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**Legislative Decree No. (2) of 1987 regarding the practice of Non-Doctors and Pharmacists for the Allied Health Professions**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Acting Emir of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

Emiri Order No. (3) of 1987;

Legislative Decree No. (6) of 1971 regarding the Practice of the Human Medicine and Dentistry;

Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1975 regarding the Regulation of Pharmacy Profession and Pharmaceutical Centres, as amended;

And Legislative Decree No. (24) of 1977 regarding the Practice of Obstetrics Profession (Midwifery);

Upon the submission of the Minister of Health;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article – 1 –**

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below:

**Ministry: Ministry of Health.**

**Minister: Minister of Health.**

**Profession or Allied Medical Professions: The medical profession or professions shown in the Schedule attached to this Law.**

**The Committee: Any of the committees provided for in Article (5) of this Law.**

**Licence: The licence to practise the allied medical profession issued in accordance with the provisions of this Law.**

**Article – 2 –**

Taking into account Legislative Decree No. (6) of 1971 regarding the Practice of the Human Medicine and Dentistry, and Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1975 regarding the Regulation of Pharmacy Profession and Pharmaceutical Centres, as amended, it shall not be permitted for non-Doctors and pharmacists to practise one of the allied medical professions, except after obtaining a licence in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article – 3 –**

A Decision from the Minister shall determine the qualifications, training, experience, and conditions that shall be met to obtain a licence to practise each the Allied Medical Professions. As well as the duties and responsibilities that the person authorised to practise the Allied Medical Profession shall abide by.

**Article – 4 –**

The request for licence shall be submitted to the Medical Licensing Department of the Ministry, accompanied with the following documents:

1 – The original copies of the academic certificates obtained by the applicant or an official document proving that they have been obtained, with an accredited translation into Arabic and English if those certificates are written in another foreign language. These certificates shall be ratified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State from which the licence applicant obtained the certificate or document, and by the diplomatic or consular missions of the State of Bahrain therein, if any.

2 – Ratified certificate of previous work experiences.

3 – A birth certificate or an official extract thereof, or a certificate of age from the competent authority of the State to which he belongs.

4 – The names of three workplace heads / supervisors / managers with whom the licence applicant has worked, in order to obtain from them information or testimonies related to his professionalism and basic personal qualities.

5 – A certificate confirming a clean record of criminal judgements involving a breach of honour or trust, unless he has been rehabilitated or an amnesty Decision has been issued for him by the competent authorities.

6 – A certificate proving the applicant’s health fitness to practice the medical profession for which he is requesting a licence, issued by a medical committee formed by a Decision from the Minister.

7 – A certificate proving the applicant’s nationality, or a copy of his passport with three 4x6 cm photographs.

8 – A Recommendation certificate from the Syndicate / Council / Medical Association of the country in which he works or to which he belongs.

9 – Any other documents specified by virtue of a Ministerial Decision.

**Article – 5 –**

Specialised technical committees shall be formed by a Ministerial Decision, in order to consider licence requests and undertake other competences stipulated in this Law. The Decision shall specify the procedures and work system of these committees.

The Committee shall take the necessary measures to verify the validity of the documents submitted by the applicant, evaluate the certificates obtained by him, and equate them with the required certificates. The Committee shall also take the measures it deems necessary to verify the competence of the applicant for a licence to practise the medical profession for which a licence is required, all in accordance with the rules specified by a Decision issued by the Minister.

**Article – 6 –**

The Committee shall rule upon the request for licence, and its Decision thereon shall be issued within thirty days from the date of submitting the request.

In case the request for licence is rejected, the Decision of the Committee shall be reasoned, and the Medical Licensing Department shall notify the licence applicant of the Committee's Decision by a registered letter.

**Article – 7 –**

It shall be permitted for a person whose request is rejected to file a grievance against the Decision issued rejecting the licence to the Undersecretary of the Ministry, within thirty days from the date of receiving the notification of the rejection Decision.

The Decision of the Undersecretary of the Ministry regarding the grievance shall be final.

Anyone whose request is rejected shall have the right to appeal in cancellation of the issued Decision before the High Civil Court, within a period not exceeding sixty days from the date he is notified by a registered letter of the rejection Decision, or within sixty days from the date of his knowledge of the Decision, if he has not been notified.

**Article – 8 –**

The Ministry shall have specific registers for registering those authorised to practise any of the Allied Medical Professions. The register shall include the following data about the licensee:

1 – Registration number in the Register.

2 – Full name, family name, nationality, age, and CPR number.

3 – The Medical Profession he is authorised to practise.

4 – The educational qualifications obtained and the date of obtaining them.

5 – Data of previous experiences.

6 – The number and date of the Committee’s Decision of granting the licence.

7 – The location where the authorised profession is practised.

8 – Place and address of residence.

9 – Any other data issued by a Decision from the Minister. The entry in the register shall be made after the payment of the prescribed fee.

**Article – 9 –**

The Decision issuing the licence shall be delivered to its applicant after completing the entry into the register referred to in the previous Article. The Ministry shall periodically publish a schedule of the names of those registered with it and who are authorised to practise medical professions, as well as any amendments that may be made to it, the way it deems appropriate.

It shall only be permissible to practise the Allied Medical Profession after entry into the register and delivering the licence, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article – 10 –**

Whoever is authorised to practise the Allied Medical Profession shall inform the Ministry of every change in his place of residence or work, within a maximum period of one month from the date of the change, otherwise the Ministry shall have the right to remove his name from the register.

The Ministry shall have the right to re-register his name in the register if he notifies it of the new address, provided that a new registration fee shall be paid.

**Article – 11 –**

If the licensee practising an Allied Medical Profession is afflicted with an illness or disability, leading to a decrease in his fitness to practise the profession fully or partially, he and the authority in which he works shall be collectively obliged to notify the Ministry, as well as to refrain from practising the profession until a Decision is made by the Committee.

The Committee shall issue its Decision in this regard, either cancelling the licence issued to him and removing his name from the register, specifying the tasks he may practise, or temporarily banning him from practising the profession according to his health condition.

The Committee shall have the right to reconsider its Decision in accordance with the development of the licensee’s health status.

**Article – 12 –**

The Minister of Health shall determine the fees for licences to practise each of the Allied Medical Professions, as well as he shall specify the period of validity of these licences and the conditions, procedures, and fees for their renewal.

**Article – 13 –**

Whoever is authorised to practise the profession shall observe, in the performance of his work, the accuracy and honesty required by the medical profession he practices, shall work to preserve the profession’s dignity and honour, and shall abide by the duties and responsibilities specified by the Decision of the Minister in accordance with the provisions of Article (3) of this Law.

**Article – 14 –**

It shall not be permissible for those who practise one of the Allied Medical Professions to advertise themselves in any way that is incompatible with the dignity of the profession, whether such advertising is through publishing, radio, cinemas, television, or otherwise. This shall not include spreading health awareness using the aforementioned methods.

**Article – 15 –**

Whoever is authorised to practise one of the Allied Medical Professions shall not disclose a private secret that has come to his knowledge through his profession, except by order of the Court to ensure the course of justice.

**Article – 16 –**

It shall not be permissible to open a centre or establishment to practise one of the Allied Medical Professions, except after obtaining a licence for that purpose from the Ministry of Health and upon the approval of the Committee.

**Article – 17 –**

The licence for opening the centres and establishments referred to in the preceding Article, shall meet the conditions and specifications necessary to achieve their purposes.

A Decision shall be issued by the Minister on the conditions and specifications that shall be met in these establishments, the equipment and tools that shall be present, the fees that shall be paid, and the documents that shall be submitted when applying for or renewing the licence.

It shall not be permissible to relocate the centre or establishment from the authorised location or make any substantial modification in it, except with the prior approval of the Ministry.

**Article – 18 –**

Those authorised to open centres or establishments to practice any of the Allied Medical Professions, shall implement any amendments or additions that the Ministry decides to make to the requirements and specifications that shall be met in them.

**Article – 19 –**

Whoever is authorised to open a centre or a establishment to practice one of the Allied Medical Professions shall meet the following conditions:

(A) Shall be a Bahraini national.

(B) Shall be of good conduct, not have previously been convicted of any crime involving a breach of honour or trust unless he has been rehabilitated.

(C) Shall be authorised to practise that profession in Bahrain. It shall be permissible, at the time of the issuance of this Law, to exempt the holders of valid licences from this condition. In such case, an authorised technical director shall be appointed to manage the establishment, who shall also be authorised to practise the profession in Bahrain.

**Article – 20 –**

It shall not be permissible to operate the establishment, if the authorised person to practise the profession leaves work or takes a leave. In this case, the Ministry shall have the right to approve the continued operation of the establishment, if the licensee appoints, upon the opening, another technical director authorised to practice the profession.

**Article – 21 –**

It shall not be permissible for the licensee to practise one of the Allied Medical Professions, to be a responsible technician in more than one centre or workplace.

**Article – 22 –**

The Ministry shall have the right to oblige anyone who has been authorised to open a centre or establishment to practise one of the Allied Medical Professions, to maintain registers for those who frequent their centres or establishments. These registers shall include the data specified by the Ministry.

**Article – 23 –**

The penalty shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding one-thousand Dinars, or one of these two penalties, with the obligation to close the establishments in which the violators carry out their activities, and confiscate the tasks, machines, signs, etc. :

1 – Whoever practices the profession, or runs an establishment to practise it without a licence.

2 – Whoever provides incorrect data or resorts to illegal methods that result in granting him a licence to practice the profession unlawfully.

3 – Any person who is not authorised to practice the profession or to open an establishment to practice it, who uses leaflets, signs, plates, or any other means of publication, if this would lead the public to believe that he has the right to practice the profession, as well as anyone who assumes for himself a title that is usually given to practitioners of the Allied Medical Professions.

4 – Any person who is not authorised to practise one of these professions or to manage an establishment in practising them, and found with medical machines or tools typically used by the practitioners of these professions, unless it is proven that their presence was due to another legitimate reason.

In all cases, the establishments where violators conduct their activities shall be administratively closed until the criminal lawsuit is adjudicated.

**Article – 24 –**

Without prejudice to criminal or civil liability, the Committee shall be competent to conduct disciplinary prosecution of those authorised to practise one of the professions stipulated in this Law or those authorised to open an establishment for their practice, for the violations they commit against the provisions of this Law or the profession’s principles, requirements, and ethics.

**Article – 25 –**

The disciplinary lawsuit shall be filed by a Decision by the Undersecretary of the Ministry. The Committee shall rule upon the lawsuit after notifying the violator to appear before it at least one week before the date specified for the hearing through a registered letter, indicating the summary of the charges against him and the date and place of the Committee’s meeting.

The Committee shall investigate the charges against the violator or delegate one of its members to do so. The Committee or whoever it delegates to investigate shall have the right to, on its own initiative or at the request of the violator, assign witnesses to attend for their statements to be heard. The violator shall have the right to present his defence orally or in writing.

If the accused does not appear before the Committee despite being notified, it shall be permissible to impose the penalty on him in his absence.

**Article – 26 –**

Disciplinary penalties that may be imposed on the violator are:

First: Concerning the person authorised to practise the profession:

(A) Warning, it shall be permissible to impose such penalty without summoning the violator to appear before the Committee.

(B) Suspension from work for one year maximum.

(C) Cancelling the licence to practise the profession.

The infliction of any of the last two penalties shall lead to closing the establishment that the violator is authorised to open.

Second: Concerning the owners of the establishments who are authorised to practise the profession:

(A) Warning, it shall be permissible to impose such penalty without summoning the violator to appear before the Committee.

(B) Closing the establishment for a period not exceeding one year.

(C) Closing the establishment permanently and cancelling its licence.

**Article – 27 –**

It shall not be permissible for a person against whom a Decision was issued to cancel the licence to practise his profession or to close his establishment permanently in accordance with the provision of the previous Article, to apply for a new licence to practise the profession or to open an establishment, except after the two years have passed from the date of the aforementioned Decision.

**Article – 28 –**

The Ministry shall have the right to inspect the locations where the Allied Professions are practised. The employees designated for this purpose by a Decision issued by the Minister, shall have the right to prove the violations occurring against the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued in implementation of it.

**Article – 29 –**

Whoever practises an Allied Medical Profession on the date of entry into force of this Law, whoever is granted by the Ministry a licence to practise the profession prior to the entry into force of the provisions of this Law, as well as whoever is authorised to open an establishment or centre to practise the profession, shall continue to practise the profession, provided that he shall submit to the Ministry within three months at most from the date of entry into force of this Law the necessary documents to register him and grant him a new licence, provided that he shall meet the conditions necessary to be granted the required licence, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

If he does not submit these documents within the aforementioned period, the licence issued to him to practise the profession shall be deemed terminated.

**Article – 30 –**

The Minister shall issue the necessary decisions and regulations to implement the provisions of this Law.

**Article – 31 –**

Legislative Decree No. (24) of 1977 regarding the Practice of Obstetrics Profession (Midwifery) shall be repealed, along with any provision that contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Article – 32 –**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force one month following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Acting Emir of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On 17 Jumada al-Akhir 1407 A.H.

Corresponding to: 16 February 1987

**Table of the Allied Medical Professions**

1 – Nursing. 8 – Audiology and speech.

2 – Midwifery and Obstetrics. 9 – Electrocardiogram (ECG).

3 – Laboratories. 10 – Nutrition.

4 – Radiology (examination and treatment). 11 – Respiratory devices.

5 – Physiotherapy. 12 – Nuclear Medicine.

6 – Dentistry (Implantation – Manufacturing – Treatment of some simple cases)               13 – Prosthetic limbs.

 14 – Health inspection in its various specialisation.

7 – Optometry (Manufacture and fitting).