

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



**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8681**

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**Introduced by Representative Kenneth T. Gatchalian**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

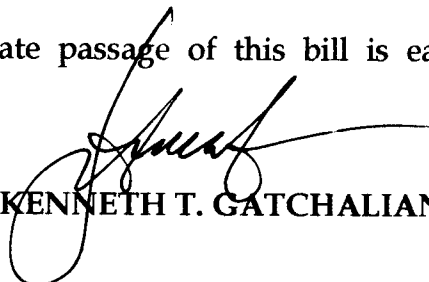
Republic Act No. 9266, otherwise known as the Architecture Act of 2004, was enacted to regulate the practice of architecture, ensure professional competence, and safeguard public welfare through the delivery of safe, functional, and sustainable built environments.

After more than two decades of implementation, gaps and ambiguities in the law—particularly in key definitions, professional scope, and regulatory mechanisms—have resulted in inconsistent enforcement, weakened accountability, and continued instances of illegal and unauthorized practice. These issues have limited the effectiveness of regulation and failed to keep pace with developments in education, technology, and global professional standards.

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 9266 by clarifying statutory definitions, strengthening the powers and composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture, enhancing transparency and enforcement, and reinforcing the exclusive role of registered and licensed architects in architectural practice, especially in government projects and permitting processes.

Ultimately, this measure aims to modernize the regulation of the architecture profession, align it with international benchmarks, and ensure that architectural services in the Philippines are rendered only by qualified, licensed, and accountable professionals, in furtherance of public safety and national development.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN**

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**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9266, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE “ARCHITECTURE ACT OF 2004”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**ARTICLE I  
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**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;

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

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

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16 (15) “**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN,**” ALSO REFERRED TO AS  
17 “**DESIGN(S)**” AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE  
18 ILLUSTRATED CONCEPT THAT FOCUSES ON THE  
19 FEATURES OR ELEMENT OF BUILDING(S) OR  
20 STRUCTURE(S) AND UNIFIES THEM INTO A COHERENT AND  
21 FUNCTIONAL WHOLE, FOLLOWING A GENERALLY  
22 ACCEPTED APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE(S),  
23 ABIDING BY SET NORMS AND CONSIDERING THE  
24 ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES OF UTILITY, STRENGTH,  
25 AND BEAUTY, EXCLUSIVELY PREPARED BY AN  
26 ARCHITECT;

1           **(16) “ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS,” ALSO REFERRED**  
2           **TO AS “DOCUMENTS” AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE**  
3           **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS, ARCHITECTURAL PLANS,**  
4           **DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS**  
5           **AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE PREPARED,**  
6           **SIGNED, AND SEALED, EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;**

7  
8           **(17) “ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT” MEANS A DOCUMENT**  
9           **DULY ISSUED BY ANY REGULATING GOVERNMENT ENTITY**  
10           **BASED ON ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING**  
11           **THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S)**  
12           **AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN**  
13           **AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S);**

14           **(18) “ARCHITECTURAL PLANS,” ALSO REFERRED TO AS**  
15           **“PLANS” AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE LATERAL**  
16           **SECTION OR DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF A**  
17           **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF**  
18           **BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF**  
19           **THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH**  
20           **BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) SHOWING FEATURES OR**  
21           **ELEMENTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SUCH AS THE**  
22           **FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS, CROSS AND LONGITUDINAL**  
23           **SECTIONS, PERSPECTIVE, REFLECTED CEILING PLAN, SITE**  
24           **DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS, AND**  
25           **OTHER ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS PREPARED, SIGNED,**  
26           **AND SEALED, EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;**

27           **(19) “MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL” REFERS TO A BODY**

1 COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE  
2 PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE,  
3 THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL  
4 ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS (IAPOA), THE ACADEME,  
5 PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND GOVERNMENT  
6 PRACTITIONERS.”

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

8 “SEC. 4. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board. –  
9 There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture,  
10 hereinafter referred to as the Board, a collegial body under the supervision  
11 and administrative control of the Professional Regulation Commission,  
12 hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a chairman,  
13 and ~~{two (2)}~~ **FOUR (4)** members appointed by the President of the  
14 Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees chosen from a list of five  
15 (5) nominees for each position submitted to the Commission by the  
16 integrated and accredited professional organization of architects. The Board  
17 shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this  
18 Act.”

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

20 “SEC. 5. Qualifications of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board.  
21 – Each member shall have at the time of his/her appointment, possess the  
22 following qualifications:

- 23 (a) be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;  
24 (b) be a holder of a degree in Bachelor of Science in Architecture,  
25 **PREFERABLE WITH A POST-BACCALAUREATE**  
26 **DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE**, conferred by a school,  
27 college of university in the Philippines or abroad, **WHOSE**

1           **PROGRAM** is accredited by the Commission on Higher  
2 Education (CHED);

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

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

17           (e) has never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude  
18 [-];

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

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

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

**SEC. 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.”

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

**“SEC. 7. Power and Functions of the Board.**

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

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

7 (O) KEEP A RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS AND  
8 MAKE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION, THE  
9 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE SENATE OF THE  
10 PHILIPPINES, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHED,  
11 AND THE MULTIPARTITE COUNCIL; AND

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

15 SEC. 6. Sec. 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
16 “SEC. 9. Grounds for Suspension or Removal of Members of the Board. –

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

1 (E) Final judgment ~~[of crimes involving moral turpitude]~~ FOR  
2 OFFENSES UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, THE ANTI-  
3 GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICE ACT, AND OTHER LAWS;  
4 ~~[and]~~

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

9 (G) ENGAGED IN UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF  
10 ARCHITECTURE.”

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

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

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

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

- 25 (1) OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES;  
26 (2) SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES;



**DOCUMENTATION FOR EQUIVALENCY ASSESSMENT BY THE  
PRC; and**

(d) He/She has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.”

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

“SEC. 14. Subjects for Examination. –

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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.”

**SEC. 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.”**

**SEC. 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.”

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

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

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 **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 and signed by an Architect.

**UPON APPROVAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS, THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED SUBJECT TO REASONABLE FEES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11032, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EASE OF DOING BUSINESS AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY ACT”; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO BUILDING PERMIT OR OTHER DOCUMENT OF SIMILAR IMPORT SHALL BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS, PLANS, AND DOCUMENTS PREPARED AND SIGNED BY AN ARCHITECT, EXCEPT ON CERTAIN INSTANCES AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.”**

**SEC. 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~~

1 ~~other—device~~ “ARCH.”, “ARCH’T”, “AR.”, INCLUDING  
2 “ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN”, “ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING”,  
3 “ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES”. OR ANY OF THEIR  
4 DERIVATIVES OR TRANSLATIONS INTO OTHER LANGUAGES  
5 OR DIALECTS, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS OR HER NAME,  
6 STYLE, BUSINESS DESIGNATION, BUSINESS NAME, LOGO, OR  
7 ON PLAN, DRAWINGS, OR SPECIFICATIONS FOR BUILDINGS  
8 OR PARTS OF BUILDING to indicate THAT such person practices or  
9 offices to practice architecture, or is an architect, unless such person shall  
10 have received from the Board a Certificate of Registration and be issued a  
11 Professional Identification Card in the manner hereinafter provided and  
12 shall thereafter comply with the provisions of this Act.

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

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

20 “SEC. 29. Prohibition in the Practice of Architecture and Penal Cause. –  
21 Any person who shall practice or offer to practice architecture in the  
22 Philippines without being registered/licensed who are not holders of  
23 temporary or special permits in accordance with the provisions of this Act;  
24 or any person presenting or attempting to use as his/her own the Certificate  
25 of Registration/Professional Identification Card or seal of another or  
26 temporary or special permit or any person who shall give any false or  
27 forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof in

1 obtaining a Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card or  
2 temporary or special permit; or any person who shall falsely impersonate  
3 any registrant of like or different name, or any person who shall attempt to  
4 use a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration/Professional  
5 Identification Card or cancelled special/temporary permit; or any person  
6 who shall use in connection with his/her name or otherwise assume, use or  
7 advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that  
8 he/she is an architect when he/she is not an architect; or any person whether  
9 Filipino or foreigner, who knowingly allows the use, adoption, implement  
10 of plans, designs or specification made by any person, firm, partnership or  
11 company not duly licensed to engage in the practice of architecture; **OR**  
12 **ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE CONNECTED WITH**  
13 **PERMITTING AUTHORITIES, WHO PREPARES, SIGNS AND**  
14 **SEALS ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF**  
15 **APPLYING FOR GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PERMITS,**  
16 **CLEARANCES AND LICENSES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED**  
17 **TO, ARCHITECTURAL PERMITS, BUILDING PERMITS,**  
18 **OCCUPANCY PERMITS AND ZONING/LOCATIONAL**  
19 **CLEARANCES, BUSINESS PERMITS;** or any person who shall violate  
20 any provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code  
21 of Ethical Conduct and Standards of Professional Practice, or any policy of  
22 the Board and the Commission, shall be guilty of misdemeanor and charged  
23 in court by the Commission and shall, upon conviction be sentenced to a  
24 fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) but not more  
25 than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) or to suffer imprisonment for a  
26 period not less than six (6) months or not exceeding six (6) years, or both, at  
27 the discretion of the Court.”

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

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

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

22          “SEC. 35. Positions in Government Requiring the Services of Registered  
23          and Licensed Architects. – Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this  
24          Act, all existing and proposed positions in the local and national  
25          government, whether career, permanent, temporary or contractual and

1 primarily requiring the services of an architect shall be filled only by  
2 registered and licensed architects.

3 **ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS CONCERNED SHALL**  
4 **CREATE AN ARCHITECT'S OFFICE TO OVERSEE AND**  
5 **REVIEW THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
6 **PUBLIC BUILDING AND FACILITIES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT**  
7 **LIMITED, TO OFFICES, COURTS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS,**  
8 **CLINICS, FIREHOUSES, POLICE STATIONS, MARKETS,**  
9 **PUBLIC HOUSING. MANDATORY POSITIONS OF PROVINCIAL**  
10 **ARCHITECT, CITY ARCHITECT, AND MUNICIPAL**  
11 **ARCHITECT, SHALL BE CREATED AND HELD EXCLUSIVELY**  
12 **BY REGISTERED AND LICENSED ARCHITECTS.**

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

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

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

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

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24 **A FILIPINO REGISTERED AND LICENSED ARCHITECT MAY**  
25 **PRACTICE AS A ONE PERSON CORPORATION SUBJECT TO**

1 THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THE REVISED  
2 CORPORATION CODE.”

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

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

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

4                   **(1) REPRESENT THE PROFESSION FOR WHICH SUCH**  
5                   **ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND**  
6                   **ACCREDITED;**

7                   **(2) SUBMIT NOMINEES FOR VACANT POSITIONS IN**  
8                   **THE BOARD;**

9                   **(3) REPRESENT THE PROFESSION IN THE**  
10                   **MONITORING COMMITTEES FOR MUTUAL**  
11                   **RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS (MRA) IN THE**  
12                   **ASEAN AND APEC;**

13                   **(4) DEFINE THE STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL**  
14                   **PRACTICE OF ITS MEMBERS;**

15                   **(5) ENSURE THAT ITS MEMBERS ADHERE TO THE**  
16                   **CODE OF ETHICS, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, AND**  
17                   **HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL**  
18                   **STANDARDS;**

19                   **(6) LOOK INTO THE CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE**  
20                   **PRACTICE OF THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION,**  
21                   **LOCALLY AND ABROAD, AND TO PROPOSE**  
22                   **POLICIES OR MEASURES TO THE BOARD AND/OR**  
23                   **THE COMMISSION FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT;**

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

1                   **(8) REPORT VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT TO THE**  
2                   **BOARD AND/OR THE COMMISSION, THROUGH**  
3                   **THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL SERVICE, FOR**  
4                   **POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OR FILING OF A**  
5                   **COMPLAINT.”**

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

8                               **(a) YEARLY           AUDITED           FINANCIAL**  
9                               **STATEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION,**  
10                              **DULY SIGNED BY A CPA AUTHORIZED TO**  
11                              **PRACTICE ACCOUNTANCY WITHIN**  
12                              **THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE**  
13                              **SUBMISSION MADE TO THE SECURITIES**  
14                              **AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC);**

15                   **SEC. 19.** A new section shall be inserted to read as follows:

16                   **“SEC. 42. POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MULTI-**  
17                   **PARTITE COUNCIL. – THE MULTI-PARTITE COUNCIL SHALL**  
18                   **PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:**

19                           **(1) MONITOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKS**  
20                           **IN    PROFESSIONAL    EDUCATION,    INTERNSHIP,**  
21                           **REGULATION AND PRACTICE;**

22                           **(2) STUDY AND EVALUATE EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS**  
23                           **THAT SHALL LEAD TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT;**

24                           **(3) REGULARLY REVIEW OF THE SUBJECT FOR**  
25                           **EXAMINATION;**

26                           **(4) DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW THE TABLE OF**  
27                           **SPECIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE EXAMINATION;**

**(5) DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW INTERNSHIP/GUIDELINES IN THE AREAS SUCH AS DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPERIENCE, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MENTORS AND COLLABORATIVE WORK;**

**(6) DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES;**

**(7) DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW OF STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN AREAS SUCH AS SCOPE OF SERVICES, SCHEDULE OF FEES, AND INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION; AND**

**(8) DEVELOP AND REGULARLY REVIEW PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, INTERNSHIP, REGULATION AND PRACTICE STANDARDS IN REFERENCE TO THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT.”**

**SEC. 20.** Sec. 44 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 44. 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.”

**SEC. 21. *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.

1           **SEC. 22. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any section or  
2 provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, or invalid, the other sections  
3 and provisions, which are not affected by it, shall continue to be in full force and  
4 effect.

5           **SEC. 23. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
6 agreements, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions  
7 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8           **SEC. 24. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 complete publication in either the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of  
10 general circulation.

*Approved,*