



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2894

Introduced by Honorable Karlo Alexei B. Nograles

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines and to guarantee a more effective government supervision and control over the practice of plumbing engineers in the interest of the general public.

Plumbing engineering is not just a simple trade or occupation. It involves public interest as it deal with the health, comfort and safety of the public. As such, it necessitates state legislation. Republic Act No. 1378, otherwise known as the Plumbing Law, took effect in June 18, 1955 or almost sixty (60) years ago. The said law regulates the practice of master plumbers.

As advances in technology and the emergence of high rise buildings and structures have tremendously changed the trends in the plumbing works system, the law has become outmoded and impractical as there is a growing need to adopt modern measures in carrying out more efficient plumbing designs and installations. It is therefore imperative that the law be updated to be more responsive to the constructions and plumbing needs of the construction industry in the country.

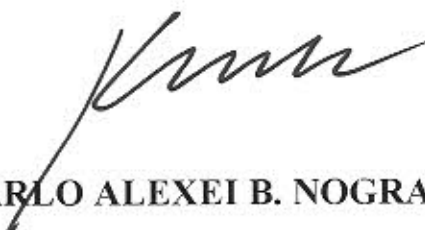
Unlike in other countries, the practice of plumbing is not recognized as a regular profession in the Philippines but a mere trade. High school graduates with five years plumbing experience as master plumber are still dominating the trade. We are left behind by other developing countries because they are able to produce highly competitive plumbers with engineering expertise educated in science and engineering courses.

Today, plumbing practice has grown in scope and magnitude with the progress in complexities of constructions such as high rise buildings with multi-level basement floors that now require electro-mechanical equipment and controls. The dwindling water resources intensify water use conservation. Modern or state-of-the-art plumbing designs and installations require formal education in engineering science in order to cope up the complexity of architectural and engineering works which spell out the demand for plumbing engineer.

The time has come that the plumbing profession must be upgraded by giving the plumbing engineering with professional acceptance and recognition. In addition, by regulating the plumbing profession, the plumbing services will benefit the businesses, residents, legitimate plumbers, and the government alike. Also, licensing and registration of the profession will mean more government income.

For this purpose, the bill aims to elevate the plumbing industry into professional engineering and establish a governing board for the plumbing trade that will regulate, set standards, supervise, improve, upgrade and ensure the quality of education and graduates in plumbing engineering and master plumbing. The proposed measure likewise mandates the Board to conduct licensure examinations, registration and licensing for plumbing engineering and master plumbers in order to professionalize the practice of plumbing engineering and master plumbing in the country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this highly recommended.



KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES



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AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, OBJECTIVE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Plumbing Engineering Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of plumbing engineering in nation-building and development by establishing or encouraging the establishment of a growing pool of plumbing professionals who are dynamic, responsive and innovative leaders in the advancement of plumbing technology and improvement of the quality of life. Toward this end, the State shall

develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive, and well-rounded professional plumbing engineers whose standards of practice and service are aimed towards excellence, quality, world-class and global competitiveness through effective and credible licensure examinations and regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their integrity, continuing professional education, development and growth.

SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a) *Board* refers to the Board of Plumbing Engineering;
- b) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulatory Commission;
- c) *Master Plumber* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration or professional license and professional identification card as master plumber;
- d) *Plumbing Engineer* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration or professional license and professional identification card issued by the Board of Plumbing Engineering and the Professional Regulation Commission and who is legally qualified to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

ARTICLE II
PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD
OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

SEC. 4. *Board of Plumbing Engineering.* – There shall be created a Board of Plumbing Engineering under the general supervision and control of the

Commission, which shall be composed of a chairperson and two members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commission from a list of recommendees submitted by the duly registered association of plumbing engineers and master plumbers.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications.* – The chairperson and the members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a) Natural born Filipino citizens and residents of the Philippines for at least five (5) consecutive years;
- b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- c) Of proven integrity and high moral values;
- d) With no final conviction by any court for offense involving moral turpitude;
- e) Holders of the degree of Bachelor of Science in any engineering course from a university, school, college, academy or institute duly constituted, recognized and accredited by the government; and
- f) With valid certificate of registration and license to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines.

The chairperson and the members of the Board shall not be officials or members of the faculty of, nor have pecuniary interest in any university, college, school or institution conferring a bachelor's degree in engineering for at least three (3) years prior to their appointment, and are not connected with any review center

or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examinations are offered or conducted at the time of the appointment.

SEC. 6. ***Term of Office.*** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. They may be reappointed for another term. Of the members of the Board first appointed under this Act, the chairperson shall hold office for three years; one member for two years, and one (1) member for one year, which shall be specified in their appointment. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member shall be filled up for the unexpired portion of the term only.

SEC. 7. ***Compensation.*** – The chairperson shall receive a monthly salary of not less than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and the members of the Board shall each receive a monthly compensation of not less than fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00). The compensation may be increased or modified pursuant to the provisions of the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. ***Powers and Duties.*** – The Board shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a) Supervise and regulate the examination, registration, licensure, and the practice of plumbing engineering and master plumbing in the Philippines;
- b) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for registration;

c) Prepare the examination questions in accordance with Sections 13 and 15 hereof and supervise, check and rate the licensure examination papers;

d) Prescribe, amend or revise the requirements and subjects in the licensure examination for plumbing engineers and master plumbers and their relative weights, subject to the approval of the Commission;

e) Administer oaths to successful examinees entering the practice of plumbing engineering and master plumbing in the Philippines;

f) Issue, suspend, or revoke the license for the practice of plumbing engineering and master plumbing or to reissue the same;

h) Issue special permits to foreign plumbing engineers and plumbers for specific projects and for a specific duration of time;

i) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

j) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of the plumbing engineering profession and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high professional, technical, and ethical standards of the profession;

k) Prescribe and adopt a set of ethical and technical standards for the practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines and cause the same to be published and disseminated;

l) Investigate, hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the sets of ethical and technical

standards and, for the purpose, issue subpoena and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;

m) Submit an annual report on the action on all applications for licensure; the names of all persons licensed or certified; actions involving suspension, revocation or denial of license; recommendations for reciprocity; receipt and disbursement of any monies; and such other matters that may be required by law from the Commission after the close of each fiscal year;

n) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), that all educational institutions offering plumbing engineering and master plumbing education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library, and facilities;

o) Coordinate with the Commission, CHED and TESDA in prescribing, amending and revising the curriculum of the related courses;

p) Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the continuing professional education (CPE) program for plumbing engineers and master plumbers as a condition for the renewal of their professional licenses; and

q) Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Administrative Supervision.* – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including the application for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other investigations involving the plumbing engineers or master plumbers shall be kept by the Commission.

The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat necessary support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Removal of Board Member.* – After due notice and hearing in an administrative case, the President may remove any member of the Board, including the chairperson, upon the recommendation of the Commission, for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessionalism, immorality, unethical or dishonorable conduct.

ARTICLE III EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION AND LICENSE

SEC. 11. *Licensure Examination Required.* – All applicants for registration as plumbing engineers and master plumbers shall be required to undergo and pass a written examination as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications for Plumbing Engineering Examination.* – The applicant for plumbing engineer examination shall have the following qualifications on the day of the examination;

- a) At least twenty-one years of age;

- b) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of plumbing engineering;
- c) Of good moral character; and
- d) A graduate of Bachelor of Science (BS) in Plumbing Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, or any other engineering courses, and at least two years of experience in actual plumbing work under the supervision of a plumbing engineer.

SEC. 13. *Scope of Examination.* – The applicant for registration as plumbing engineer shall be examined in the following subjects:

a) Engineering mathematics	10%
b) Plumbing Code	20%
c) Sanitation and plumbing design and installation	40%
d) Practical problems	20%
e) Technical paper	10%
	100%

The said subjects and their syllabi maybe amended by the Board to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.

SEC. 14. *Qualifications For Master Plumber Examination.* – The applicant for master plumber examination shall have the following qualifications on the day of the examination:

- a) At least twenty-one years of age;

- b) A citizen of the Philippines;
- c) Of good moral character;
- d) At least a high school graduate; and
- e) At least five years experience in the practice of actual plumbing work

under the supervision of a registered master plumber or plumbing engineer.

For purposes of this Act, the “practice of master plumber” includes:

- i. Design analysis, specifications and preparations of plans of plumbing installation of not more than twenty (20) plumbing units;
- ii. Preparation of plans including drawing and details of additional installation;
- iii. Preparation of cost estimates of the above items (i) and (ii); and
- iv. Supervision of plumbing installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing system.

The practice of master plumber who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration or professional license prior to the effectivity of this Act shall not be subjected to the abovementioned plumbing installation limitation.

SEC. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – Applicants for registration as master plumbers shall be examined in the following subjects:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| a) Plumbing arithmetic | 10% |
| b) Plumbing Code | 25% |

c)	Sanitation and plumbing installation	40%
d)	Practical problems	25%
		100%

The subjects and their syllabi maybe amended by the Board to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.

SEC. 16. *Suspension or Revocation.* – The Board may suspend or revoke a certificate of registration obtained through misrepresentation made in the application for examination.

SEC. 17. *Examination Fees.* – Every applicant admitted to take the plumbing engineering and master plumbing examinations shall pay such fees as may be prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 18. *Schedule of Examination.* – Examinations for candidates for plumbing engineering and master plumber shall be given by the Board twice a year in Metro Manila and in such other places as may be deemed necessary by the Board. The dates of the examinations shall be fixed by the Board.

SEC. 19. *Admission to Examination.* – The Board, with the approval of the Commission, shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement or carry out the provisions of this Act, especially those relating to the scope of examination for plumbing engineering and master plumbing, proper conduct of the examinations, custody and correction of examination papers, and registration of plumbing engineers and master plumbers.

The Board shall have control and jurisdiction over the examination papers from the preparation, printing and distribution to the examinees, during the checking or corrections up to the time the list of successful examinees is released to the newspapers of general circulation in the country.

SEC. 20. **Rating.** – To pass the licensure examination, a candidate for plumbing engineer or master plumber must obtain a passing rate of seventy percent (70%) in each subject given during the examination. A candidate who obtains a passing rate in the majority of the subjects but obtains a rating in the other subjects below the passing rate of seventy percent (70%) but not lower than fifty percent (50%) shall be allowed to take one removal examination on the subjects where the examinee failed to obtain the passing rate. Should the examinee fail to obtain a passing rate in the removal examination, the examinee shall be considered as having failed the entire licensure examination.

A candidate who failed to pass for the third time shall be allowed to take the examination only after taking a refresher course.

SEC. 21. **Report of Results.** – Within thirty (30) calendar days after the last day of the examination, the Board shall report for release the ratings obtained by each candidate to the Commission. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Board shall send by mail the rating received by the examinees at their respective given addresses using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.

SEC. 22. *Oath.* – All successful examinees and all those who have qualified for registration without examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any person authorized by the Commission to administer oaths before the examinee can be registered and issued a certificate of registration and professional identification card. The oath is a prerequisite to practice as a plumbing engineer or master plumber.

SEC. 23. *Issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional License.* – The registration of plumbing engineers and master plumbers commences from the date the name is entered in the roll of registrants or licensees for his profession. Every registrant who has satisfactorily met all the requirements specified in this Act, upon payment of the registration fee, shall be issued a certificate of registration as a plumbing engineer or a master plumber.

The certificate of registration shall show the full name of the registrant and a serial number, signed by the Commissioner and by the chairperson and members of the Board, stamped with the official seal, as evidence that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all rights and privileges appurtenant thereto. The certificate of registration shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended, or revoked.

A professional license signed by the commissioner and bearing the registration number and date of issuance thereof and the month of expiry or renewability shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the annual

registration fees for three (3) consecutive years and has complied with the requirements of the continuing professional education (CPE), unless exempted therefrom. This license shall serve as evidence that the licensee can lawfully practice the profession until the expiration of its validity.

SEC. 24. *Registration Without Examination for Plumbing Engineer.* – Within five years after the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall issue certificates of registration and professional identification cards without examination to applicants for registration as plumbing engineer the plumbers who shall present evidence or other proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is:

- a) A registered and licensed master plumber and also a registered and licensed engineer or architect;
- b) A registered master plumber with five years experience in plumbing work and a holder of a baccalaureate degree of any engineering or architecture courses; and
- c) A holder of any baccalaureate degree and has been in active practice in plumbing for at least ten years.

The qualifications mentioned above shall have been obtained prior to the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 25. *Seal of Plumbing Engineer.* – All licensed plumbing engineers may obtain a seal of a design prescribed by the Board bearing the registrant's name, the certificate number and the legend "Plumbing Engineer." Plans, specifications,

reports and other professional documents prepared by or executed under the immediate supervision of and issued by a licensee, shall be stamped on every sheet with said seal when filed with government authorities or when submitted or used professionally.

It is unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with said seal after the registrant's name has been delisted from the roster of plumbing engineers or after the validity of the professional license has expired. The registrant shall be allowed again to use the seal or stamp in the documents only after the registrant is reinstated to the practice of the profession and reissued a new professional license.

SEC. 26. *Refusal to Issue Certificates.* – The Board shall not issue a certificate of registration to any person convicted by the court of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or to any person guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct or to any person of unsound mind. In the event of refusal to issue certificates for any reason, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting forth the reasons for such action, which statement shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

SEC. 27. *Grounds For Revocation.* – The Board shall have the power, upon proper notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend any certificate of registration of any registrant for any cause specified in the preceding section, or for the use or perpetration of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration, or for gross negligence or incompetence or for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct,

or for violation of this Act, the rules and regulations and other policies of the Board and the Code of Professional Ethics. The action of the Board shall be subject to appeal to the Commissioner whose decision shall be final.

Any person, firm, association or corporation, may file charges in accordance with the provisions of this section against any registrant, or the Board may investigate or take cognizance of acts and practices constituting cause of suspension or revocation of the certificate of registration by proper resolution or order. Such charges shall be in writing and sworn to by the persons making them and filed with the Secretary of the Board.

SEC. 28. *Reissue of Revoked Certificate and Replacement of Lost Certificates.* – A person may apply to the Board for reinstatement of a license or certificate at any time after one year from the date of revocation of said license or certificate. The application shall be in writing and shall conform with the requirements provided by the Board. No license or certificate shall be reissued unless the Board is satisfied that good cause exists to warrant such reinstatement.

A new certificate of registration to replace any certificate that has been lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules of the Board.

SEC. 29. *Exemption From Examination and Registration of Foreigners.* –

a) Examination and registration shall not be required of foreign plumbing engineers, erection, commissioning or guarantee engineers, and foreign plumbing installers for the erection and installation of a special project or for any other

specialized work, employed as technical consultants by the Philippine Government or by private firms, for which the pertinent professional society certifies that no qualified Filipino professional is available, subject to the following conditions:

i. That the abovementioned foreign professionals are legally qualified to practice their profession in their own country in which the requirements and qualifications for obtaining a license or certificate of registration are not lower than those specified in this Act;

ii. That the scope of work to be performed by said foreign professionals shall be limited only to the particular work for which they were contracted;

iii. That prior to commencing work, the foreign professional shall secure a special permit from the Commission;

iv. That said foreign professional shall not engage in private practice on their own account;

v. That for every foreign professional contracted pursuant to this section, one Filipino understudy who is registered under the provisions of this Act shall be employed by the private firm utilizing the services of such foreign professional for at least the duration of the alien expert's tenure with said firm; and

vi. That the exemption herein granted shall be good only for six (6) months, renewable for another six (6) months at the discretion of the Board.

In case the foreign professional ceases to be employed in accordance with this section and engages in an occupation requiring registration as plumbing engineer, such professional must be registered under the provisions of this Act.

b) No registration with the Board shall be required of engineering students, apprentices and other persons employed or acting as subordinates of, or undergoing training under a person holding a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license under this Act.

ARTICLE IV PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

SEC. 30. *Vested Rights, Automatic Registration.* – All practicing master plumbers who are registered at the time this Act takes effect shall automatically be registered as a plumbing engineer as provided in paragraph (b) of Section 44 of this Act.

SEC. 31. *Practice of Plumbing Engineering.* – Except as may be provided in this Act, no person shall use the title “Registered Plumbing Engineer,” or display or use any title, sign, card, advertisement, or other device to indicate such person, practices or offers to practice plumbing engineering, unless such person shall have received from the Board a certificate of registration and issued a professional identification card by the Commission and the Board.

For purposes of this Act, “*practice of plumbing engineering*” refers to the professional and organized act of applying scientific principle and technique for the design, installation and operation of plumbing systems involving hot and cold water supply installation of fixtures, sanitary drainage, vent system, storm drainage, fuel gas piping, swimming pools, water feature fire protection system, irrigation system, private water system, private sewage disposal system within or adjacent to any buildings and other structures. It shall embrace services, but not limited to, the following activities:

- i. Consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specifications, estimates, erection, installation and supervision of plumbing work including the inspection and acceptance of materials used therein;
- ii. Extension, addition alteration and modifications of all pipings for fixtures, equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the above scope;
- iii. Engagement in the teaching or transfer of knowledge and technology of plumbing engineering in any institution of learning particularly on subjects included in the licensure examinations.

The enumeration of the above shall not be construed as excluding any other work requiring plumbing engineering knowledge and application.

No firm, partnership, corporation or association may be licensed and registered as such for the practice of plumbing engineering, but duly licensed and

registered plumbing engineers may form partnerships among themselves or with other licensed and registered engineers and architects and use the title “Plumbing Engineers,” “Engineers,” or “Engineers and Architects” in their partnership names.

SEC. 32. *Prohibited Acts.* – No person shall:

a) Practice or offer to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines without having previously obtained a certificate of registration and a professional license from the Board of Plumbing Engineering.

b) Use or attempt to use the certificate of registration, professional license or the seal of another;

c) Give false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof in obtaining a certificate of registration or professional license;

d) Falsely impersonate any registrant of like or different name;

e) Attempt to use a revoked or suspended certificate of registration or an expired professional license;

f) Use, in connection with the person’s name or otherwise assume, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that such person is a plumbing engineer, or master plumber without holding a valid certificate or a valid license; and

g) Sign a document involving plumbing design, plan, technical specification, valuation and the like on behalf of a plumbing engineer.

SEC. 33. *Roster of Plumbing Engineers and Master Plumbers.* – The Commission shall keep a roster of all duly licensed and registered plumbing engineers, stating their names, registration numbers and places of business. The Commission shall regularly update such roster and make it available to the public.

SEC. 34. *Submission of Designs, Specifications and Reports.* – Any proposal, design, specification, working drawings, programs, or reports to be submitted to any government agency, national or local, including government-owned or controlled corporations, shall not be processed or approved if such proposals, design, specifications, drawings and similar documents, have not been signed by a registered plumbing engineer, with the seal and registration number affixed thereto.

SEC. 35. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign engineer shall be admitted to take a board examination, be given a certificate of registration, or be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the country of which he is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino engineers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such country.

SEC. 36. *License Number and Privilege Tax Receipt.* – The plumbing engineer or master plumber shall be required to indicate the certificate of registration, professional identification card number, date of issuance and the duration of validity, including the privilege tax receipt (PTR) on the documents the

plumbing engineer or master plumber signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of the profession.

SEC. 37. ***Integration of the Plumbing Engineering Professions.*** – The plumbing engineering professions shall be integrated into one national organization which shall be recognized by the Board as the one and only integrated and accredited association of plumbing engineers and master plumbers. Every plumbing engineer and master plumber upon registration with the Board as such, shall *ipso facto*, become a member of the integrated national organization. Those who have been registered with the Board but are not members of the said organization at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall be allowed to register as members of the said integrated organization within three years after the effectivity of this Act. Membership in the integrated organization shall not be a bar to membership in the other associations of the engineering profession.

SEC. 38. ***Continuing Professional Education.*** – The Continuing Professional Education (CPE) guidelines shall be prescribed and promulgated by the Board subject to the approval of the Commission, after consultation with the integrated and accredited plumbing engineering associations, other associations of the plumbing engineering profession, and other concerned sectors. The Board shall incorporate in the said guidelines the creation of a CPE council that shall be composed of officers coming from the Board, the Commission, the integrated and accredited plumbing associations, and other concerned sectors. It shall be vested

with the functions, duties and responsibilities to implement the guidelines and shall have the juridical personality that is distinct and separate from and independent of the Board, the Commission, and the integrated and accredited plumbing engineering association.

ARTICLE V GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 39. ***Penalties.*** – Any person, corporation, partnership or juridical person who violates any provision of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than three years and one day but not more than eight years, or a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership or juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed on the officer or officers responsible for permitting or causing a violation by the corporation, partnership or juridical person of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 40. ***Enforcement.*** – The Board shall be assisted by the Commission in carrying out the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations and other policies. The lawyers of the Commission shall act as prosecutors against illegal practitioners and other violators of this Act and its rules. The duly constituted authorities of the government shall likewise assist the Board and the Commission in enforcing the provisions of this Act and its rules.

SEC. 41. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations including the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 42. *Funding.* – Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its approval into law and thereafter. Fifty percent (50%) of the fees derived from examinations, registrations and licenses shall be utilized by the Board to defray its administrative and other operational expenses, including the advancement of the plumbing engineering profession.

SEC. 43. *Transitory Provisions.* –

a) The existing Board of Master Plumbing shall continue to function in the interim until such time as the new Board shall be duly constituted pursuant to this Act.

b) All registered master plumbers holding valid certificates of registration and professional license issued under Republic Act No. 1378 shall register within three years from the effectivity of this Act and be issued new certificates of registration and new professional license as plumbing engineers under this Act to replace their original ones. Their serial numbers shall be provided by the Commission.

ARTICLE VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 44. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 45. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 1378 is hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, ordinances, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 46. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,