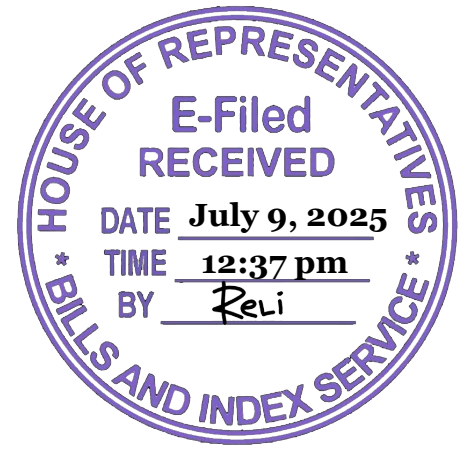


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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 1630



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Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL “BONG” C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

14 The quality of public infrastructure is a reflection of the values, priorities, and
15 institutional capacity of the State. In the Philippines, the design and functionality of
16 government buildings, parks, schools, health centers, and urban spaces profoundly
17 influence citizen well-being, accessibility, climate resilience, and cultural identity.

18 Despite this, local government units (LGUs) often implement vertical infrastructure
19 projects without the direct guidance of professional architects. The lack of
20 institutionalized architectural capacity within LGUs has contributed to a pattern of
21 substandard, inefficient, and in some cases, unsafe public structures. This persistent
22 gap undermines the intent of key laws such as the Local Government Code of 1991
23 (RA 7160), the Accessibility Law (BP 344), and the National Building Code (PD
24 1096), which envision integrated, inclusive, and context-sensitive planning at the
25 local level.

26 This measure proposes the establishment of a Local Office on Architectural Planning
27 and Design (LOAPD) in every province, city, and municipality. The office shall be led
28 by a registered and licensed architect who shall serve as the principal adviser on
29 spatial and vertical planning, architectural policy integration, and public
30 infrastructure quality.

31 The bill draws from and supports the objectives of:

- 32 1. Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution, which affirms the State’s duty to
33 promote a just and dynamic social order through improved quality of life;
34 2. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and AmBisyon Natin 2040, which
35 have long called for livable communities and inclusive urban development;
36 3. The United Nations New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal
37 (SDG) 11, which emphasize participatory, safe, and sustainable human
38 settlements.

39 Key features of this measure include:

- 40 1. Requiring the formulation of a Local Architecture and Design Framework Plan
41 (LADFP) aligned with each LGU’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and
42 Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP);
43

2. Mandating the architect's participation in BAC technical working groups to ensure design integrity in procurement;
3. Promoting the use of universal design principles for accessibility and inclusive public space;
4. Institutionalizing public design audits, participatory workshops, and community-responsive planning processes;
5. Establishing a Local Architecture Fund under the LDF to support capacity building and planning activities;
6. Ensuring compliance and monitoring through DILG, PRC, and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP).

Far from adding bureaucracy, this measure enhances governance by embedding professional design expertise in public planning and infrastructure delivery. It promotes accountability, sustainability, and aesthetic integrity in the built environment—critical elements of human development and institutional trust.

In enacting this measure, Congress affirms that good architecture is not ornamental—it is foundational to good governance. By bridging the long-standing institutional gap between technical capacity and public infrastructure demand, we pave the way for more inclusive, resilient, and dignified communities across the archipelago.



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Every province, city, and municipality shall create a Local Office on Architectural Planning and Design (LOAPD) headed by a licensed architect with the rank of Department Head. LGUs shall ensure that the position is funded, classified, and included in their plantilla within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

1
2 **SECTION 5. Qualifications.**

3 The appointed Architect shall:

- 4 • Be a Filipino citizen and a registered architect under R.A. 9266;
- 5 • Have at least **five (5) years** of relevant experience in planning, design, or
- 6 public works;
- 7 • Possess managerial or supervisory competence as determined by the CSC and
- 8 PRC;
- 9 • Not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

10
11 **SECTION 6. Functions and Responsibilities.**

12 The LOAPD shall:

- 13 (a) Formulate and update the Local Architecture and Design Framework Plan
- 14 (LADFP) every three years;
- 15 (b) Advise the LGU on all public architecture, vertical infrastructure, building codes,
- 16 and spatial planning;
- 17 (c) Participate in the preparation of the Annual Investment Program (AIP) and Local
- 18 Development Plan;
- 19 (d) Certify compliance with BP 344 and Universal Design for public infrastructure;
- 20 (e) Represent the LGU in TWGs and BACs for all building-related procurement;
- 21 (f) Conduct Design with the People Workshops for participatory public design;
- 22 (g) Lead the architectural audit of existing public facilities every five (5) years;
- 23 (h) Coordinate with national agencies (DPWH, NHCP, HUDCC, etc.) on matters of
- 24 cultural heritage, climate resilience, and urban design.

25
26 **SECTION 7. Creation of Position of Building Official.**

27 All LGUs shall maintain a separate position for the Building Official, distinct from the

28 Local Architect, with clear delineation of responsibilities in accordance with the

29 National Building Code and R.A. No. 9266. Guidelines on plantilla creation and

30 qualification standards shall be issued jointly by the CSC and DILG within six (6)

31 months.

32
33 **SECTION 8. Design Integration at the Barangay Level.**

34 Cities and municipalities shall assign licensed architects on a barangay cluster basis to

35 provide design support for community halls, parks, day care centers, evacuation

36 centers, and other small-scale facilities.

37
38 **SECTION 9. Architect's Role in Public Procurement.**

39 The LGU Architect shall be mandatorily included in all Bids and Awards Committee

40 (BAC) TWGs where architectural design, construction, or building services are

41 involved. No vertical infrastructure project may proceed without their written design

42 concurrence.

43
44 **SECTION 10. Funding and Local Architecture Fund.**

45 There is hereby created a Local Architecture Fund (LAF) under the Local Development

46 Fund (LDF), to be used exclusively for:

- 47 • Hiring and capacity-building of the architect and support staff;
- 48 • Preparation of the LADFP and architectural audits;
- 49 • Engagement of design consultants and heritage experts;
- 50 • Conduct of public design workshops.

1 Initial funding shall be sourced from the LGU's current appropriations and shall be
2 supplemented by the national government through the General Appropriations Act
3 (GAA).
4

5 **SECTION 11. National Monitoring and Reporting.**

6 The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with
7 the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the United Architects of the
8 Philippines (UAP), shall monitor compliance, collect implementation data, and submit
9 a consolidated report to Congress every year.

10 All LGUs shall submit annual reports including:

- 11 • Updated LADFP;
 - 12 • Architectural program accomplishments;
 - 13 • Design audits conducted;
 - 14 • Public engagement activities;
 - 15 • Budget utilization.
- 16

17 **SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

18 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, PRC, CSC, and UAP
19 shall convene a Technical Working Group to formulate the IRR, subject to public
20 consultation.
21

22 **SECTION 13. Separability Clause.**

23 If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder shall
24 not be affected.
25

26 **SECTION 14. Repealing Clause.**

27 All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby
28 repealed or amended accordingly.
29

30 **SECTION 15. Effectivity.**

31 This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a
32 newspaper of general circulation.
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37 Approved,