



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5708

BY REPRESENTATIVES NOGRALES, ESCUDERO, SALVACION, PAQUIZ, YAP (S.),
TAMBUNTING, ALEJANO AND RODRIGUEZ (M.), PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 707

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING
ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF

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

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ARTICLE I

TITLE, OBJECTIVE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Plumbing
Engineering Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance
of plumbing engineering in nation-building and development. Pursuant
thereto, it shall encourage the establishment of a pool of dynamic, responsive
and innovative plumbing professionals who are committed to the pursuit of
excellence and the ethical practice of the plumbing profession, and the use of
modern technologies to achieve social upliftment and the improvement of the
quality of life. Thus, the State shall develop and nurture competent and

1 globally competitive plumbing professionals who shall conform to the highest
2 standards of excellence.

3 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

4 (a) *Master plumber* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid
5 Certificate of Registration or professional license and professional
6 identification card as master plumber;

7 (b) *Practice of plumbing engineering* refers to the professional and
8 organized act of applying scientific principle and technique for the design,
9 installation, and operation of plumbing systems involving hot and cold water
10 supply, installation of fixtures, sanitary drainage, vent system, storm drainage,
11 gas piping, swimming pools, water feature, fire protection system, irrigation
12 system, private water system and private sewerage disposal system within or
13 adjacent to any buildings and other structures. It shall embrace services to the
14 following activities:

15 (1) Consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specifications,
16 estimates, erection, installation, and supervision of plumbing works, including
17 the inspection and acceptance of materials used therein;

18 (2) Extension, addition, alteration, and modification of all pipings for
19 fixtures, equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of
20 the above scope; and

21 (3) Engagement in the teaching or transfer of knowledge and
22 technology of plumbing engineering in any institution of learning, particularly
23 on subjects included in the licensure examinations; and

24 (c) *Plumbing engineer* refers to a person who is a holder of a valid
25 Certificate of Registration or professional license and professional
26 identification card issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Plumbing
27 Engineering and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and who is
28 legally qualified to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines pursuant
29 to this Act.

ARTICLE II

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Plumbing Engineering.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Plumbing Engineering, hereinafter called the Board, which shall be under the administrative control and supervision of the PRC. The Board shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from among those recommended by the PRC from the three (3) nominees of the duly accredited professional organization (APO) of plumbing engineers.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Members of the Board.* – At the time of their respective appointments, the members of the Board, including the Chairperson, must:

(a) Be a natural-born Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least five (5) consecutive years;

(b) Be at least thirty-five (35) years of age;

(c) Be of proven integrity and high moral values;

(d) Not have been convicted on final judgment by any court for any offense involving moral turpitude;

(e) Be a Plumbing Engineer holding a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid professional license as Plumbing Engineer having a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering, and an active practitioner in Plumbing Engineering for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;

(f) Not be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college, or university where a regular course in Plumbing Engineering is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning; and

1 (g) Not be connected with a review center or with any group or any
2 association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure
3 examination are offered or conducted, for a period of at least three (3)
4 consecutive years prior to appointment.

5 SEC. 6. *Term of Office of the Members of the Board.* – The
6 Chairperson and members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3)
7 years from the date of appointment. Of the members of the Board first
8 appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office
9 for three (3) years, one (1) member for two (2) years, and one (1) member for
10 one (1) year.

11 The Chairperson or members of the Board may be reappointed for
12 another term but shall in no case serve continuously for more than six (6)
13 years. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board within the term
14 of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each
15 member of the Board shall take an oath of office prior to the official
16 performance of duties.

17 SEC. 7. *Compensation and Allowances of the Members of the Board.* –
18 The Chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and
19 allowances comparable with the compensation and allowances being received
20 by the Chairpersons and members of existing regulatory boards in the PRC
21 and as may be provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

22 SEC. 8. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall exercise
23 the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

24 (a) Supervise and regulate the examination, registration, licensure, and
25 the practice of plumbing engineering;

26 (b) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for
27 registration;

- 1 (c) Prepare the examination questions in accordance with Section 14
2 hereof and supervise, check, and rate the licensure examination papers;
- 3 (d) Prescribe, amend, or revise the requirements and subjects in the
4 licensure examination for plumbing engineers and their relative weights,
5 subject to the approval of the PRC;
- 6 (e) Administer oaths to successful examinees entering the practice of
7 plumbing engineering in the Philippines;
- 8 (f) Issue, suspend, or revoke the license for the practice of plumbing
9 engineering or to reissue the same;
- 10 (g) Issue special permits to foreign plumbing engineers for specific
11 duration of time;
- 12 (h) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 13 (i) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of the plumbing
14 engineering profession and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as
15 may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and the
16 maintenance of high professional, technical, and ethical standards of the
17 profession;
- 18 (j) Prescribe and adopt a set of ethical and technical standards for the
19 practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines and cause these to be
20 published and disseminated;
- 21 (k) Investigate, hear and try administrative cases involving violations
22 of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the sets of ethical and
23 technical standards and, for the purpose, issue subpoena *ad testificandum*
24 and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the
25 production of documents in connection therewith;
- 26 (l) Submit an annual report on the action on all applications for
27 licensure; the names of all persons licensed or certified; actions involving
28 suspension, revocation, or denial of license; recommendations for
29 reciprocity; receipt and disbursement of any monies; and other matters

1 that may be required by law from the PRC after the close of each fiscal
2 year;

3 (m) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher
4 Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development
5 Authority (TESDA), that all educational institutions offering plumbing
6 engineering program comply with the policies, standards and requirements
7 of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty,
8 library and facilities;

9 (n) Coordinate with the PRC, CHED, and TESDA in prescribing,
10 amending and revising the curriculum of the related course;

11 (o) Prescribe guidelines and criteria for the Continuing Professional
12 Development (CPD) program for plumbing engineers as a condition for the
13 renewal of their professional licenses; and

14 (p) Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary for
15 the effective implementation of this Act.

16 *SEC. 9. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat*
17 *and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the administrative
18 supervision of the PRC. All records of the Board, including the application for
19 examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation,
20 administrative cases, and other investigations involving plumbing engineers
21 shall be kept by the PRC.

22 The PRC shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide
23 the secretariat with the necessary support services to implement the provisions
24 of this Act.

25 *SEC. 10. Removal of a Member of the Board.* – The President may
26 remove any member of the Board, upon the recommendation of the PRC, on
27 the following grounds:

- 1 (a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;
- 2 (b) Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of
- 3 Ethics or Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers; and
- 4 (c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.

5 Members shall be given due notice and hearing where the right to be
6 heard and to defend themselves, assisted by a counsel, shall be respected in a
7 proper administrative investigation the PRC shall conduct.

8 SEC. 11. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the close of each
9 calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines
10 through the PRC, giving detailed account of its recommendation for the
11 adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting
12 the practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines.

13 ARTICLE III

14 EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, AND LICENSE

15 SEC. 12. *Licensure Examination Required.* – All applicants for
16 registration as plumbing engineers shall be required to undergo and pass a
17 written examination as hereinafter provided.

18 SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicants for Plumbing Engineering*
19 *Examination.* – The applicant for the plumbing engineering examination
20 shall, on the day of the examination, possess the following qualifications:

- 21 (a) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
- 22 (b) Be a citizen of the Philippines or of a foreign country that upholds
- 23 the reciprocal practice of plumbing engineering therein by Philippine
- 24 nationals;
- 25 (c) Be of good moral character; and
- 26 (d) Be a holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Plumbing
- 27 Engineering.

28 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – The applicant for registration as
29 plumbing engineer shall be examined in the following subjects:

1	(a) General Engineering and Mathematics	20%
2	(b) Plumbing Code	20%
3	(c) Plumbing Design	40%
4	(d) <i>Practical Problems and Installation</i>	<u>20%</u>
5		100%

6 The subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board to conform
7 to technological changes brought about by the continuing trends in the
8 profession.

9 SEC. 15. *Suspension or Revocation.* – The Board may suspend or
10 revoke a Certificate of Registration obtained through misrepresentation in the
11 application for examination.

12 SEC. 16. *Examination Fees.* – Every applicant admitted to take the
13 plumbing engineering examinations shall pay such fees as may be prescribed
14 by the PRC.

15 SEC. 17. *Schedule of Examination.* – Examinations for candidates for
16 plumbing engineering shall be given by the Board twice a year in Metro
17 Manila, and in such other places as may be deemed appropriate by the Board.
18 The dates of the examinations shall be fixed by the Board.

19 SEC. 18. *Admission to Examination.* – The Board, with the approval
20 of the PRC, shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary
21 to implement or carry out the provisions of this Act, especially those relating
22 to the scope of examinations for plumbing engineering, proper conduct of the
23 examinations, custody and correction of examination papers, and registration
24 of plumbing engineers.

25 The Board shall have control and jurisdiction over examination papers,
26 from the preparation, printing and distribution to examinees, during the review
27 of test scores up to the time the list of successful examinees is released for
28 publication in newspapers of general circulation in the country.

1 SEC. 19. *Rating in the Board Examination.* – To pass the board
2 examination for Plumbing Engineers, an examinee must obtain a weighted
3 general average of seventy percent (70%), with no grade lower than fifty
4 percent (50%).

5 SEC. 20. *Reexamination.* – An applicant who fails to pass the
6 examination for the third time shall be allowed to take another examination
7 only after the lapse of one (1) year.

8 SEC. 21. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the PRC the
9 ratings obtained by each examinee not later than the twentieth (20th) day after
10 the examination, unless extended for a just cause. Upon the release of the
11 results of the examination, the Board shall send by mail the rating received by
12 each examinee at the latter's given address, using the self-addressed mailing
13 envelope submitted during the examination.

14 SEC. 22. *Oath.* – All successful plumbing engineering examinees and
15 all those who have qualified for registration without examination shall be
16 required to take the Oath of Profession before the Board or any person
17 authorized by the PRC to administer oaths before the examinee can be
18 registered and issued a Certificate of Registration and professional
19 identification card. The oath taking shall be a prerequisite to the practice of
20 the profession as a Plumbing Engineer.

21 SEC. 23. *Issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional*
22 *License.* – The effectivity of the registration of plumbing engineers
23 commences on the date the registrant's name is entered in the roll of
24 registrants or licenses for the profession. Every registrant who has
25 satisfactorily met all the requirements specified in this Act, upon payment of
26 the registration fee, shall be issued a Certificate of Registration as a Plumbing
27 Engineer.

28 The Certificate of Registration shall show the full name of the registrant
29 and a serial number, signed by the Chairperson and members of the Board, and

1 stamped with the official seal, evidencing that the person named therein is
2 entitled to practice the profession with all the rights and privileges appurtenant
3 thereto. The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force and effect
4 until withdrawn, suspended, or revoked.

5 A professional license signed by the Chairperson and bearing the
6 registration number, the date of issuance and the month of expiry or
7 renewability shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the
8 registration fees for three (3) consecutive years and has complied with the
9 requirements of the CPD, unless exempted therefrom. This license shall serve
10 as evidence that the licensee can lawfully practice the profession until the
11 expiration of its validity.

12 *SEC. 24. Seal of Plumbing Engineer.* – All licensed plumbing
13 engineers may obtain a personal seal of a design prescribed by the Board
14 bearing the registrant’s name, the certificate number and the legend “Plumbing
15 Engineer”. Plans, specifications, reports, and other professional documents
16 prepared by or executed under the immediate supervision of and issued by a
17 licensee shall be stamped on every sheet with the seal when filed with
18 government authorities or when submitted or used professionally.

19 It shall be unlawful for anyone to use the seal on any document when
20 the registrant’s name has been delisted from the roster of plumbing engineers,
21 or after the validity of the professional license has expired. The seal or stamp
22 can be used again only after the registrant is reinstated to the practice of the
23 profession and reissued a new professional license.

24 *SEC. 25. Refusal to Issue Certificates.* – The Board shall not issue a
25 Certificate of Registration to any person convicted by the court of any criminal
26 offense involving moral turpitude, or to any person guilty of immoral or
27 dishonorable conduct, or to any person of unsound mind. In the event of
28 refusal to issue certificates for any reason, the Board shall give the applicant a

1 written statement setting forth the reasons for such action, which statement
2 shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

3 SEC. 26. *Grounds for Revocation.* – The Board shall have the power,
4 upon proper notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend any Certificate of
5 Registration of any registrant who:

6 (a) Has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude;

7 (b) Has been found guilty of dishonorable conduct;

8 (c) Has been found of being unsound mind;

9 (d) Has been found guilty of gross negligence or incompetence, or
10 unprofessional or dishonorable conduct; and

11 (e) Has been found guilty of any violation of this Act, the rules and
12 regulations and other policies of the Board, and the Code of Professional
13 Ethics.

14 The decision of the Board may be appealed to the Chairperson of the
15 PRC, whose decision shall be final.

16 Any person, firm, association, or corporation may file charges against a
17 certified licensed plumbing engineer in accordance with the provisions of this
18 section in writing, sworn to, and filed with the Secretary of the Board. The
19 Board may investigate or take cognizance of acts and practices constituting
20 cause for the suspension or revocation of the Certificate of Registration by
21 proper resolution or order.

22 SEC. 27. *Reissue of Revoked Certificates and Replacement of Lost*
23 *Certificates.* – A person may apply to the Board for reinstatement of a license
24 or certificate at any time after one (1) year from the date of revocation of the
25 license or certificate. The application shall be in writing and shall conform
26 with the requirements provided by the Board. No license or certificate shall be
27 reissued unless the Board is satisfied that good cause exists to warrant such
28 reinstatement.

1 A new Certificate of Registration to replace any certificate that has been
2 lost, destroyed, or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules of the Board.

3 SEC. 28. *Exemption from Examination and Registration of*
4 *Foreigners.* – (a) Examination and registration shall not be required of foreign
5 plumbing engineers employed as technical consultants by the Philippine
6 government or by private firms subject to the certification of pertinent
7 professional society that no qualified Filipino professional is available, subject
8 to the following conditions:

9 (1) That the foreign professionals are legally qualified to practice their
10 profession in their own country in which the requirements and qualifications
11 for obtaining a license or Certificate of Registration are not lower than those
12 specified in this Act;

13 (2) That the scope of work to be performed by foreign professionals
14 shall be limited only to the particular work for which they were contracted;

15 (3) That prior commencing to work, the foreign professionals shall
16 secure a special permit from the PRC;

17 (4) That foreign professionals shall not engage in private practice on
18 their own account;

19 (5) That for every foreign professional contracted pursuant to this
20 section, one (1) Filipino understudy who is registered under the provisions of
21 this Act shall be employed by the private firm utilizing the services of such
22 foreign professional for at least the duration of the latter's tenure with said
23 firm; and

24 (6) That the exemption herein granted shall be good only for six (6)
25 months, renewable for another six (6) months at the discretion of the Board.
26 In case a foreign professional ceases to be employed in accordance with this
27 section and engages in an occupation requiring registration as plumbing
28 engineer, the foreigner must be registered under the provisions of this Act.

1 (b) No registration with the Board shall be required of engineering
2 students, apprentices and other persons employed or acting as subordinates of,
3 or undergoing training under a person holding a valid Certificate of
4 Registration and a valid professional license under this Act.

5 ARTICLE IV

6 PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

7 SEC. 29. *Practice of Plumbing Engineering.* – Except as may be
8 provided in this Act, no person shall use the title “Registered Plumbing
9 Engineer”, or display or use any title, sign, card, advertisement, or other
10 device to indicate such person practices or offers to practice plumbing
11 engineering unless the person shall have received from the Board a Certificate
12 of Registration and issued a professional identification card by the PRC and
13 the Board.

14 The activities enumerated in Section 3 describing the coverage of the
15 practice of plumbing engineering shall not be construed as excluding any other
16 work requiring plumbing engineering knowledge and application.

17 No firm, partnership, corporation or association may be licensed and
18 registered as such for the practice of plumbing engineering, but duly licensed
19 and registered plumbing engineers may form partnerships among themselves
20 or with other licensed and registered engineers and architects and use the title
21 “Plumbing Engineers”, “Engineers”, or “Engineers and Architects” in their
22 partnership names.

23 SEC. 30. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following acts shall be prohibited:

24 (a) Practice or offer to practice plumbing engineering in the
25 Philippines without having previously obtained a Certificate of Registration
26 and a professional license from the Professional Regulatory Board of
27 Plumbing Engineering;

28 (b) Use or attempt to use the Certificate of Registration, professional
29 license or seal of another;

1 (c) Submission of fraudulent evidence of any kind to the Board or to
2 any member thereof to obtain a Certificate of Registration and professional
3 license;

4 (d) Fraudulent impersonation of any registrant of like or different
5 name;

6 (e) Attempt to use a revoked or suspended Certificate of Registration
7 or an expired professional license;

8 (f) Use, in connection with the person's name, or otherwise assume or
9 advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that such
10 person is a plumbing engineer or master plumber without holding a valid
11 certificate or a valid license; and

12 (g) Sign a document involving plumbing design, plan, technical
13 specification, valuation, and the like on behalf of a plumbing engineer.

14 SEC. 31. *Roster of Plumbing Engineers.* – The PRC shall keep a
15 roster of all duly licensed and registered plumbing engineers, stating their
16 names, registration numbers, and places of business. The PRC shall regularly
17 update such roster and make it available to the public.

18 SEC. 32. *Submission of Designs, Specifications and Reports.* – Any
19 proposal, design, specification, working drawing, program, or report to be
20 submitted to any government agency, national or local, including government-
21 owned or -controlled corporations, shall not be processed or approved if such
22 proposal, design, specification, drawing, and similar documents have not been
23 signed by a registered plumbing engineer, with the seal and registration
24 number affixed thereto.

25 SEC. 33. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign engineer shall be
26 admitted to take the board examination, be given a Certificate of Registration,
27 or be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the
28 country of which the person is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino

1 engineers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the
2 subjects or citizens of that country.

3 SEC. 34. *License Number and Privilege Tax Receipt.* – The plumbing
4 engineer shall be required to indicate the Certificate of Registration, the
5 professional identification card number, the date of issuance, and the duration
6 of validity, including the privilege tax receipt (PTR) on the documents the
7 plumbing engineer signs, uses, or issues in connection with the practice of the
8 profession.

9 SEC. 35. *Integration of the Plumbing Professional Organizations.* –
10 The plumbing professional organizations shall be integrated into one (1)
11 national organization which shall be recognized by the Board as the one and
12 only integrated and accredited association of plumbing engineers. A plumbing
13 engineer, upon registration with the Board as such, shall *ipso facto* become a
14 member of the integrated national organization. Those who have been
15 registered with the Board but are not members of the said organization at the
16 time of the effectivity of this Act shall be allowed to register as members of
17 the said integrated organization within three (3) years after the effectivity of
18 this Act. Membership in the integrated organization shall not be a bar to
19 membership in other associations of the engineering profession.

20 SEC. 36. *Continuing Professional Development (CPD).* – The CPD
21 guidelines shall be prescribed and promulgated by the Board subject to the
22 approval of the PRC, after consultation with the integrated and accredited
23 plumbing engineering associations, other associations of the plumbing
24 engineering profession, and other concerned sectors. The Board shall
25 incorporate in the said guidelines the creation of a CPD council that shall be
26 composed of officers coming from the Board, the PRC, the APO, and other
27 concerned sectors. It shall be vested with the functions, duties and
28 responsibilities to implement the guidelines and shall have the juridical

1 personality that is distinct and separate from and independent of the Board, the
2 PRC and the APO.

3 ARTICLE V

4 GENERAL PROVISIONS

5 SEC. 37. *Penalties.* – In addition to the administrative sanctions, a
6 person found to have violated any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon
7 conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos
8 (P50,000.00) nor more than two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or
9 imprisonment of not more than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the
10 court.

11 If the offender is a corporation, partnership, or juridical person, the
12 penalty shall be imposed on the officers responsible for permitting or causing a
13 violation of the provision of this Act.

14 SEC. 38. *Enforcement.* – The Board shall be assisted by the PRC in
15 carrying out the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and
16 regulations and other policies. The lawyers of the PRC shall act as
17 prosecutors against illegal practitioners and other violators of this Act and its
18 rules. The duly constituted authorities of the government shall likewise
19 assist the Board and the PRC in enforcing the provisions of this Act and its
20 rules.

21 SEC. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Subject to the
22 approval of the PRC, the Board shall, not later than the ninetieth (90th) day
23 after the effectivity of this Act, adopt and promulgate such rules and
24 regulations including the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for
25 Plumbing Engineers for the effective implementation of the provisions of this
26 Act.

27 SEC. 40. *Funding Provisions.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall
28 include in the PRC's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of
29 which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 44. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

Approved,

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