

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4323

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BY REPRESENTATIVES YAP (S.), PADILLA, SALVACION, ABAYA, CASTRO,  
ESCUDERO, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, YU, PIAMONTE AND PAEZ, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 695

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AN ACT TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF  
INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8534, KNOWN AS THE  
"PHILIPPINE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 1998", APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 TITLE, POLICY, OBJECTIVES, TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

3  
4 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine  
5 Interior Design Act of 2011".

6 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - The State recognizes the important role  
7 of the interior design profession in nation-building. Towards this end, the State  
8 shall promote the sustained development of professional interior designers,  
9 whose technical competencies have been determined by honest and credible  
10 licensure examinations and whose standards of professional service and  
11 practice are internationally recognized and considered globally competitive,  
12 brought about by regulatory measures and human resource programs and  
13 activities that foster their professional growth and advancement.

1           SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act provides for and shall govern:

2           (a) The examination, registration and licensure of professional interior  
3 designers;

4           (b) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of interior  
5 design;

6           (c) The development of the professional competence of interior  
7 designers through continuing professional education; and

8           (d) The integration of the interior design profession.

9           SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following  
10 terms are hereby defined:

11           (a) *Interior design* refers to the science and art of planning, specifying,  
12 selecting and organizing the surface finishes and materials including furniture,  
13 furnishings and fixtures and other interior design elements for the purpose of  
14 interior space allocations to suit, enhance and meet the intended function,  
15 movement and character for which the interior of the building is designed.

16           (b) *Professional interior designer* refers to a natural person who holds  
17 a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card  
18 issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act.

19           SEC. 5. *Scope of the Professional Practice of Interior Design.* – The  
20 practice of interior design is the act of planning, designing, specifying,  
21 supervising and providing general administration and responsible direction to  
22 the functional, orderly and aesthetic arrangement and enhancement of interior  
23 spaces. It shall include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

24           (a) Consultation, advice, direction, evaluation, budgetary estimates and  
25 appraisals;

26           (b) Schematic interior design development, design development,  
27 execution of professional contract documents and programming of construction  
28 phases;

1 (c) Preparation of interior design plans, design drawings, interior  
2 construction details and technical specifications;

3 (d) Interior construction administration, supervision coordination of  
4 alteration, preservation or restoration of interior spaces; and

5 (e) All other works, projects and activities which require the  
6 professional competence of the interior designer, including the teaching of  
7 interior design subjects.

8 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise, exclude  
9 from, or add to, the above-enumerated acts or activities as the need arises to  
10 conform to the latest trend in the practice of interior design.

## 11 ARTICLE II

### 12 THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF INTERIOR DESIGN

#### 13 SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Interior Design.* -

14 There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Interior Design,  
15 hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and  
16 supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter  
17 referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairperson and two (2)  
18 members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of two  
19 (2) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission, and from a  
20 list of three (3) nominees for each position recommended by the duly  
21 accredited professional organization of interior designers. The new Board  
22 shall be created within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

23 SEC. 7. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members.* - The  
24 Chairperson and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment,  
25 possess the following qualifications:

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

27 (b) Must be a degree holder of Bachelor of Science in Interior Design  
28 (BSID), Bachelor of Interior Design (BID) or Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA),

1 major in Interior Design, or an equivalent degree conferred by a school,  
2 academy, college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized  
3 and/or accredited by the Philippine government;

4 (c) Must be a registered interior designer with a valid certificate of  
5 registration and professional identification card and an active practitioner of  
6 interior design for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;

7 (d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, where a regular  
8 course in Interior Design is being taught, or have pecuniary interest in, or  
9 administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;

10 (e) Must not be connected with a review center or with any group  
11 giving review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination;

12 (f) Must be a member in good standing of the duly accredited  
13 professional organization of interior designers but not a trustee or officer  
14 thereof; and

15 (g) Has never been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or a  
16 civil and/or criminal offense.

17 SEC. 8. *Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall hold office  
18 for a term of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their  
19 successors shall have been appointed and qualified. They may be reappointed  
20 for another term of three (3) years immediately upon the expiration of their  
21 term: *Provided,* That no member shall hold office for more than six (6) years.

22 Of the members to be appointed for the first Board under this Act, one  
23 (1) member shall hold office as Chairperson for three (3) years; one (1)  
24 member for two (2) years; and one (1) member for one (1) year. Each member  
25 of the Board shall take the proper oath prior to assumption of duty.

26 SEC. 9. *Compensation of the Board Members.* – The Chairperson and  
27 members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable

1 to the compensation and allowances received by existing regulatory boards  
2 under the Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 10. *Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.*

4 – The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties  
5 and responsibilities:

6 (a) Adopt, promulgate and administer the rules and regulations  
7 necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;

8 (b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of the  
9 professional interior designers in the Philippines;

10 (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;

11 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the certificate of registration or  
12 professional license for the practice of the interior design profession;

13 (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

14 (f) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and  
15 adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the  
16 profession and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical  
17 standards;

18 (g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education  
19 (CHED), that all other educational institutions offering interior design comply  
20 with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the  
21 CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

22 (h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional  
23 Standards for the practice of the interior design profession;

24 (i) Hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act,  
25 its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the Code of Ethics for  
26 Professional Interior Designers and, for this purpose, to issue subpoena and  
27 subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the  
28 production of documents in connection therewith;

1 (j) Prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education  
2 (CPE) Program in coordination with the accredited professional organization  
3 of interior designers;

4 (k) Prepare, adopt and issue the syllabi of the subject for examination  
5 by determining and preparing the questions, which shall strictly be within the  
6 scope of the syllabi of the subject of examination; and

7 (l) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed  
8 necessary for the enhancement of the interior design profession and the  
9 upgrading, development and growth of interior design education in the  
10 Philippines.

11 *SEC. 11. Grounds for Removal or Suspension of Board Chairperson*  
12 *and Members.* -- The President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation  
13 of the Commission, after giving the Chairperson and the members of the Board  
14 an opportunity to defend themselves in an administrative investigation  
15 conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend them on any of the  
16 following grounds:

17 (a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of their  
18 duties;

19 (b) Violation of any of the causes/grounds and the prohibited acts  
20 provided in this Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft  
21 and Corrupt Practices Act and other laws; and

22 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination for interior  
23 designers results, disclosure of secret and confidential information on the  
24 examination questions prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of grades.

25 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by  
26 Section 7(s) of Republic Act No. 8981, known as the "PRC Modernization Act  
27 of 2000", the rules on administrative investigation and the applicable  
28 provisions of the new Rules of Court.



1 (c) A holder of a bachelor's degree in interior design or its equivalent  
2 degree duly recognized or accredited by the CHED and conferred by a  
3 school/college/university duly authorized by the government or its equivalent  
4 degree obtained by either a Filipino or a foreign citizen from an institution of  
5 learning in a foreign country/state: *Provided*, That it is duly recognized and/or  
6 accredited by the CHED; and

7 (d) Not convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of  
8 competent jurisdiction.

9 SEC. 16. *Subjects for Licensure Examination.* -- The examination for  
10 interior design shall basically cover the following subjects:

- 11 (a) Interior Design;  
12 (b) Furniture Design and Construction;  
13 (c) Materials for Decoration and Color Theory;  
14 (d) History of Arts and Interior Design;  
15 (e) *Interior Detailing and Construction*; and  
16 (f) Professional Practice and Ethics.

17 The subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board so as to  
18 conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the  
19 profession, in coordination with the accredited council of interior design  
20 educators.

21 SEC. 17. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.* -- To be qualified as  
22 having passed the Board examination for interior designers, a candidate must  
23 obtain a weighted general average of seventy percent (70%).

24 SEC. 18. *Report of Ratings.* -- The Board shall submit to the  
25 Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) days  
26 after the examination unless extended by the Commission for just cause. Upon  
27 the release of the results of the examination, the Board shall send by mail the

1 rating received by each examinee at the given address using the mailing  
2 envelope submitted during the examination.

3 SEC. 19. *Oath.* – All successful candidates in the examination shall be  
4 required to take an oath of profession before the Board or any government  
5 official authorized by the Commission to administer oaths prior to entering the  
6 practice of the interior design profession.

7 SEC. 20. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional*  
8 *Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration shall be issued to applicants  
9 who pass the examination for interior designers subject to payment of  
10 registration fees.

11 The certificate of registration as professional interior designer shall bear  
12 the signatures of the Chairperson of the Commission and Board members,  
13 stamped with the official seal, indicating that the person named therein is  
14 entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto.  
15 This certificate shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended  
16 or revoked, in accordance with this Act.

17 A certificate of registration bearing the registration number, date of  
18 issuance and expiry date, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Board, shall  
19 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the required fees. This  
20 license will serve as evidence that the licensee can lawfully practice the  
21 profession.

22 A professional identification card, whether new or renewed, shall be  
23 released by the PRC upon compliance with the requirements for the application  
24 or renewal of identification card and upon presentation of the updated receipt  
25 of payment of annual membership dues of the accredited professional  
26 organization and proof of completion of the CPE requirements. Once  
27 registered, the interior designer may use IDr. as the official appendage title.

1           SEC. 21. *Refusal to Register.* -- The Board shall not register any  
2 successful applicant for registration with or without licensure examination who  
3 has been:

4           (a) Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of  
5 competent jurisdiction;

6           (b) Found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct by the Board;

7           (c) Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions  
8 to Examinees by the Board; and

9           (d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction.

10           In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written  
11 statement setting forth the reasons therefor and shall file a copy thereof in its  
12 records.

13           SEC. 22. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration*  
14 *and Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.* -- The Board shall have the  
15 power, upon notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the certificate of  
16 registration of a registered and licensed interior designer or to cancel a  
17 temporary/special permit granted to a foreign interior designer for any of the  
18 grounds or causes in Section 21 of this Act, except (c) thereof and any of the  
19 following grounds:

20           (a) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, the Code of Ethics, the  
21 Code of Good Governance and the Code of Technical Standards for the  
22 practice of interior design, policy and measure of the Board and/or the  
23 Commission;

24           (b) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining the certificate of  
25 registration, professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

26           (c) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death,  
27 injury or damage;

1 (d) Refusal to join or to remain a member in good standing of the  
2 Accredited Professional Organization (APO);

3 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5)  
4 consecutive years;

5 (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and  
6 licensed person by allowing the use of one's certificate of registration and/or  
7 professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

8 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during the suspension from the  
9 practice thereof;

10 (h) Addicted to a drug or alcohol, impairing the ability to practice the  
11 profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction;  
12 and

13 (i) Noncompliance with the CPE requirement, unless exempted  
14 therefrom, for the renewal of one's professional identification card.

15 The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and  
16 revise or exclude or add new ones as the need arises, subject to approval of the  
17 Commission. Any person, firm or association may file charge/s in accordance  
18 with the provision of this section against any registrant, or the Board may  
19 investigate violation of any of the abovementioned causes. Affidavit-complaint  
20 shall be filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary  
21 evidence with the Board through the Legal and Investigation Office. The *motu*  
22 *proprio* move to conduct an investigation shall be embodied in a formal charge  
23 to be signed by at least a majority of the members of the Board. The rules on  
24 administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern the hearing  
25 or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act  
26 No. 8981 and the Rules of Court.

1        SEC. 23. *Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration,*  
2 *Replacement of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional*  
3 *Identification Card or Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board may, upon  
4 petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked certificate of registration after two (2)  
5 years from the effectivity of the period for revocation, which is the date of  
6 surrender of the said certificate and/or the professional identification card if  
7 still valid to the Board and/or the Commission. The Board may not require the  
8 holder thereof to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall prove  
9 to the Board that one has valid reason/s to practice the profession.

10        For the grant of the petition, the Board shall issue a Board resolution  
11 subject to approval by the Commission. A duplicate copy of lost certificate of  
12 registration, professional identification card or temporary/special permit may  
13 be reissued in accordance with rules thereon and upon payment of the  
14 prescribed fee therefor.

15        SEC. 24. *Nonpayment of the Annual Registration Fees.* – The Board  
16 shall suspend a registered interior designer from the practice of the profession  
17 for nonpayment of the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive years  
18 from the last or previous year of payment. The resumption of the practice shall  
19 take place only upon payment of the delinquent fees plus surcharges and  
20 interest and in accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of  
21 the five (5)-year period may be interrupted upon written notice about the  
22 discontinuance of the practice and surrender of the certificate of registration to  
23 the Board and/or the Commission.

24        SEC. 25. *Vested Rights.* – All practicing interior designers who are  
25 registered at the time of the passage of this Act shall automatically be  
26 registered and issued certificates of registration.

1 interiors of buildings shall accept only those interior plans or specifications  
2 and contract documents which have been prepared, signed and sealed by a duly  
3 licensed interior designer and submitted in full accord with the provisions of  
4 this Act. No approval shall be given by any such person for any work, as  
5 defined under this Act, plans and specifications of which have not been so  
6 prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed interior designer.

7 Violation of the foregoing shall be a ground for administrative and/or  
8 criminal action.

9 SEC. 28. *Intellectual Property Rights.* – Drawings and specifications  
10 and other contract documents duly signed, stamped or sealed, as instruments of  
11 service, and all the works included therein, are the intellectual property of the  
12 interior designer. Any person is prohibited from engaging in any activity  
13 prejudicial to the intellectual property rights of the interior designer, including  
14 the reproduction of the contract work or substantial portion thereof, and  
15 making any alteration, distortion, mutilation or other modification of, or any  
16 derogatory action in relation to, the contract work and the works therein,  
17 prejudicial to and without the written consent of the interior designer.

18 SEC. 29. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign interior designer shall be  
19 issued a certificate of registration to practice the interior design profession or  
20 be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the country  
21 of which one is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino interior  
22 designers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the  
23 subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country.

24 SEC. 30. *Practice Through Temporary/Special Permit.* –

25 (a) Foreigners intending to work in the Philippines to perform  
26 professional services as interior designers or consultants, whether employed  
27 through official foreign-funded or foreign-assisted projects initiated by the  
28 government, or engaged by private Filipino, foreign contractors or firms, shall

1 first secure a temporary/special permit from the PRC through the Board of  
2 Interior Design specifically authorizing him/her to practice on the special  
3 project or commission named therein: *Provided, further, That:*

4 (1) One is legally and professionally qualified and registered to  
5 practice interior design in one's own country;

6 (2) One's expertise is unique and useful to the Philippines, resulting in  
7 the transfer of information and technology, the establishment of international  
8 standards in design and of sharing of other specialized skills; and

9 (3) Duly licensed foreign nationals shall be required to work with a  
10 Filipino counterpart who has been in continuous practice of interior design for  
11 at least ten (10) years. Professional fees and services, and expenses of  
12 documentation pertaining to the project shall be shared by both foreign and  
13 Filipino interior designers, including liabilities and taxes due to the Philippine  
14 government, if any, according to their participation in, or professional services  
15 rendered to the project.

16 (b) A foreign interior designer shall be required to work in every case  
17 with a duly licensed Filipino counterpart whose competence and integrity has  
18 been established by the Board of Interior Design on the basis of uniform  
19 standards contained in their IRR.

20 (c) Foreign and Filipino firms working jointly on a special project shall  
21 divide the professional fees and other charges collected from said project  
22 equitably. Similarly, all documentation expenses, taxes and other liabilities  
23 incurred on the shared project shall also be borne equally by both foreign and  
24 Filipino firms.

25 (d) Foreigners working jointly with Filipino firms shall sign contracts,  
26 designs and other credits together with the Filipino counterpart. Both foreign  
27 and Filipino firms shall at all times be acknowledged in international tri-media

## ARTICLE IV

## PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN

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3       SEC. 26. *Lawful Practitioners of Interior Design.* – The following  
4 persons shall be authorized to practice the interior design profession:

5       (a) Natural persons who are:

6           (1) Duly registered and licensed as interior designers and holders of  
7 valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards  
8 issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act; and

9           (2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board and  
10 the Commission to foreign licensed interior designers pursuant to this Act.

11       (b) Juridical persons:

12           (1) Single proprietorship whose owner is a registered interior designer;

13           (2) Partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange  
14 Commission (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the Civil Code and  
15 composed of all partners who are all duly registered interior designers; and

16           (3) Corporation whose key chief executive officers (CEOs) and  
17 majority of the Board of Directors are all registered and licensed interior  
18 designers may be duly registered with the SEC as engaged in the practice of  
19 interior design. Juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and  
20 the Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations thereon.

21       SEC. 27. *Seal, Issuance and Use of Seal.* – A duly registered interior  
22 designer shall sign and affix the seal duly approved and provided by the Board  
23 of Interior Design on all plans and specifications and contract documents  
24 prepared by, or under one's direct supervision during the validity of one's  
25 certificate of registration and professional identification card.

26       Officers or employees of the government, chartered cities, provinces,  
27 municipalities now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of the laws,  
28 ordinances or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of the

1 on proprietary and intellectual property rights. All residual earnings shall also  
2 be equitably shared between foreign and local firms.

3 (e) Foreign design firms or individuals practicing in the Philippines  
4 before the promulgation of this Act are required to comply with the  
5 requirements established by the Board of Interior Design in its IRR within the  
6 timetable it stipulates therein.

7 (f) Any violation of these requirements or other illegal practices  
8 undertaken by either foreign design firms or their Filipino counterparts shall be  
9 punishable by law or under the IRR of the Board of Interior Design.

10 SEC. 31. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration,*  
11 *Professional Tax Receipt and APO Membership.* – The interior designer shall  
12 be required to indicate the certificate of registration number and the date of  
13 issuance, the expiry of the current professional identification card, the  
14 professional tax receipt number and date, and the APO membership number  
15 and date with official receipt number and date of membership payment  
16 (annual/lifetime) on the documents one signs, uses or issues in connection with  
17 the practice of one's interior design profession.

18 SEC. 32. *Roster of Interior Designers.* – The Board shall prepare and  
19 maintain a roster of the names, residence and/or office address of all registered  
20 interior designers which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the  
21 APO, indicating therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional  
22 identification card and the APO membership, whether valid, delinquent,  
23 suspended or revoked or inactive due to death or other reasons. The said roster  
24 shall be conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the  
25 information therefrom made available to the public upon inquiry or request.

26 SEC. 33. *Integration of the Interior Designers.* – The interior  
27 designers shall be integrated into one (1) national organization of interior  
28 designers that is duly registered with the SEC. The Board of Interior Design,

1 subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as  
2 the one and only integrated and accredited professional organization of interior  
3 designers. All interior designers whose names appear in the Registry Book of  
4 Interior Designers shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof  
5 and shall receive therefrom all the benefits and privileges upon payment of  
6 APO membership fees and dues.

7 A membership in an affiliate organization of interior designers shall not  
8 be barred.

#### 9 ARTICLE V

#### 10 FINAL PROVISIONS

11 SEC. 34. *Penal Clause.* – The following acts shall be punished by  
12 a fine of not less than Three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00) but not  
13 more than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) and revocation of certificate  
14 of registration or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more  
15 than three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the  
16 court:

17 (a) Local Practitioner. –

18 (1) Practicing interior design, rendering work and consultations or  
19 rendering equivalent services as interior designer as defined in this Act or  
20 using the title Interior Designer, Interior Design Consultant, Interior Design,  
21 Stylist or Interior Design in any signage, calling card, advertisement or any  
22 other mode of publicity without a valid certificate of registration and/or a valid  
23 professional identification card or a valid temporary/special permit;

24 (2) Attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and/or  
25 professional identification card of a registered interior designer or  
26 temporary/special permit issued to a foreign professional;

1 (3) Abetting the illegal practice of interior design by an unregistered or  
2 unauthorized person;

3 (4) Impersonating a registered interior designer or a holder of a  
4 temporary/special permit; and

5 (5) Violating any provision of this Act or the IRR thereof.

6 (b) Foreign Practitioner/Firm. -- Foreign interior design firm or  
7 individuals who shall be found to be illegally practicing their profession shall  
8 be penalized with a fine of a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of gross fees  
9 under Five million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) and a minimum of ten percent  
10 (10%) of gross fees above Five million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) in addition to  
11 the payment of back taxes to the Philippine government, imprisonment of not  
12 less than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or both fine and  
13 imprisonment or permanent ban from further practice in the Philippines, at the  
14 discretion of the court.

15 SEC. 35. *Civil Liability.* -- The interior designer shall assume full  
16 responsibility for the contract work within six (6) months from the final  
17 acceptance by the client and shall be held responsible for any damage or  
18 destruction of the works except those occasioned by *force majeure*. The  
19 interior designer shall be fully responsible for the safety, protection, security  
20 and convenience of his clients/users, personnel, third parties and the public at  
21 large, as well as the works, equipment installation and the like to be affected by  
22 his work.

23 The liability period for defects in the projects shall be six (6) months  
24 from final acceptance by the client. During this period, the interior designer  
25 shall undertake the repair works, at his own expense, of any damage to the  
26 projects on account of the use of materials of inferior quality within ninety (90)  
27 days from the time the client has issued a notification of the need to undertake  
28 repair. In case of failure or refusal to comply with this mandate, the client shall

1 undertake such repair works and shall be entitled to full reimbursement of  
2 expenses incurred therein upon demand.

3 Any interior designer who fails to comply with the preceding paragraph  
4 shall suffer suspension or any appropriate penalty to be determined by the  
5 Board.

6 SEC. 36. *Enforcement.* – The Commission shall implement the  
7 concerned provisions of this Act, enforce its IRR as adopted by the Board,  
8 conduct investigations on complaints including violations of the Code of  
9 Conduct of the profession and prosecute when so warranted.

10 SEC. 37. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall  
11 immediately include in the Commission's program the implementation of this  
12 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
13 Appropriations Act.

14 SEC. 38. *Transitory Provisions.* – The incumbent Board shall, in an  
15 interim capacity, continue to function by carrying out the provisions of this Act  
16 without the need to issue new appointments for the Chairperson and members  
17 thereof until the first Board created under this Act shall have been constituted  
18 or organized pursuant thereto.

19 SEC. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board, with the  
20 approval of the Commission, shall adopt and promulgate such rules and  
21 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective  
22 after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a  
23 major daily newspaper of general circulation.

24 SEC. 40. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause, provision, paragraph or  
25 part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall  
26 not affect, invalidate or impair any other part hereof, but such judgment shall  
27 be merely confined to the clause, provision, paragraph or part directly involved  
28 in the controversy in which such judgment has been rendered.

1           SEC. 41. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 8534 is hereby  
2 repealed. All other laws, decrees, executive orders and administrative  
3 issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.  
4 are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

5           SEC. 42. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
6 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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