

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SENATE

10 JUL 27 10:44

S. B. No. **2108**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public Welfare and Proper Plumbing System are the concern of all. These are underscored in the plumbing works of buildings. It is necessary that plumbing design and installation be undertaken by people with adequate academic and technical background in accordance with sound engineering practice and generally accepted standards.

Some forty years ago, 1955, Congress enacted R.A. 1378, otherwise known as the Plumbing Law, which regulates the trade of master plumbers. High School graduates with five years plumbing experience used to dominate the trade. With the advent of high rise buildings their numbers are dwindling but sustaining. Master Plumbers with engineering expertise are coming about. Since then the law has become outmoded with provisions that do not harmonize with the times: To date the practice of plumbing is still considered a trade, although the act of plumbing works has become more complex with the emergence and expansion of all types of buildings design and construction, coupled by the trend of urbanization, the proliferation of urban centers, and the subsequent complexity of architectural and engineering works these all the more spell out the demand for plumbing engineer.

The burgeoning plumbing industry dramatizes the need for the participation of Plumbing Engineers with good academic background in engineering to cope up with the new technology required. The time has come, after two scores to upgrade the plumbing profession. R.A. 1378 must give way to a new law for Plumbing Engineers. Plumbing Engineering must be accorded professional acceptance and recognition.

Section 1 (B), Item (15) of R.A. 6511, An Act Amending Republic Act 465, An Act to Standardize the Examination and Registration Fees charged by the National Examining Boards, and the other purposes, provide and lists down the Profession of Plumbing Engineers as a preparation for the regulation of the profession. For this reason, registered engineers who are holders of Master Plumbers Certificate have responded to the call of the times and bonded themselves together under one roof, the Philippine Institute of Plumbing Engineers (PIPE). Their move was backed up by colleges and universities who recognized the importance of plumbing engineering by offering it as a distinct course. Congress has to come up with the law to elevate the plumbing trade to one of professional engineering and in the interest of public welfare.

Approval of this bill is urgently requested.



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO


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**AN ACT REGULATING  
THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING  
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as the "**Philippine Plumbing**  
2 **Engineering Act**".

3  
4           **SECTION 2. Definition of Terms:**

5  
6 (a) Practice of Plumbing Engineering - The practice of Plumbing Engineering is a  
7 professional and organized act of gathering physical data for an effective  
8 performance in the design and installation of plumbing systems of buildings and  
9 other structures. It shall embrace services, but not limited, to the following activities:

10  
11           (1) Consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specifications, estimates,  
12 erection, installation and supervision of plumbing work including the  
13 inspection and acceptance of materials used therein in connection with any of  
14 the following:

- 15                   a. Storm Drainage Piping Systems;  
16                   b. Soil Waste and Vent Piping Systems;  
17                   c. Hot and Cold Water Supply Piping System;  
18                   d. Private Sewage Disposal Systems; and  
19                   e. All other related piping installation within the building.

20  
21  
22           (2) Extension, alteration and modifications of all pipings for fixtures,  
23 equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the  
24 above scope.

25  
26           (3) The enumeration of sub-section (1) and (2) above shall not be construed as  
27 excluding any other work requiring plumbing knowledge and application.

28  
29           (4) Engagement in the transfer of the knowledge and technology of plumbing  
30 engineering in any institution of learning.  
31

1           **SECTION 3. Creation and Composition of the Board of Plumbing**  
2 **Engineering** - There is hereby created a Board of Plumbing Engineering, hereinafter  
3 called the Board, to be composed of a chairman and two (2) members to be  
4 appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recomendees of  
5 the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter called the commission for each  
6 position, chosen in rank in the order of preference and from the list of five (5)  
7 nominees for each position submitted by the accredited Integrated National  
8 Organization of Plumbing Engineers and Master Plumbers. The first set of nominees  
9 for the first composition may be submitted by the present association of Plumbing  
10 Engineers unless the integrated shall have been set up for the purpose. The first  
11 composition shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of  
12 this Act.

13  
14           **SECTION 4. Qualifications of Members of the Board** - A member of the  
15 Board shall at the time of his/her appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- 16  
17       (a) Natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;  
18       (b) Must be at least forty (40) years of age;  
19       (c) Must be a Plumbing Engineer holding a valid Certificate of Registration and a  
20       valid Professional License as a Plumbing Engineer having a degree of  
21       Bachelor of Science in Engineering and an active practitioner in Master  
22       Plumber/Plumbing Engineering for not less than ten (10) years prior to  
23       appointment;  
24       (d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college  
25       or university where a regular course in Plumbing Engineering is being  
26       taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any  
27       such institution of learning;  
28       (e) Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to appointment, be  
29       connected with a review center or with any group or my association where  
30       review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are  
31       offered or conducted at the time of appointment; and  
32       (f) Must not have been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude.

33  
34           **SECTION 5. Term of Office** - The members of the Board shall hold office for  
35 a term of three (3) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and  
36 qualified. Of the members of the Board first appointed under this Act, one (1)  
37 member shall be appointed and hold office for three (3) years; and one (1) member  
38 for two (2) years, one (1) member for one year.

39  
40           The Chairman or member of the Board may be re-appointed for another term  
41 but in no case shall he serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Each member  
42 of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to the assumption  
43 in the performance of duties. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the board  
44 within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term  
45 only.

46  
47           **SECTION 6. Compensation of the Board Members** - The Chairman and  
48 members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the  
49 compensation and allowances received by existing Professional Regulatory Boards  
50 with Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the  
51 Commission, as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

1           **SECTION 7. Vacancy and Removal of Board Members** - Any vacancy  
2 occurring in the membership of the Board within the term of a member shall be  
3 filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. The President may remove any  
4 member of the Board, upon the recommendation of the Commission, on the  
5 following grounds:

- 6  
7           (a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;  
8           (b) Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics or  
9           Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers;  
10          (c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.

11  
12           He/She shall be given due notice and hearing where his/her right to be  
13 heard and to defend him/ herself, assisted by counsel, shall be respected in a proper  
14 administrative investigation the commission shall conduct.

15  
16           **SECTION 8. Powers and Duties of the Board** - The Board shall exercise the  
17 following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- 18  
19           (a) To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying  
20 out the provisions of this Act;  
21           (b) To supervise the examination, registration, licensure and practice of  
22 Plumbing Engineering and Master Plumbing in the Philippines;  
23           (c) To administer oaths in connection with the successful examinees entering  
24 the practice of Plumbing Engineering and Master Plumbing;  
25           (d) To issue the Certificate of Registration to successful examinees;  
26           (e) To issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the Certificate of Registration and  
27 Professional License for the practice of the Plumbing Engineering profession;  
28           (f) To adopt an official seal of the Board;  
29           (g) To look into the conditions affecting the practice of the professions and  
30 whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the  
31 enhancement and maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the  
32 professions;  
33           (h) To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education  
34 (CHED), that all educational institutions offering Plumbing Engineering education  
35 comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by  
36 CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;  
37           (i) To prescribed and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical  
38 Standards for the practice of the Plumbing Engineering professions;  
39           (j) To hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its  
40 implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics / Technical Standards and  
41 for the purpose, to issue subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the  
42 appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;  
43           (k) To prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE)  
44 program in coordination with the accredited integrated National Association of  
45 Professional Plumbing Engineers;  
46           (l) To prepare, adopt issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for  
47 examination.  
48           (m) To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary special permit license to  
49 practice Plumbing Engineering;  
50           (n) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary  
51 for the enhancement of the Plumbing Engineering professions and the upgrading,  
52 development and growth of Plumbing Engineering education in the Philippines;

1           **SECTION 9. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat**  
2 **and Support Services** - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of  
3 the Commission. All records of the Board, including the application *for examination*,  
4 examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and  
5 other investigations involving Plumbing Engineers shall be kept by the Commission.  
6 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the  
7 secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.  
8

9           **SECTION 10. Annual Report** - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar  
10 year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the  
11 Professional Regulation Commission, giving detailed account of its recommendation  
12 for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting  
13 the practice of Plumbing Engineering in the Philippines.  
14

15           **SECTION 11. Examinations Required** - All applicants for registration for the  
16 practice of Plumbing Engineering shall be required to undergo and pass a written  
17 technical examination provided for in this Act.  
18

19           **SECTION 12. Qualifications of Applicant for Plumbing Engineering**  
20 **Examination** - Every applicant for Plumbing Engineer examination shall establish  
21 the following:  
22

- 23           (a)       He/she is a citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country  
24 state has reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the  
25 profession;  
26           (b)       Of Good Moral Character; and  
27           (c)       Within five yeas upon approval of this Act, a graduate of any BS  
28 degree in Engineering or Architecture may qualify for the  
29 examination provided.  
30           (d)       That he/she is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Plumbing  
31 Engineering in a school, academy, institute or college duly  
32 recognized by the Government.  
33

34           **SECTION 13. Fraudulent Application** - The Board may suspend or revoke a  
35 Certificate of Registration obtained through misrepresentation made in the  
36 application for examination.  
37

38           **SECTION 14. Scope of Examinations** - The examination for Plumbing  
39 Engineering shall basically cover the following subjects:  
40

- 41           a. Mathematics;  
42           b. Theory and Practice of Plumbing  
43           c. Hydraulic and Plumbing Principles  
44           d. Plumbing Design and Installation  
45           f. Plumbing Laws and National Codes  
46           g. Laws on Obligations and Contracts  
47           h. Code of Ethics of the Profession  
48

49           The said subjects and their syllabi maybe amended by the Board so as to  
50 conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the  
51 profession.  
52

1           **SECTION 15. Rating in the Board Examination** - To be qualified as having  
2 passed the board examination for Plumbing Engineers, a candidate must obtained a  
3 weighted general average of seventy (70%) with no grade lower than fifty-five  
4 percent (55%) in any given subject must take the examination in the subject or  
5 subjects where he/she obtained a grade below fifty-five percent (55%).  
6

7           **SECTION 16. Report of Ratings** - The board shall submit to the commission  
8 the rating obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) calendar days after the  
9 examination, unless extended for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the  
10 examination, the board shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at  
11 his given address using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.  
12

13           **SECTION 17. Re-examination** - An applicant who fails to pass the  
14 examination for the third time shall be allowed to take another examination only  
15 after the lapse of one year.  
16

17           **SECTION 18. Oath** - All successful candidates in the examinations shall be  
18 required to take an oath of profession before the Board or any PRC Official  
19 authorized by the PRC to administer oaths, prior to entering upon the practice of the  
20 Plumbing Engineering profession.  
21

22           **SECTION 19. Certificate of Registration and Professional License** - A  
23 Certificate of Registration' shall be issued to applicants who pass the examination for  
24 Plumbing Engineers subject to payment of registration fees.  
25

26           The Certificate of Registration of a Professional Plumbing Engineer shall bear  
27 the signatures of the Chairman of the Board and its member attested by the  
28 Secretary of the Professional Regulation Commission and stamped with the official  
29 seal of the Board indicating that the person named therein is a registered Plumbing  
30 Engineer.  
31

32           A professional license bearing the registration number, date of issuance,  
33 expiry date and duly signed by the Chairman of the Board, shall likewise be issued  
34 to every registrant, upon payment of the professional fees. No person shall practice  
35 Plumbing Engineering in the manner contrary to herein provided. A license is  
36 entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto until  
37 the expiration of the validity of his license.  
38

39           **SECTION 20. Seal and Use of Seal** - (a) Each registrant shall, upon  
40 registration, obtain the seal of such design as the Board of Plumbing Engineering  
41 may adopt. Plans and specifications prepared by, or under the direct supervision of  
42 a registered Plumbing Engineer, shall be stamped with said seal during the validity  
43 of the professional license. No person shall stamp or seal any document with the  
44 seal of a registrant after his professional license has expired, lost its validity, unless  
45 he has been reinstated at the practice and/or unless his license has been renewed.  
46

47           (b) No officer or employee of the government, chartered cities, provinces and  
48 municipalities now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or  
49 regulations relating to all Plumbing Engineering practices shall accept or endorse  
50 any plumbing plans or documents which have not been prepared and submitted in  
51 full accord with the provisions of this Act, nor shall any payment be approved by  
52 any such officer for any work, the plans and documents of which have not been  
53 prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed Plumbing Engineer.

1 (c) No Plumbing Engineer shall sign his name, affix his seal or use any other method  
2 of signature on plans, specifications or other documents made by under another  
3 Plumbing Engineer's supervision unless the same is made in such manner as to  
4 clearly indicate the part of such work actually performed by him; and no person,  
5 except the Plumbing Engineer in charge, shall sign for any branch of work or any  
6 function of Plumbing Engineering practice not actually performed by him. The  
7 Plumbing Engineer in-charge shall be fully responsible for all plans, specifications  
8 and other documents issued under his seal or authorized signature.

9  
10 The Board shall formulate, adopt and promulgate all necessary rules and  
11 regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions relating to the design  
12 of the seal, the signing and sealing of drawings, specifications, reports and other  
13 documents by Plumbing Engineers.

14  
15 (d) Plans and documents duly signed, stamped or sealed as instruments of service  
16 are the property and documents of the Plumbing Engineer.

17  
18 **SECTION 21. Indication of License and Professional Tax Receipt** - The  
19 Plumbing Engineer shall be required to indicate his professional license number, the  
20 duration of validity, including the professional tax receipt number and the official  
21 receipt number of the payment of his/her annual dues with the duly accredited  
22 organization on the documents he signs, uses in connection with the practice of his  
23 profession.

24  
25 **SECTION 22. Grounds for Suspension and Revocation of License,**  
26 **Cancellation of Temporary / Special Permit** - The Board shall have the power,  
27 upon due notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the license of a Plumbing  
28 Engineer, or to cancel a temporary / special permit for any cause specified in the  
29 proceeding section, including but not limited to:

- 30  
31 (a) The use or perpetration of any fraud deceit in obtaining a certificate of  
32 registration;  
33 (b) For incompetence, negligence, or for abatement of the illegal practice of  
34 Plumbing Engineering;  
35 (c) Violation of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations  
36 and/or violation of the policies of the Board including the Code of Ethics for  
37 Plumbing Engineers.

38  
39 Provided, however, that such action of the Board shall, be subject to appeal to  
40 the Commission, within fifteen (15) days from written notice.

41  
42 **SECTION 23. Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Practicing**  
43 **Registered Master Plumbers/Plumbing Engineers** - All practicing Master Plumbers  
44 / Plumbing Engineers who are registered at the time this Act takes effect shall  
45 automatically be registered. As per qualification enumerated in Sec. 30 sub-section  
46 (c).

47  
48 **SECTION 24. Practice Not Allowed for Firms and Corporations** - The  
49 practice of Plumbing Engineering is a professional service, admission to which shall  
50 be determined upon the basis of an individual's personal qualifications, for which  
51 the Plumbing Engineer is responsible for the correctness of the plumbing work.

1 No firm, company, partnership, association or corporation may be registered  
2 or licensed as such for the practice of Plumbing Engineering. Provided, however,  
3 that persons properly registered and licensed as Plumbing Engineering may among  
4 themselves or with a person or persons properly registered and licensed as  
5 Plumbing Engineer may form and obtain registration with the Securities and  
6 Exchange Commission (SEC) of a firm, partnership or association using the term  
7 "Plumbing Engineer", but nobody shall be a member, partner or associate unless he  
8 is a duly registered and licensed Plumbing Engineer, and the members who are  
9 Plumbing Engineers shall only render work and services proper for a Plumbing  
10 Engineers as defined in this Act.

11  
12 **SECTION 25. Integration of Membership To One National Organization -**  
13 Upon registration with the Board, the Registered Plumbing Engineers shall be  
14 integrated to one National Organization in accordance with the Rules of Integration  
15 adopted by the Supreme Court in integrating the members of the Philippine Bar.  
16 The members shall receive the benefits and privileges appurtenance thereto. Those  
17 who have been registered with the Board but not yet a member of the accredited  
18 organization at the time of the effectivity of this act, shall be allowed to register as  
19 member of the said organization within three(3) years after the effectivity of this act.

20  
21 **SECTION 26. Foreign Reciprocity -** No foreign Plumbing Engineer shall be  
22 issued a temporary license to practice the Plumbing Engineer shall be issued a  
23 temporary license to practice the Plumbing Engineering profession or consultancy  
24 thereof or be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the  
25 country of which he is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino Plumbing  
26 Engineers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or  
27 citizens or such foreign state or country.

28  
29 **ARTICLE VI**  
30 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

31  
32 **SECTION 27. Implementing Rules and Regulations -** Subject to the  
33 approval of the Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate such rules and  
34 regulations, including the Code of Ethics for Plumbing Engineers to carry out the  
35 provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after thirty (30) days following their  
36 full publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of general  
37 circulation.

38  
39 **SECTION 28. Funding -** Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the  
40 provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the  
41 year following its enactment into law and thereafter. Provided, however, that fifty  
42 percent (50%) of the fees derived from examination, registration and licenses shall  
43 be utilized by the Board to defray its administrative and other operational expenses,  
44 including the enhancement of the Plumbing Engineering profession.

45  
46 **SECTION 29. Enforcement -** The Professional Regulation Commission shall  
47 be the enforcement agency of the Board. As such, enforce its implementing rules and  
48 regulations as adopted by the Board, conduct investigations upon complaints,  
49 including violations of the Code of Conduct of the profession and prosecute when so  
50 warranted.



1           **SECTION 30. Transitory Provisions** - (a) The existing Board of Master  
2 Plumbing shall continue to function in the interim until time as the new Board shall  
3 be duly constituted pursuant to this Act.

4  
5 (b) Examination for Master Plumber shall cease to be conducted upon effectivity of  
6 this Act.

7  
8 (c) Certificate of Registration without Examination shall be issued within a grace  
9 period of two (2) years by the Board first constituted to applicant Who meet the  
10 qualifications and requirements enumerated hereunder.

11  
12 (d) Registered Master Plumber to Professional Plumbing Engineer:

13  
14           (1) That he is a citizen of the Philippines and at least twenty one (21) years  
15 old;

16           (2) That he is of good moral character;

17           (3) That he is aphysically and mentally healthy;

18           (4) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber at the same time he is  
19 registered and licensed engineer and architect;

20           (5) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least two (2)  
21 years of college in Engineering and Architecture, two (2) years of plumbing  
22 experience acceptable to the Board; or

23           (6) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least three (3)  
24 years of college in Engineering or Architecture and one (1) year experience  
25 acceptable to the Board; or

26           (7) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least four (4)  
27 years experience in plumbing acceptable to the Board; or

28           (8) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least two (2)  
29 years plumbing experience and CPE units earned as prescribed by the CPE  
30 Council and approved by the Board;

31           (9) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with a combination of  
32 college work, plumbing experience and CPE units earned as shall be  
33 prescribed and approved by the Board.

34  
35 (e) A registered and licensed Master Plumber who does not qualify for automatic  
36 registration for Plumbing Engineer as provided for in the preceding paragraph (d),  
37 sub-section (c) Section 30, Article VI are therefore required to take the Bachelor  
38 Science in Plumbing Engineering course to qualify for the Plumbing Engineering  
39 examination.

40  
41           **SECTION 31. Penalties** - In addition to the administrative sanctions, any of  
42 the provisions of this Act, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than  
43 Fifty thousand pesos (₱ 50,000.00) nor more than Two hundred thousand pesos (₱  
44 200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, or both such fine and  
45 imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

46  
47           **SECTION 32. Separability Clause** - If any clause, provision, paragraph or  
48 part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not  
49 affect, invalidate or impair any other part thereof, but such judgment shall merely be  
50 confined to the clause, provision, paragraph or part directly involved in the  
51 controversy upon which such judgment has been rendered.

1           **SECTION 33. Repealing Clause** - Republic Act No. 1378 is hereby repealed.  
2 All other laws, decrees, National Codes, executive orders, letter of instructions and  
3 other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the  
4 provisions of this Act are hereby modified, suspended or repealed accordingly.  
5

6           **SECTION 34. Effectivity** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
7 its publication in full in the Official Gazette or major daily newspaper of general  
8 circulation in the Philippines, whichever is earlier.  
9

10           *Approved,*