety of medical graduates and interns who were scheduled to take the March 2020 examinations but have been required to help in the anti-Covid-19 efforts of the government without the required eligibility. The conduct of the examinations and the subsequent passing of the medical interns and graduates will enable them to join the front liners in full confidence and without the fear of discrimination;

WHEREAS, the immediate conduct of the examinations will be crucial in the country’s fight against Covid-19 as the new passers, with their completed qualifications and eligibility, will augment the already depleted and overworked medical frontliners battling the virus in various hospitals and other medical institutions all over the country;

WHEREAS, there is the compelling need for the Civil Service Commission to carry out a new normal in the conduct of examinations by executing an electronic media platform to be used in the conduct of the PLEs and all other future examinations it administers at the earliest and definitive time to give our examinees enough time to prepare and not cause disruptions in the conduct of eligibility tests;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to express the sense of the House of Representatives to call on the Civil Service Commission to carry out a new normal in the conduct of examinations by executing an electronic media platform to be used in the conduct of the Physician Licensure Examinations and all other future
examinations it administers at the earliest and definitive time to give our examinees enough time to prepare and not cause disruptions in the conduct of eligibility tests.

Adopted,

FLORIDA P. ROBES