

AN ACT REQUIRING THE LICENSURE OF ALL HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE LICENSING AGENCY.

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, June 19, 1965

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/5e5d0c8a1a9c/>

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall also be known as the Hospital Licensure Act.

SEC. 2. Definitions.—As used in this Act—

- 'Hospital' means a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of facilities for the diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury or deformity, or in need of obstetrical or other medical and nursing care. The term 'hospital' shall also be construed as any institution, building or place where there are installed beds, or cribs, or bassinets for twenty-four-hour use or longer by patients in the treatment of diseases, diseased-conditions, injuries, deformities; or abnormal physical and mental states, maternity cases, and all institutions such as those for convalescence, sanatorial or sanitarial care, infirmities, nurseries, dispensaries and such other names by which they may be designated.

- 'Government hospital' means a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national, provincial, municipal or city government or other political subdivision, or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

- 'Private hospital' means one which is privately owned, established and operated with funds raised or contributed through donations, or by private capital or other means, by private individuals, association, corporation, religious organization, firm, company or joint stock association.

- 'Clinic' means a place at which patients avail of medical consultations or treatments on an out-patient basis. However, any clinic or dispensary where there is at least six beds or cribs or bassinets installed for twenty-four hour use by patients shall be construed to fall within the definition of a hospital as described in this Act.

- 'Licensee' is the person or persons granted a license to operate and maintain a hospital according to an approved minimum standard.

Sec. 3. Construction Permit.—No hospital, government or private, shall be constructed unless plans have been approved and construction permit issued by the licensing-agency as defined in this Act.

Sec. 4. Registration and license.—No hospital shall operate or be opened to the public unless it shall have been registered and a license for its operation obtained from the licensing agency provided in this Act.

Sec. 5. Licensing Agency.—For purposes of setting standards in hospital construction and operation, the Bureau of Medical Services in addition to its present duties shall act as the licensing agency. The Secretary of Health shall reorganize this Bureau to include a staff of hospital architects, hospital administrators, sanitary engineers and such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act without necessarily increasing the present

personnel strength of this Bureau.

SEC. 6. Powers and duties of the licensing agency.—The Bureau of Medical Services, or the licensing agency shall have the following powers and duties:

- To conduct an ocular survey of all existing hospitals in the Philippines, government or private, with a view to determine their fitness to operate considering their facilities and physical plant.
- To prescribe standard plans for government hospital plants in consultation with the Division of Architecture, Bureau of Public Works.
- To approve plans for hospital plants, government or private, and to issue permits or authority to construct hospitals in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- To keep a permanent register of approved hospitals or those issued licenses to operate indicating the name of the hospital, address or location, type of hospital, name of the director or administrator, ownership, number of authorized beds and bassinets and such other pertinent data as may be necessary.
- To grant licenses for the operation and maintenance of hospitals or revoke the same in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- To make periodic inspection of all hospitals so as to check compliance with rules and regulations legally promulgated or with the provisions of this Act and to make recommendations to directors or administrators of hospitals for the correction of defects found during such inspections.
- To publish yearly a list of all approved hospitals indicating the name, location, type, authorized beds, and name of the director or administrator.
- To submit yearly reports to the Secretary of Health, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the chairmen and members of the Committees on Health of both Houses of Congress, such reports to include a list of approved hospitals indicating the name of the hospital, location, bed capacity and name of the director or administrator and make recommendations on hospital needs or requirements for hospital service in certain communities that do not enjoy such hospital services.

Sec. 7. Filing of Application for Construction Permit.— Application for a permit to construct a hospital shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Bureau of Medical Services in a form prescribed by the latter and accompanied by a plan of the hospital plant proposed to be constructed. The application shall state the name of the hospital, ownership, number of beds proposed to be operated, location and type of hospital to be constructed.

Sec. 8. Minimum Standards of Construction.—In order that a permit to construct a hospital can be issued the hospital plan shall provide sufficient bed space for the hospital bed capacity proposed, a laboratory room, an operating- room, including work rooms for sterilization, anesthesia preparation, etc., an X-ray or radiology room, pharmacy, dispensary or out-patient department, delivery room, isolation rooms, autopsy room or morgue, sufficient quarters for residents, nurses, attendants and helpers and sufficient number of toilet facilities.

Wards shall be constructed such that segregation of the sexes is observed and as far as practicable classified as to the type of cases to be confined.

Sec. 9. Application for Registration and Issuance of License.—Application for registration of a hospital and for the issuance of a license for its operation and maintenance shall be filed with the Bureau of Medical Services on a form prescribed by it. Registration may be made and license issued upon compliance with the provisions of Section eight hereof and the rules and regulations prescribed by the licensing agency pursuant to the provisions

of this Act.

Sec. 10. Inspection.—Permit to construct a hospital or a major portion thereof and license to operate and maintain the same shall be issued by the licensing agency only after a representative of the licensing agency has conducted an ocular inspection and certified that the applicant has satisfactorily complied with requisites prescribed in this Act. The license to operate and maintain a hospital shall be renewed every year upon payment of the prescribed fees.

Sec. 11. Revocation of License.—The licensing agency may suspend or revoke a license already issued for any of the following grounds: (a) repeated violation by the licensee of any provision of this Act or of any other existing law; (b) repeated violation of rules and regulations prescribed in the implementation of this Act; or (c) repeated failure to make necessary corrections or adjustments required by the licensing agency in the improvement of facilities and services.

Sec. 12. Hearing.—Any person, association, corporation, or any other private entity who has been refused a license to operate and maintain a hospital or whose license for such hospital has been suspended or revoked shall be entitled to an administrative hearing to be conducted by the Secretary of Health and his two undersecretaries to determine the justifiability of such denial, suspension or revocation of the license: Provided, That the licensee may resort to the courts, as in other cases provided by law.

Sec. 13. Separate Licenses Required.—Separate licenses shall be required for hospitals or branches thereof maintained in separate premises, even though they are operated under the same management: Provided, however, That separate licenses shall not be required for separate buildings in the same compound: Provided, further, That permits for construction or alteration of buildings within the same compound shall also be secured from the licensing agency to determine compliance with standards and requirements herein authorized.

Sec. 14. License not transferable.—License, for the operation of hospitals shall not be transferable. The licensing agency shall be notified of any change in ownership, change of name of the hospital, and transfer of location and in the latter case, an application for a new license should be submitted.

Sec. 15. Rules and Regulations.—The Bureau of Medical Services acting as a licensing agency and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health, shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 16. Classification of Hospitals.—The licensing agency shall study and adopt a system of classifying hospitals in the Philippines as to: (1) general or special; (2) hospital service capabilities; (3) size or bed capacity and (4) class of hospital whether training or not.

Sec. 17. Fees.—Each applicant for a permit to construct a hospital shall pay the amount of five pesos as permit fee. A registration fee of five pesos and an annual license fee of ten pesos shall likewise be collected for each hospital and for each approved license: Provided; That a government hospital shall be exempt from the payment of such fees. The amount herein collected shall be officially receipted by the licensing agency and shall constitute as a revolving fund for the use of the licensing agency.

Sec. 18. Penalties.—Any person, partnership, association, or corporation who establishes, operates, conducts, manages or maintains a hospital or hospital clinic within the meaning of this Act without first obtaining a license as provided for in this Act or violates any provision hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be liable to a fine of not more than five hundred pesos for the first offense and not more than one thousand pesos for each subsequent offense, and each day that the hospital shall operate after the first conviction shall be considered a subsequent offense.

Sec. 19. Repeal.—Any law or laws or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 20. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 19, 1965.

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.