HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE March 23, 2022
TIME 5:55 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 10830

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Through the ages, architecture has been a symbol of power, strength, development, and superiority. A lot of history can be learned and discovered from a nation's history merely by studying the architecture of the buildings within its walls. Further, architecture may reflect a place's or city's character, values, and ideals that may similarly reflect its residents' values and ideals.

An architect does not merely design buildings. Architects do more than that; they build communities. An architecture has to consider culture, climate, and the values of the people that will live in it. As the architectural profession grows, the role of architects in building communities likewise grew. As it stands, architects, in making designs, consider the health, safety, and welfare of the people. Thus, architects' continuing education and professional standards must always be in check to ensure not only their professional growth but stimulate their competence to be at par with the world's best.

It is undisputable that the State recognizes the invaluable contribution of architects in nation building. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9266 or "The Architecture Act of 2004" is instructive, to wit:

> "The State recognizes the importance of architects in nation building and development. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded professional architects whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, qualitative, world-class and globally competitive through inviolable, honest, effective and credible licensure examinations and through regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their professional growth and development."

More importantly, the State's recognition of architectural industry's invaluable contribution to nation building sparked public's interest on sustainable built development and the dangers and hazards of faulty architectural designs and its failure to comply with the standards set by the Architecture Act of 2004.

In view of the foregoing, this humble representation confirms its belief of the need to strengthen the practice of the architecture profession by amending the Architecture Act of 2004 and harmonizing it with other laws.

In the proposed bill, a clear definition of architectural terms was proposed to avoid vagueness and promote accuracy in the implementation of the provisions of the Architecture Act and the proposed amendments. Further, additional requirements in the qualification of the members of the Professional Regulatory Board ("Board") was proposed to ensure that the leaders have the qualification in driving the profession towards greater competence. The additional qualifications likewise aim to professionalize the Board by preventing instances of conflict of interest and "politicization" of the profession.

Most importantly, the proposed bill intends to ensure the qualifications and competence of our new and future architects by keeping them on their toes through the requirement that an applicant who for the third time fails to pass the licensure examination shall not be allowed to take another until at least one (1) year has elapsed after his last examination.

We trust that with the foregoing salient provisions, the proposed bill will be able to help improve the level of professional standards and competence of the industry.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 10830

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (R.A. NO. 9266), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ARCHITECTURE ACT OF 2004"

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

SECTION 1.SEC. 3 of Republic Act No. 9266, otherwise known as the Architecture Act of 2004, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(1) "Architecture" is the art, science or profession of RENDERING OR OFFERING TO RENDER SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE planning, designing and constructing **[**buildings in their totality**]** A STRUCTURE OR GROUP OF STRUCTURES WHICH HAVE AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PURPOSE HUMAN HABITATION OR USE AND THE UTILIZATION OF SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH STRUCTURES taking into account their environment, in accordance with the principles of utility, strength and beauty;

(2) "Architect" means a person professionally and academically qualified, registered and licensed TO PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE under this Act with a Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture and the Professional Regulation Commission, and who is responsible for advocating the fair and sustainable development, welfare and cultural expression of society's habitat in terms of space, forms and historical context;

xxx

(11) "Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization OF ARCHITECTS (IAPOA)" means the official national organization of all architects of the Philippines in which all registered Filipino architects shall be members without prejudice to membership in other voluntary professional associations;

xxx

15) "ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN," ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DESIGN(S)" AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE ILLUSTRATED CONCEPT THAT FOCUSES ON THE FEATURES OR ELEMENTS OF BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND UNIFIES

THEM INTO A COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL WHOLE, FOLLOWING A GENERALLY ACCEPTED APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE(S), ABIDING BY SET NORMS AND CONSIDERING THE ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES OF UTILITY, STRENGTH, AND BEAUTY, EXCLUSIVELY PREPARED BY AN ARCHITECT;

16) "ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS" ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DOCUMENTS" AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS, ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE PREPARED, SIGNED, AND SEALED, EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;

17) "ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT" MEANS A DOCUMENT DULY ISSUED BY ANY REGULATING GOVERNMENT ENTITY BASED ON ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUND SUCH BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S);

18) "ARCHITECTURAL PLANS" ALSO REFERRED TO AS "PLANS" AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE LATERAL SECTION OR DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) SHOWING FEATURES OR ELEMENTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SUCH AS THE FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS, CROSS AND LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS, PERSPECTIVE, REFLECTED CEILING PLAN, SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS, AND OTHER ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS PREPARED, SIGNED, AND SEALED, EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT.

19) "MULTIPARTITE COUNCIIL" REFERS TO A BODY COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS (IAPOA), THE ACADEME, PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND GOVERNMENT PRACTITIONERS."

SECTION 2. SEC. 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board. - There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture, hereinafter referred to as the Board, a collegial body under the supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a chairman and [two (2)] FOUR (4) members appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees chosen from a list of five (5) nominees for each position submitted to the Commission by the integrated and the accredited professional organization of architects. The Board shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act."

SECTION 3. SEC. 5 (c) of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. Qualifications of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board. - Each member shall have at the time of his/her appointment, possess the following qualifications:

(a) be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;

(b) be a holder of a degree in Bachelor of Science in Architecture, PREFERABLY WITH A POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE, conferred by a school, college or university in the Philippines or abroad, WHOSE PROGRAM is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

(c) be an architect with a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card and active practitioner of architecture for at least [ten (10)] FIFTEEN (15) years on the date of his/her appointment;

(d) not be a member of the faculty of any school, college, university or review institution where a regular course or review course in architecture is taught, nor have pecuniary interest in such institution. No former member of the faculty of any school, institute, university or review center where architecture is taught can become a member of the Board unless he/she had officially FILED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR resigned from such an institution and has completely stopped teaching, advising or reviewing activities **[**for at least five (5) years prior to the nomination; and**]** ON THE DATE OF HIS/HER APPOINTMENT;

(e) has never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude**[.]**;

(F) NOT BE AN ELECTIVE OFFICER OF THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS ON THE DATE OF HIS/HER APPOINTMENT;

(G) NOT BE AN ELECTIVE NOR APPOINTIVE LOCAL OFFICIAL UNLESS HE/SHE RELINQUISHES HIS INCUMBENT OFFICE ON THE DATE OF HIS/HER APPOINTMENT;

(H) NOT BE A CANDIDATE WHO HAS LOST IN ANY ELECTION, WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR PRIOR TO THE DATE OF HIS/HER APPOINTMENT.

SECTION 4. SEC. 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Term of Office. – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.

Each member of the Board may be reappointed for one full term of three (3) years. Of the members of the Board first appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office as chairman for three (3) years, **[**ONE (1)**]** TWO (2) MEMBERS for two (2) years, and **[**ONE (1)**]** TWO (2) MEMBERS for one (1) year.

Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to the performance of their duties. Provided, That the incumbent members of the Board shall continue to serve for the remainder of their term as members of the herein created Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture until a new Board shall have been properly organized."

SECTION 5. SEC. 7 (f) of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. Power and Functions of the Board.

xxx

(f) Monitor LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKS AND conditions affecting the practice of architecture and adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards of the profession;

xxx

(N) KEEP, MAINTAIN, PUBLISH, AND ANNUALLY UPDATE A ROSTER OF ARCHITECTS, A ROSTER OF PRACTICING ARCHITECTS, ROSTER OF FOREIGN ARCHITECTS WITH VALID TEMPORARY PERMITS, AND A ROSTER OF ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS;

(O) KEEP A RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS AND MAKE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PHILIPPINE SENATE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHED, AND THE MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL; AND

[(n)**]** (P) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the architecture profession and the upgrading, development and growth of the architecture education.

SECTION 6. SEC. 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. Grounds for Suspension or Removal of Members of the Board. –

xxx

(D) SOLICITING AND/OR ACCEPTING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY GIFT, GRATUITY, FAVOR, ENTERTAINMENT, LOAN OR ANYTHING OF MONETARY VALUE FROM ANY SOURCE, IN THE COURSE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OPERATION BEING REGULATED BY, OR ANY TRANSACTION WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE FUNCTIONS OF THEIR OFFICE;

(E) Final judgment **[**of crimes involving moral turpitude**]** FOR OFFENSES UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT, AND OTHER LAWS; **[**and**]**

(F) Manipulation or rigging of the architecture licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential information in the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination or tampering of grades**[**.**]**; AND

(G) ENGAGED IN UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE."

SECTION 7. SEC. 11 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. Annual Report. - The Board shall submit an annual report to the Commission after the close of each year giving a detailed account of its proceedings during the year and making such recommendations as it may deem proper.

EVERY OTHER YEAR, THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A COMPETITIVENESS REPORT ASSESSING FILIPINO PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTS, ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS, THE BOARD, AND THE IAPOA VIS À VIS THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN COUNTRIES WITH WHOM THE PHILIPPINES HAS, IS NEGOTIATING, OR DESIRES TO NEGOTIATE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS.

COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND COMPETITIVENESS REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING:

(a) OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES;
(b) PHILIPPINE SENATE;
(c) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
(d) THE CHED; AND
(e) THE MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL."

SECTION 8. SEC. 13 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 13. Qualifications of Applicant for Examination. –

xxx

(c) He/she is a holder of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture conferred by a school, college, academy or institute IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ABROAD, WHOSE PROGRAM IS duly accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and in addition has a specific record of at least two (2) years or equivalent of diversified architectural experience duly certified by a registered/licensed architect: Provided, however, That an applicant holding a Master's Degree in Architecture from a school, college, university or institute IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ABROAD DULY ACCREDITED BY THE CHED, shall be credited one (1) year in his/her practical experience; PROVIDED, THAT, FOR AN APPLICANT THAT HOLDS A DEGREE FROM A SCHOOL, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR INSTITUTE, WHOSE PROGRAM IS NOT CURRENTLY ACCREDITED, THE APPLICANT SHALL SUBMIT SAID PROGRAM FOR ACCREDITATION BY THE CHED; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT AN APPLICANT WHO HAS OBTAINED DIVERSIFIED EXPERIENCE FROM AN ARCHITECT REGISTERED/LICENSED ABROAD SHALL PROVE THAT THE COUNTRY WHERE HE OBTAINED SUCH EXPERIENCE HAS RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS WITH THE PHILIPPINES, AND SHALL SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION FOR EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT BY THE PRC; and

(d) He/she has not been convicted of any criminal offensive involving moral turpitude."

SECTION 9. SEC. 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. Subjects for Examination. –

xxx

The Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, AND UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL, may revise or exclude any of the subjects and their syllabi, and add new ones as the need arises to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession."

SECTION 10. A new section shall be inserted to read as follows:

"SECTION 16-A. RE-EXAMINATION. - AN APPLICANT WHO FAILS TO PASS THE EXAMINATION FOR THE THIRD TIME SHALL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ANOTHER EXAMINATION ONLY AFTER THE LAPSE OF ONE YEAR."

SECTION 11. SEC. 19 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 19. Roster of Architects .- A roster showing the names and place of business of all registered professional architects, PRACTICING ARCHITECTS, FOREIGN ARCHITECTS WITH VALID TEMPORARY PERMIT, AND ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS, shall be prepared and updated by the Board and copies thereof shall be made available to any party as may be deemed necessary."

SECTION 12. SEC. 20 (2) of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20. Seal, Issuance and Use of Seal. –

xxx

(2) No officer or employee of this Republic, chartered cities, provinces and municipalities, now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances, or regulations, relating to the construction or alteration of buildings, shall accept or approve any architectural plans or specifications which have not been prepared EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT and submitted in full accord with all the provisions of this Act. Nor shall any payments be approved by such officer for any work, the plans and specifications which have not been so prepared EXCLUSIVELY and signed by an Architect.

UPON APPROVAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS, THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO BUILDING PERMIT OR OTHER DOCUMENT OF SIMILAR IMPORT SHALL BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS, PLANS, AND DOCUMENTS PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY AND SIGNED BY AN ARCHITECT."

SECTION 13. SEC. 25 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 25. Registration of Architects Required. -No person shall practice architecture in this country, or engage in preparing architectural plans, specification or preliminary data for the erection or alteration of any building located within the boundaries of this country or use the title "Architect", [or display or use any title, sign, card, advertisement, or other device] "ARCH.", "ARCH'T.", "AR.", INCLUDING "ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN", "ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS", "ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES", OR ANY OF THEIR DERIVATES OR TRANSLATIONS INTO OTHER LANGUAGES OR DIALECTS, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS OR HER NAME, STYLE, BUSINESS DESIGNATION, BUSINESS NAME, LOGO, OR ON PLANS, DRAWINGS, OR SPECIFICATIONS FOR BUILDINGS OR PARTS OF BUILDINGS to indicate THAT such person practices or offers to practice architecture, or is an architect, unless such person shall have received from the Board a Certificate of Registration and be issued a Professional Identification Card in the manner hereinafter provided and shall thereafter comply with the provisions of this Act.

A foreign architect or any person not authorized to practice architecture in the Philippines, who shall stay in the country and perform any of the activities mentioned in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act, or any other activity analogous thereto, in connection with the construction of any building/structure/edifice or land development project, shall be deemed engaged in the unauthorized practice of architecture."

SECTION 14. SEC. 29 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29. Prohibition in the Practice of Architecture and Penal Clause. - Any person who shall practice or offer to practice architecture in the Philippines without being registered/licensed and who are not holders of temporary or special permits in accordance with the provisions of this Act; or any person presenting or attempting to use as his/her own the Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card or seal of another or temporary or special permit; or any person who shall give any false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof in obtaining a Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card or temporary or special permit; or any person who shall falsely impersonate any registrant of like or different name, or any person who shall attempt to use a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card or cancelled

special/temporary permit; or any person who shall use in connection with his/her name or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he/she is an architect when he/she is not an architect; or any person whether Filipino or foreigner, who knowingly allows the use, adoption, implementation of plans, designs or specification made by any person, firm, partnership or company not duly licensed to engage in the practice of architecture; OR ANY PERSON, WHO IS A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE CONNECTED WITH PERMITTING AUTHORITIES, WHO PREPARES, SIGNS AND SEALS ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PERMITS, CLEARANCES AND LICENSES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARCHITECTURAL PERMITS, BUILDING PERMITS, OCCUPANCY PERMITS AND ZONING/LOCATIONAL CLEARANCES, BUSINESS PERMITS; or any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethical Conduct and Standards of Professional Practice, or any policy of the Board and the Commission, shall be guilty of misdemeanor and charged in court by the Commission and shall, upon conviction be sentenced to a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five Million pesos (P5,000,000,00) or to suffer imprisonment for a period not less than six (6) months or not exceeding six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the Court."

SECTION 15. SEC. 30 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 30. **[***Prohibition in the Practice***]** COERCION, AIDING AND ABETTING ILLEGAL PRACTICE *of Architecture*.- Any person or entity, whether public or private, Filipino or foreigner, who/which shall entice, compel, coerce, require or otherwise force an architect registered and licensed under R.A. No. 9266 to undertake/perform any service under the general practice of architecture as defined under R.A. No. 9266, without first executing a written contract/service agreement; OR ANY PERSON WHO FACILITATES THE ISSUANCE OF A GOVERNMENT PERMIT FOR ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS PREPARED, SIGNED AND SEALED BY REGISTERED/LICENSED ARCHITECTS EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT PERMITTING AUTHORITIES; OR ANY PERSON OR ENTITY, WHO/WHICH SHALL AID AND ABET PERSONS OR ENTITIES IN COMMITTING THE PROHIBITED ACTS RELATIVE TO THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 29 OF THIS ACT shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction be sentenced to a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or to suffer imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the Court."

SECTION 16. SEC. 35 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 35. Positions in Government Requiring the Services of Registered and Licensed Architects. -Within (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, all existing and proposed positions in the local and national government, whether career, permanent, temporary or contractual and primarily requiring the services of an architect shall be filled only by registered and licensed architects.

ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS CONCERNED SHALL CREATE THE MANDATORY POSITIONS OF PROVINCIAL ARCHITECT, CITY ARCHITECT, CITY ARCHITECT, AND MUNICIPAL ARCHITECT, TO BE HELD EXCLUSIVELY BY REGISTERED AND LICENSED ARCHITECTS, TO OVERSEE AND REVIEW THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED, TO OFFICES, COURTS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CLINICS, FIREHOUSES, POLICE STATIONS, MARKETS, PUBLIC HOUSING.

ALL OFFICES, AGENCIES, AND INSTRUMENTALITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT, SHALL HIRE ARCHITECTS IN THE DESIGN OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES."

SECTION 17. SEC. 37 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 37. Limitation to the Registration of a Firm, Company, Partnership, Corporation or Association. –

xxx

(b) Registered and licensed architects shall compose at least **[**seventy-five percent (75%)**]** A MAJORITY of the owners, shareholders, members incorporators, directors, executive officers, as the case may be;

xxx

A FILIPINO REGISTERED AND LICENSED ARCHITECT MAY PRACTICE AS A ONE PERSON CORPORATION SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE."

SECTION 18. SEC. 40 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 40. Integration of the Architecture Profession.- The Architecture profession shall be integrated into one (1) national organization which shall be accredited by the Board, subject to the approval by the Commission, as the Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization of Architects (IAPOA): Provided, however, that such an organization shall be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as a non-profit, non-stock corporation, WITH ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SPECIFYING AS ONE OF ITS PURPOSES: TO INTEGRATE ALL ARCHITECTS INTO ONE (1) NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND governed by By-laws providing for a democratic election of its officials[.]; PROVIDED FURTHER THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION SHALL HAVE A ROBUST NETWORK OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN- BASED CHAPTERS LOCATED IN KEY CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES; PROVIDED FURTHER THAT an architect duly registered with the Board shall automatically become a member of the IAPOA and shall receive the benefits and privileges provided for in this Act upon payment of the required fees and dues. Membership in the IAPOA shall not be a bar to membership in other associations of architects; PROVIDED FINALLY THAT, UPON FILING FOR APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION OR RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION, SUCH ORGANIZATION SHALL HAVE A MEMBERSHIP COMPRISING OF AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT PLUS ONE (50% + 1) OF REGISTERED/LICENSED ARCHITECTS POSSESSING CURRENT AND VALID PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS (PICs.)

THE IAPOA SHALL, IN ADDITION TO THE PURPOSES STATED IN ITS BY-LAWS, HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(1) REPRESENT THE PROFESSION FOR WHICH SUCH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND ACCREDITED;
(2) SUBMIT NOMINEES FOR VACANT POSITIONS IN THE BOARD;
(3) REPRESENT THE PROFESSION IN THE MONITORING COMMITTEES FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MRA) IN THE ASEAN AND APEC;
(4) DEFINE THE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF ITS MEMBERS;
(5) ENSURE THAT ITS MEMBERS ADHERE TO THE CODE OF ETHICS, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, AND HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS;
(6) LOOK INTO THE CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE PRACTICE OF THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION, LOCALLY AND ABROAD, AND TO PROPOSE POLICIES OR MEASURES TO THE BOARD AND/OR THE COMMISSION FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT;

(7) ENSURE THE WELFARE, AND BEST INTEREST, AS WELL AS HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP AMONG ITS MEMBERS; AND

(8) REPORT VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT TO THE BOARD AND/OR THE COMMISSION, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL SERVICE, FOR POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OR FILING OF COMPLAINT."

(9) SUBMIT TO THE BOARD, AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR:

a. YEARLY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION, DULY SIGNED BY A CPA AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE ACCOUNTANCY WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE SUBMISSION MADE TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC);

b. AUTHENTICATED COPY OF THE LATEST GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE CONDUCT OF NATIONAL ELECTION; AND

c. REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AS A CORPORATE BODY IN ATTAINING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION, IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE WELFARE OF ITS MEMBERS AND THE STATURE/PRESTIGE OF THE PROFESSION, AS WELL AS TANGIBLE PROGRAMS (WHICH MAY INCLUDE INSURING ITS MEMBERS; PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP; AND CONDUCTING FREE CPD PROGRAMS FOR THE MEMBERS; LIFE, HEALTH, AND DEATH BENEFITS; AND OTHER BENEFITS) TO BE SIGNED BY THE BOARD, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE FISCAL YEAR; AND

(10) OTHER FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE BOARD."

SECTION 19. New sections shall be inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 41. MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL FOR ARCHITECTURE. - A MULTI-PARTITE COUNCIL FOR ARCHITECTURE IS HEREBY CREATED TO BE ATTACHED TO THE COMMISSION.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-PARTITE COUNCIL SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. PROVIDE A PLATFORM TO DISCUSS POLICY CONCERNS IN THE EDUCATION, INTERNSHIP, PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND

B. PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AMONG THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS IN THE REGULATION AND PRACTICE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONS.

THE MULTI- PARTITE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE:

A. CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD;

B. PRESIDENT OF THE IAPOA;

C. PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION (DEANS AND HEADS OF SCHOOLS) DULY ACCREDITED BY THE PRC UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHED;

D. ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE; AND

E. ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM GOVERNMENT PRACTICE.

"SEC. 42. POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MULTI-PARTITE COUNCIL. - THE MULTI-PARTITE COUNCIL SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS;

A. MONITOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKS IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, INTERNSHIP, REGULATION AND PRACTICE;

B. STUDY AND EVALUATE EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS THAT SHALL LEAD TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT;
C. REGULARLY REVIEW OF THE SUBJECTS FOR EXAMINATION;
D. DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW THE TABLE OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION;
E. DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW INTERNSHIP/GUIDELINES IN THE AREAS SUCH AS DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPERIENCE, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MENTORS AND COLLABORATIVE WORK;
F. DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES;
G. DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW OF STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN AREAS SUCH AS SCOPE OF SERVICES, SCHEDULE OF FEES, AND INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION; AND
H. DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, INTERNSHIP, REGULATION AND PRACTICE STANDARDS IN REFERENCE TO THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT."

SECTION 20. The following sections of the same Act shall be renumbered as follows:

SECTION 43 **[**41**]**. xxx
SECTION 44 **[**42**]**. xxx
SECTION 45 **[**43**]**. xxx
SECTION 46 **[**44**]**. xxx
SECTION 47 **[**45**]**. xxx
SECTION 48 **[**46**]**. xxx
SECTION 49 **[**47**]**. xxx

SECTION 21. SEC. 44 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 46. Enforcement of the Act. –xxx

FOR CASES OF ILLEGAL PRACTICE LODGED BEFORE IT, the Board shall assist the Commission IN THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND in filing the appropriate charges through the concerned prosecution office in accordance with law and the Rules of Court."

SECTION 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Board and the IAPOA are tasked to prepare the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) required for the implementation of this Act. The IRR shall be promulgated within ninety (90) days upon approval of this act.

SECTION 23. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any section or provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, or invalid, the other sections and provisions, which are not affected by it, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 24. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, agreements, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 25. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after is complete publication in either the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.