

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7679



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Plumbing system contributes a significant percentage to the value of every building or house. Considering the complexities that plumbing installation covers, professional and licensed plumbers are necessary.

Plumbing engineering involves the application of scientific principles in the design of efficient, economical and ecologically-safe systems for the transport and distribution of fluids, solids and gases to answer human and industrial needs. In the country, the act of plumbing works has become more complex and multifaceted with the emergence and expansion of all types of modernized building design and construction. This scenario is evident enough to elucidate the demand for plumbing engineers.

However, there is a partially-met demand for plumbing expertise in the country. Although Republic Act No. 1378, otherwise known as the Plumbing Law, provided for the regulation of the trade of master plumbers, it has neither been amended nor revised since its enactment in 1955. Obviously, our Plumbing Law can be considered as obsolete - given the fact that there is a growing need to adopt measures in carrying out more efficient plumbing design and installations. Thus, professionals with adequate academic and technical background in accordance with sound engineering practice and generally-accepted standards are also needed in the country.

Thus, this bill, which acknowledges the imperative to revise the old law to upgrade the practice of plumbing, seeks to elevate the plumbing trade into a professional engineering practice in the country. In view of having qualified plumbing engineers with sufficient academic background to cope with the recent technologies worldwide, this proposed measure also endeavors to have a standard Engineering Curriculum on Plumbing to be offered in colleges and universities in the country.

Recognizing the fact that the Plumbing Engineering profession needs to keep abreast with technological advancement in a rapidly-changing society, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative

Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 1378,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF MASTER
PLUMBER,” APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, STATEMENT OF POLICY, AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Plumbing Engineering
Act of 2018*”.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. – The State recognizes the importance of plumbing
engineering in nation-building and development. The State, therefore, 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 inviolable, honest, 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. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:
a) Plumbing Engineer – a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration /
professional license and professional identification card issued by the Professional Regulatory
Board for Plumbing Engineering and the Professional Regulation Commission and who is legally
qualified to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines pursuant to this Act.

b) Practice of Plumbing Engineering – the practice of Plumbing Engineering is a
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:

- 1) Consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specifications, estimates,
erection, installation, and supervision of plumbing work including the
inspection and acceptance of materials used therein;

2) Extension, addition, alteration and modifications of all pipings for fixtures, equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the above scope; and

3) 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.

c) Master Plumber – one who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration/ professional license and professional identification card as master plumber.

d) Practice of Master Plumber – the practice of master plumber upon the approval of this Act shall embrace the following:

1) Design analysis, specification and preparations of plans of plumbing installation of not more than twenty (20) plumbing units;

2) Preparation of plans including drawing and details of additional installation;

3) Preparation of cost estimates of the above items 1 and 2; and

4) Supervision or in-charge of all plumbing installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing system.

The practice of Master Plumber, who holds a valid certificate of Registration Professional License prior to the effectivity of the Act shall not be subjected to the above mentioned plumbing installation limitation.

ARTICLE II

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Plumbing Engineering.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Plumbing Engineering, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of a chairperson and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from three (3) recommenders for each position, chosen and ranked by the Commission, which recommendees from a list of five (5) nominees for each position, submitted by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Plumbing Engineers. The first set of nominees for the first Board may be submitted by the present association of Plumbing Engineers unless the AIPO shall have been setup for the purpose. The first Board shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

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

- a) Must be a Plumbing Engineer holding a valid Certificate of Registration / Professional License as a Plumbing Engineer having a degree of Bachelor of Science in Plumbing Engineering and have been an active practitioner in the profession of Master Plumber/Plumbing Engineering for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;
- b) Must be a natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- c) Must be a member of the accredited organization of plumbing engineering;
- d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college or university where a regular course in Plumbing Engineering is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- e) Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to his/her appointment, be connected with a review center or with any group or any association review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted at the time of appointment; and,
- f) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 6. Term of Office. – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Of the member of the first Board appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office for two (2) years, and one (1) member for one (1) year.

The chairperson or member of the Board may be re-appointed for another term but in no case shall serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to assumption in the performance of duties.

Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the board within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.

SEC. 7. Compensation and Allowances of the Board Members. – The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that being received by the chairperson and members of existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat and Support Services. – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including the application for examination, examination papers and Result, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other investigation involving the plumbing Engineers/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. 9. Powers, Function, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board. – The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, function, duties and responsibilities:

- a) To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;

- b) To supervise the examination, registration, licensure and practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing in the Philippines;
- c) To administer oaths to successful examinees entering the practice of Plumbing Engineering;
- d) To issue the Certificate of Registration to successful examinees;
- e) To issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the Certificate of Registration for the practice of the Plumbing Engineering profession;
- f) To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- g) To look into the conditions affecting the practice of the profession and whenever necessary, adopt measure as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the professions;
- h) To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education Department (CHED), that all educational institutions offering Plumbing Engineering education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- i) To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for the practice of Plumbing Engineering/ Master Plumbing profession;
- j) To hear and try administrative cases involving violation of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics/Technical Standards and for the purpose, to issue *subpoena testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;
- k) To prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program in coordination with the accredited integrated professional organization of Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers;
- l) To prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for examination;
- m) To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary special permit to practice Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbers; and
- n) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing Profession and the upgrading, development and growth of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing education in the Philippines.

SEC. 10. Annual Report. – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Professional Regulation Commission, giving detailed account of its recommendation for the adoption of measure that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing in the Philippines.

SEC. 11. Removal of Board Member. – Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. The President may remove any member of the Board, upon the recommendation of the Commission, on the following grounds:

- 1 a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;
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3 b) Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics or the Code of
4 Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers; and,
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6 c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.
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8 He/She shall be given due notice and hearing where he/she has the right to be heard and
9 to defend himself/herself, assisted by a counsel. He/She shall be respected in a proper
10 administrative investigation with the Commission shall conduct.
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13 **ARTICLE III**
14 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, AND LICENSE**
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16 **SEC. 12. *Licensure Examination Required.*** – All applicants for registration for the
17 practice of Plumbing Engineering shall be required to undergo and pass a written technical
18 examination as provided for in this Act.
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20 **SEC. 13. *Qualification for Admission to the Licensure Examination.*** – Every applicant
21 for Plumbing Engineering examination shall establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she
22 is:
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- 24 a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country state has reciprocity with the
25 Philippines in the practice of the profession;
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27 b) Of good moral character;
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29 c) A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Plumbing Engineering in a school, academy,
30 institute or college duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education Department
31 (CHED): *Provided, That, within seven (7) years upon the effectivity of this Act, a*
32 *graduate of any Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering or Architecture may qualify*
33 *for the examination.*
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35 **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** – The examination for Plumbing Engineering shall
36 basically cover the following subjects:
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38 a) Mathematics	20%
39 b) Hydraulic Plumbing Principles and Practice	30%
40 c) Plumbing Laws and Code of Ethics	20%
41 d) Sanitation / Plumbing Design	30%
42	100%

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44 The said subjects and their syllabi maybe amended by the Board so as to conform to
45 technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.
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47 **SEC. 15. *Applicants.*** – All applicants for registration as master plumber shall be required
48 to pass an examination as hereinafter provided.
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Persons applying for admission to the examination as herein provided, shall, prior to the date of examination, establish to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners, that he/she is:

- a) at least twenty-one years of age;
- b) a citizen of the Philippines;
- c) of good moral character;
- d) at least a graduate of high school recognized by the government and completing an approved course of not less than three (3) years in Plumbing Technology or equivalent; or
- e) a high school graduate and has at least five (5) years of experience in actual plumbing work under the supervision of a registered Master Plumber / Plumbing Engineer.

SEC. 16. Subject for the Applicants. – Applicants for registration as master plumbers shall be examined in the following subjects:

a) Plumbing arithmetic	20%
b) Plumbing code	10%
c) Sanitation, plumbing design and instillation	40%
d) Practical problems	<u>30%</u>
	100%

SEC. 17. Rating. – To pass the licensure examination, a candidate for Plumbing Engineers must obtain a passing rate of seventy percent (70%) in each subject given during the examination: *Provided, however,* That a candidate who obtains a passing rate in the majority of the subjects but obtains a rating in the other subject/s below passing seventy percent (70%) but not lower than fifty percent (50%) shall be allowed to take one removal examination on the subject/s where he/she failed to obtain the passing rate: *Provided, finally,* That should the examinee fail to obtain a passing rate in the removal examination, he/she 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 one (1) year after taking a refresher course.

SEC. 18. Report of Ratings. – The Board shall submit to the Commission the rating obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) calendar days after the examination, unless extended for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Board shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his/her given address using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.

SEC. 19. Professional 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 he/she can be registered and issued a Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification card, and as a prerequisite to practice as a Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.

1 **SEC. 20. Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card.** – A
2 Certificate of Registration shall be issued to applicants who pass the examination for Plumbing
3 Engineer/Master Plumber and to those who registered without examination subject to payment of
4 registration fees.

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6 The Certificate of Registration of a Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall bear the
7 signatures of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Members of the Board
8 and stamped with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board indicating that the person
9 named therein is a registered Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.

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11 A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number, date of issuance,
12 expiry date and duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to
13 every registrant, upon payment of the professional fees. No person shall practice Plumbing
14 Engineering/Master Plumbing in the manner contrary to herein provided. A Plumbing
15 Engineer/Master Plumber holding a Professional Identification Card is entitled to practice the
16 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto until the expiration of the validity thereof.

17
18 **SEC. 21. Registration without Examination for Plumbing Engineer.** – Within five (5)
19 years after the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall issue certificates of registration and
20 professional identification cards without examination to applicants for registration as Plumbing
21 Engineers who shall present evidence or other proof of satisfactory to the Board that:

22 a) he/she is a registered and licensed Master Plumber, at the same time, he is a
23 registered and licensed Engineer or Architect;

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25 b) he/she is a registered Master Plumber with five (5) years experience in Plumbing
26 work and a holder of a Baccalaureate degree of any engineering or architecture
27 course; and

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29 c) he/she is a holder of any Baccalaureate degree and has been in active practice in
30 plumbing for at least ten (10) years: *Provided*, That the qualifications mentioned above
31 shall be obtained prior to the effectivity of this Act.

32
33 **SEC. 22. Seal and Use of Seal.** – (a) Each registrant shall, upon registration, obtain the
34 seal of such design as the Board of Plumbing Engineering may adopt. Plans and specification
35 prepared by, or under the direct supervision of a registered Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber
36 shall be stamped with said seal during the validity of the professional identification card. No
37 person shall stamp or seal any document with the seal of a registrant after his/her professional
38 license has expired, lost its validity, unless he/she has been reinstated at the practice and/or
39 unless his license has been renewed.

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41 (b) Officer or employee of the government, chartered cities, provinces and
42 municipalities charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to all
43 Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing practices shall not accept or endorse any plumbing
44 plans or documents which have not been prepared and submitted in full accord with the
45 provisions of this Act, nor shall any payment to approve by any such officer for any work, the
46 plans and documents of which have not been prepared, sign by a duly licensed Plumbing
47 Engineer/Master Plumber.

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49 (c) Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall not sign his/her name, affix his/her seal
50 or use any other method of signature on plans, specification or other documents made by under

1 another Plumbing Engineer's/Master Plumber's supervision unless the professional service of the
2 former have been officially terminated and/or the same is made in such manner as to clearly
3 indicate the part of such work actually performed by him/her, and only the Plumbing
4 Engineer/Master Plumber in charge shall sign for any branch of work or any function of Plumbing
5 Engineering/Master Plumbing practice actually performed by him/her. Plumbing
6 Engineer/Master Plumber in-charge shall be fully responsible for all plans, specifications and
7 other documents issued under his/her seal or authorized signature.

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9 (d) Plans and documents duly signed, stamped or sealed as instruments of service are
10 the property and documents of the Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.

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12 The Board shall formulate, adopt and promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for
13 the effective implementation of the provisions relating to the design of the seal, the signing and
14 sealing of drawings, specification, reports and other documents by Plumbing Engineers/Master
15 Plumbers.

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17 **SEC. 23. Indication of Professional Identification Number and Professional Tax**
18 **Receipt.** – The Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall be required to indicate his/her
19 Professional Identification card number, the duration of validity, including the professional tax
20 receipt number on the documents he/she signs uses in connection with the practice of his/her
21 profession.

22
23 **SEC. 24. Grounds for Suspension and Revocation of Certificate of Registration,**
24 **Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.** – The Board
25 shall have the power, upon due notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the Certificate of
26 Registration and accordingly the Professional Identification Card of a Plumbing Engineer/Master
27 Plumber, or to cancel a temporary / special permit for any cause specified in the proceeding
28 section, including but not limited to:

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30 a) The use or perpetration of any fraud and deceit in obtaining a certificate of
31 registration;
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33 b) Incompetence, negligence, or for abatement of the illegal practice of Plumbing
34 Engineering/Master Plumbing; and
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36 c) Violation of the provision of this Act, its implementing rules and regulation and/or
37 violation of the policies of the Board including the Code of Ethics for Plumbing
38 Engineers/Master Plumbers: *Provided, however,* That such action of the Board shall
39 be subject to appeal to the Commission, within fifteen (15) days from written notice.
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41 **SEC. 25. Roster of Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers.** - The Board shall prepare,
42 and maintain a roster of the names, residences and/or office addresses of all registered Plumbing
43 Engineers/Master Plumbers, which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the accredited
44 organizations, indicating therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional
45 identification card and membership identification card in the accredited organization of the
46 professional, whether valid, inactive due to death or other reasons, suspended or revoked. The
47 said roster shall be conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the
48 information there from made available to the public upon inquiry or request.
49

1 **SEC. 26. Exemptions from Examination and Registration.** - No examination and
2 registration shall be required for foreign Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber who are
3 temporarily employed by the Philippine Government or by private firms in the Philippines in the
4 following cases:

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6 a) Where no qualified equivalent Filipino Professional is available for the specific
7 item of work to be rendered, as attested to by the accredited professional organization;

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9 b) Where the conditions of the scope and the funding of the work or project are
10 such that it stipulates the temporary employment of a foreign professional;

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12 c) As defined in the General Agreement on Trade and Services and other similar
13 international treaties, agreements and/or covenants to which the Philippine Government
14 is a signatory and has ratified: *Provided, however, That:*

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16 1) The said foreign professional is legally qualified to practice his/her
17 profession in his/her own country in which the requirements for licensing
18 and registration are not lower than those specified in this Act;

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20 2) The work to be performed by said foreign professional shall be limited
21 only to the particular work or project for which he/she was specifically
22 contracted;

23
24 3) Prior to commencing the work, the foreign professional shall secure a
25 Special Permit from the Board, which shall be subject to the approval of
26 the Commission: *Provided, further, That* no working visa and/or permit
27 shall be issued by concerned government agencies unless such Special
28 Permit has been granted first;

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30 4) The said foreign professional shall not engage in private on his/her own
31 account;

32
33 5) For every foreign professional contracted for the work or project, at
34 least two (2) corresponding Filipino professionals who are registered
35 under this Act be employed as counterparts by the Philippine Government
36 or the private firm utilizing the services of such foreign professional for at
37 least the same duration of time as the foreigner's tenure of work; and

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39 6) The Special Permit herein granted shall be valid only for a period of not
40 more than six (6) months and renewable every six (6) months thereafter
41 subject to the discretion of the Board and the approval of the Commission:
42 *Provided, that* said permit shall cease to be valid if the foreigner terminates
43 his/her employment in the work or project for which said permit was
44 originally granted and thereafter engages in an occupation that required
45 another Special Permit or registration under this Act.

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ARTICLE IV
PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION

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SEC. 27. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Practice Registered Plumbing Engineers.* – All practicing Master Plumbers who are registered at the time this Act takes effect shall automatically be registered as Plumbing Engineer provided they met the qualifications.

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SEC. 28. *Right to Practice Plumbing Engineering.* – The practice of Plumbing Engineering is a professional service, admission to which shall be determined upon the basis of an individual's personal qualifications, for which the Plumbing Engineer is responsible for the correctness of his/her professional work for which he/she is responsible therefore.

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Only duly registered Plumbing Engineers may organize, establish or form firms, partnerships or association for the practice of Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

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SEC. 29. *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization.* – The plumbing engineering profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of fisheries professionals which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered plumbing engineering professionals. All plumbing engineering professionals whose names appear in the Registry Book of Plumbing Engineer Profession shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.

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Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not be a bar to membership in other organizations of plumbing engineering profession.

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SEC. 30. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign plumbing engineer professional shall be given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign plumbing engineer professional is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino plumbing engineer professionals to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of said country or state.

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SEC. 31. *Assistance of Law Enforcement and Other Government Agencies.* – Any law enforcement agency shall, upon call or request of the Board and/or Commission, render such assistance in enforcing this Act including the Code of Ethics, Code of Technical Standards of Practice and the Implementing rules and regulations and measures promulgated thereunder, by prosecuting violators thereof in accordance with law and the Rules of Court.

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ARTICLE V
PENAL PROVISIONS

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SEC. 32. *Penalties.* – In addition to the administrative sanctions, any of the provisions of this Act, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) nor more than Two Hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

1 **SEC. 33. Prohibitions and Limitations on the Practice of Plumbing Engineering /**
2 **Master Plumbing Profession.** – Unless otherwise prescribed by any supervening law, the
3 practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing shall be a professional service, admission to
4 which must be determined on the basis of the individual's personal qualifications. Hence, no
5 firm, company, partnership, association or corporation may be registered or licensed as such for
6 the practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing. However, persons properly registered
7 and licensed as Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber may, among themselves or with any other
8 allied professional, form a partnership or association or corporation and collectively render
9 services as such: *Provided*, That individual members of such partnership or associations or
10 corporations shall be responsible for their own respective acts.

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12 **SEC. 34. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Subject to the approval of the
13 Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate such rules, regulations, resolutions, the Code
14 of Ethics and the Code of Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers to carry out the
15 provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after thirty (30) days following their full
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of general circulation.

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18 **SEC. 35. Funding.** – The Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission shall
19 include in the Commission's program in the implementation of this Act. The funding of which
20 shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

21
22 **SEC. 36. Separability Clause.** – If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof shall
23 be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
24 other part thereof, but such judgment shall merely be confined to the clause, provision, paragraph
25 or part directly involved in the controversy upon which such judgment has been rendered.

26
27 **SEC. 37. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 1378 is hereby repealed. All other laws,
28 decrees, National Codes, executive orders, letter of instructions and other administrative
29 issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
30 modified, suspended, or repealed accordingly.

31
32 **SEC. 38. Transitory Provision.** – The existing Board of Master Plumbing shall continue
33 to function in the interim until such time as the new Board shall be duly constituted pursuant to
34 this Act.

35
36 **SEC. 39. Effectivity.** – This act shall effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in
37 full in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) major daily newspaper of general circulation in
38 the Philippines, whichever is earlier.

Approved,