



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **10158**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 14, Section 10 of the Constitution states that science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life.

Presidential Decree 1096, otherwise known as the National Building Code, was enacted to embody up-to-date and modern technical knowledge on building design, construction, use, occupancy and maintenance.

On April 17, 2004, Republic Act No. 9292, otherwise known as the Electronics Engineering Law of 2004 was enacted to provide a more responsive and comprehensive regulation for the registration, licensing, and practice of professional electronics engineers and electronics technicians. It defines electronics as the science dealing with the development and application of devices and systems involving the flow of electrons or other carriers of electric charge, in a vacuum, in gaseous media, in plasma, in semiconductors, in solid-state electronics and/or similar devices, including, but not limited to, applications involving optical, electromagnetic and other energy forms when transduced or converted into electric signals.

With the enactment of RA 9292, there is a need to amend some provisions of PD 1096 to provide uniform standards, regulations and control for electronics design, planning, manufacturing, production, fabrication, construction, installations, operations, and maintenance, the applications of which will insure adequate protection and safety to persons therein engaged, as well as in the provision, operations and use of electronics components, devise, equipment, facilities, systems, plants, stations and/or services.

In addition, the Board of Electronics Engineering (BECE) of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) issued Board Resolution No. 12, series of 2014, which adopted the Code of Technical Standards and Practice, also known as the Philippine Electronics Code, consisting of Books 1,2,3 and 4 as part of the rules and regulations governing the practice of Electronics Engineering and as a Referral Code to the National Building Code of the Philippines.

The importance of mobile and internet connectivity has never been more needed than today. Its relevance to businesses, the government's disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, and to the Filipinos' daily lives can no longer be taken for granted.

Moreover, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments around the world have realized that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) indeed are categorized as a vital resource for any country similar to the value that natural resources such as water and natural gases offers. Its critical value in driving economies anywhere in the world demonstrates the significant role for governments and institutions alike to ensure that

supporting infrastructures are in place to continuously augment various basic services delivery. In fact, one of the identified sustainable goal (SG #9) of the United Nations is to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

The importance of fixed and wireless internet connectivity towards a smart and intelligent city has never been more pronounced in this time of "new normal". The government's commitment to support such ICT infrastructure buildup is more vital considering the onset of proliferation for 5G technologies across various sectors of the industry and commerce globally.

In view of the foregoing, there is an immediate need to ensure that the practice of electronics engineering is embodied in the National Building Code of the country. Thus, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1096, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 302 of Presidential Decree 1096 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 302. Application for permits.

In order to obtain a building permit, the applicant shall file an application therefor in writing and on the prescribed form from the office of the Building Official. Every application shall provide at least the following information:

- (1) A description of the work to be covered by the permit applied for;
- (2) Certified true copy of the TCT covering the lot on which the proposed work is to be done. If the applicant is not the registered owner, in addition to the TCT, a copy of the contract of lease shall be submitted;
- (3) The use or occupancy for which the proposal work is intended;
- (4) Estimated cost of the proposed work.

[To be submitted together with such application are at least five sets of corresponding plans and specifications prepared, signed and sealed by a duly mechanical engineer in case of mechanical plans, and by a registered electrical engineer in case of electrical plans, except in those cases exempted or not required by the Building Official under this Code.]

TO BE SUBMITTED WITH SUCH APPLICATION ARE AT LEAST FIVE SETS OF CORRESPONDING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED, SIGNED AND SEALED BY A DULY LICENSED ARCHITECT OR CIVIL ENGINEER IN CASE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL PLANS; BY A REGISTERED MECHANICAL ENGINEER IN CASE OF MECHANICAL PLANS; BY A REGISTERED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER IN CASE OF ELECTRICAL PLANS; BY A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEER IN CASE OF ELECTRONIC PLANS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS; BY A LICENSED SANITARY ENGINEER OR MASTER PLUMBER IN CASE OF SANITARY OR PLUMBING INSTALLATION PLANS EXCEPT IN THOSE CASES EXEMPTED OR NOT REQUIRED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL UNDER THIS CODE.

SEC 2. Section 303 of Presidential Decree 1096 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 303. Processing of building Permit

The processing of building permits shall be under the overall administrative control and supervision of the building official and his technical staff of qualified professionals.

In processing an application for a building permit, the building official shall see to it that the applicant satisfies and conforms with approved standards or requirements on zoning and land use, lines and grades, structural design, sanitary and sewerage, environmental, health, electrical, **ELECTRONICS**, and mechanical safety as well as with other rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

SEC 3. A new Section 710 is hereby added to Presidential Decree 1096 to read as follows:

SECTION 710. ELECTRONICS REQUIREMENTS

ELECTRONICS REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP B (RESIDENTIAL, HOTELS AND APARTMENTS), GROUP C (EDUCATION AND RECREATION), GROUP D (INSTITUTIONAL-DIVISION 2 NURSERIES AND DIVISION 3 NURSING HOMES), GROUP E (BUSINESS AND MERCANTILE-DIVISION 2 WHOLESALE AND RETAIL STORES, OFFICE BUILDINGS DRINKING AND DINING ESTABLISHMENTS) SHALL CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING CODE AND OTHER UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED ELECTRONICS STANDARDS AND CODES, AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 9292, THE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING ACT OF 2004.

ELECTRONICS REQUIREMENTS INCLUDES INDOOR BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR MOBILE AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY INCLUDING PROVISION OF FIBER OPTICS CABLING FOR HIGH CAPACITY AND HIGH-SPEED REQUIREMENTS.

SEC 4. A new Section 1303 is hereby added to Presidential Decree 1096 to read as follows:

SECTION 1303: ELECTRONICS REGULATIONS

ALL ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS, FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS CODE SHALL CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS CODE AND OTHER UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED ELECTRONICS STANDARDS AND CODES AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9292 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING CODE OF 2004.

SEC 5. *Creation of Electronics Section* – There shall be an Electronics Section on the Office of the Building Official, the office authorized to enforce the provisions of RA 9292 and the

implementing rules and regulations in the field as well as the enforcement of orders and decisions made pursuant thereto.

SEC 6. *Electronics Section Head* – The head of the Electronics Section must be a duly Registered Professional Electronics Engineer, a member in good standing of a duly accredited organization of his profession for a period of not less than five (5) years and was endorsed or recommended by the Accredited Professional Organization.

SEC 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the National Telecommunications Commission shall promulgate and issue such rules and regulations and other issuances within ninety (90) day from approval of this Act as may be necessary to ensure its effective implementation.

SEC 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC 9. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC 10. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in any two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,