

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

Office of the Secretary

12 FEB 27 12:11

SENATE

RECEIVED
BY: *for*

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **128**

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Ways and Means; and Finance on **FEB 27 2012**

Re: Senate Bill No. **3139**

Recommending its approval in substitution of S. No. 2169

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Ways and Means; and Finance to which was primarily and secondarily referred Senate Bill No. 2169, *entitled:*

“PHILIPPINE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 2010”

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached Senate Bill No. **3139** prepared by the Committee, *entitled:*

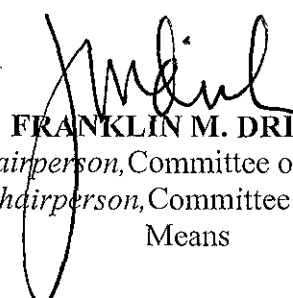
AN ACT

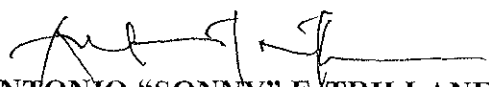
TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 8534 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

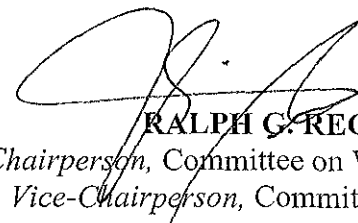
be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2169 with Senator Trillanes IV and the Committee on Rules as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:


Chairpersons


FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Chairperson, Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization
Member, Committee on Ways and Means

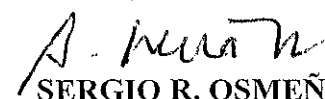

RALPH G. RECTO
Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance
may Interpellate & Amend

Vice-Chairpersons


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means

GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization
Member, Committee on Finance; and Committee on Ways and Means

Members

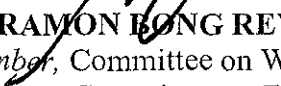
TEOFISTO L. GUINGONA III
Member, Committee on Ways and Means; Committee on Finance
will interpellate & Amend

SERGIO R. OSMEÑA III
Member, Committee on Ways and Means; Committee on Finance

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Member, Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Committee on Ways and Means; Committee on Finance


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Member, Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Committee on Ways and Means; Committee on Finance

FRANCIS "Chiz" G. ESCUDERO
Member, Committee on Ways and Means; Committee on Finance

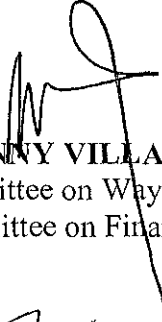
LOREN B. LEGARDA
Member, Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Committee on Finance



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Member, Committee on Ways and Means;
Committee on Finance




FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.
Member, Committee on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization; Committee on
Finance



MANNY VILLAR
Member, Committee on Ways and Means;
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MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO
Member, Committee on Ways and Means;
Committee on Finance

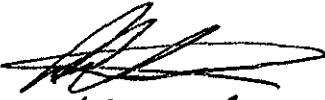


PANFILO M. LACSON
Member, Committee on Finance


PIA "COMPAÑERA" S. CAYETANO
Member, Committee on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization; *Member,*
Committee on Ways and Means; Committee
on Finance

JOKER P. ARROYO
Member, Committee on Ways and Means;
Committee on Finance

Ex-Officio Members


*w/ Reservations +
Interruption*
**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S.
CAYETANO**
Senate Minority Floor Leader


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate Majority Floor Leader


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senate President Pro-Tempore

The Honorable JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senate President

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

12 FEB 27 P2:11

SENATE
S. No. 3139

RECEIVED BY: Per

(In substitution of Senate Bill No. 2169)

Prepared by the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Ways and Means; and Finance with Senator Trillanes IV and the Committee on Rules as authors thereof

AN ACT
TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 8534 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE, POLICY, OBJECTIVES, TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SECTION 1. Title.- This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Interior Design Act of 2012*".

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

SEC. 3. Objectives.- This Act provides for and shall govern:

- (a) The examination, registration and licensure of professional interior designers;
- (b) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of interior design;

- 1 (c) The development of the professional competence of interior designers through continuing
2 professional education; and
3 (d) The integration of the interior design profession.
4

5 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.***- For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby
6 defined:

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

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

15 (c) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulatory Commission.
16

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

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

22 (b) Schematic interior design development, design development, execution of professional
23 contract documents and programming of construction phases;

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

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

28 (e) All other works, projects and activities that require the professional competence of the
29 interior designer, including teaching of interior design subjects.
30

31 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise, exclude from, or add to, the
32 above-enumerated acts or activities as the need arises to conform to the latest trends and
33 developments in the practice of interior design.

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ARTICLE II

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF INTERIOR DESIGN

SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Interior Design.*- There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Interior Design, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairman and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of two (2) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission, who in turn will be drawn from a list of three (3) to five (5) nominees for each position recommended by the duly Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Interior Designers. The new Board shall be created within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

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

- (a) Must be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) Must be a degree holder of Bachelor of Science in Interior Design (BSID), Bachelor of Interior Design (BID) or Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), major in Interior Design, or an equivalent degree conferred by a school, academy, college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- (c) Must be a registered interior designer with a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card and an active practitioner of interior design for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;
- (d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, where a regular course in Interior Design is being taught, or have pecuniary interest in, or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- (e) Must not be connected with a review center or with any group giving review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination;
- (f) Must be a member in good standing of the duly accredited professional organization of interior designers but not an incumbent trustee or officer thereof; and
- (g) Has never been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or a civil and/or criminal offense.

1 **SEC. 8. *Term of Office.***- The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three
2 (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and
3 qualified. They may be reappointed for another term of three (3) years immediately upon the
4 expiration of their term: *Provided*, That no member shall hold office for more than six (6) years
5 in his position as a chairman or as a member of the Board.

6 Of the members to be appointed for the new Board under this Act, one (1) member shall
7 hold office as Chairman for three (3) years; one (1) member for two (2) years; and one (1)
8 member for one (1) year. Each member of the Board shall take the proper oath prior to
9 assumption of duty.

10
11 **SEC. 9. *Compensation of the Board Members.***- The Chairman and members of the
12 Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and
13 allowances received by existing regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for in the
14 General Appropriations Act.

15
16 **SEC. 10. *Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.***- The Board
17 shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- 18 (a) Adopt, promulgate and administer the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the
19 provisions of this Act;
- 20 (b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of the professional interior
21 designers in the Philippines;
- 22 (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- 23 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the certificate of registration or professional license for the
24 practice of the interior design profession;
- 25 (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 26 (f) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and adopt such measures as
27 may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and/or the maintenance of high
28 professional, ethical and technical standards;
- 29 (g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all other
30 educational institutions offering interior design comply with the policies, standards and
31 requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty,
32 library and facilities;
- 33 (h) Prescribe and adopt a Code of Ethics and/or Code of Professional Standards for the practice
34 of the Interior Design profession;

- 1 (i) Hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and
2 regulations (IRR), the Code of Professional Standards for the practice of the Interior
3 Designers profession and, for this purpose, to issue subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to
4 secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;
- 5 (j) Prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program for interior
6 designers in coordination with the accredited professional organization of interior designers;
- 7 (k) Prepare, adopt and issue the Table of Specifications (TOS) and syllabi of the subjects for
8 examination in the professional licensure examination for interior designers. Determine and
9 prepare the questions for the examination, which shall strictly be within the scope of the
10 syllabi of the subjects of examination; and
- 11 (l) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement
12 of the interior design profession and the upgrading, development and growth of interior
13 design education in the Philippines.

14

15 **SEC. 11. *Grounds for Removal or Suspension of Board Chairman/Member.***- The
16 President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after giving the
17 Chairman or the member of the Board an opportunity to defend himself/herself in an
18 administrative investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend him/her on
19 any of the following grounds:

- 20 (a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of his/her duty;
- 21 (b) Commission of the prohibited acts and/or violation of the provisions or commissions of the
22 offenses and/or grounds for disciplinary action provided in this Act and in the Revised
23 Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and other related laws;
- 24 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination for interior designers, tampering with
25 the results, disclosure of secret and confidential information relating to the examination prior
26 to the conduct thereof, or manipulation/padding/shaving of grades and similar acts; and,
- 27 (d) Conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude.

28

29 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by Section 7(s) of
30 Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC Modernization Act of 2000, the rules on
31 administrative investigation and the applicable provisions of the Revised Rules of Court.

32

33 **SEC.12. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat***
34 ***and Support Services.***- The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the

1 Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, administrative
2 and other investigative cases conducted by the Board shall be under the custody of the
3 Commission. The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide the
4 secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

5 **SEC. 13. *Annual Report.***- The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an
6 annual report to the President of the Philippines, through the Commission, giving a detailed
7 account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making recommendations
8 for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice
9 of interior design.

11 **ARTICLE III**

12 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE**

13
14 **SEC. 14. *Passing of Licensure Examination Requirement.***- Except as otherwise
15 specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the practice of interior design
16 shall be required to pass a professional licensure examination as provided for in this Act in such
17 places and on such dates as the Commission may designate in accordance with the provisions of
18 Section 7(d) of Republic Act No. 8981.

19
20 **SEC. 15. *Qualifications of Applicants.*** - An applicant for the licensure examination for
21 interior designers shall satisfactorily prove that he/she possesses the following qualifications:

22 (a) Citizen of the Philippines or a foreign citizen whose country/state has a policy reciprocity
23 with the Philippines in the practice of interior design;

24 (b) *Of good moral character;*

25 (c) A holder of any of the following:

26 i. A degree in interior design obtained from a reputable institution of learning in the
27 Philippines recognized by the government and affiliated with a
28 school/college/university duly recognized or accredited by the CHED;

29 ii. A degree in interior design obtained from a reputable institution of learning in a
30 foreign country/state; *Provided,* that the same is certified by the CHED as
31 equivalent to a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design obtained in the Philippines;
32 and

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

34

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

- 3 (a) Interior Design ;
4 (b) Furniture Design and Construction;
5 (c) Materials of Design and Decoration;
6 (d) History of Arts and Interior Design;
7 (e) Interior Construction and Utilities,
8 (f) Color Theory; and,
9 (g) Professional Practice and Ethics.

10
11 Subject to the approval of the Commission, the said subjects, their TOS and their syllabi
12 may be amended by the Board in coordination with CHED, so as to conform to technological
13 changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession, in coordination with the accredited
14 professional organization of interior design educators.

15
16 **SEC. 17. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.***- To be qualified as having passed the
17 Board examination for interior designers, a candidate must obtain a weighted general average of
18 seventy percent (70%).

19
20 **SEC. 18. *Report of Ratings.***- The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings
21 obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) days after the examination unless extended by
22 the Commission for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Board
23 shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his given address using the mailing
24 envelope submitted during the examination.

25
26 **SEC. 19. *Oath.***- All successful candidates in the examination shall be required to take an
27 oath of profession before the Board or any government official authorized by the Commission to
28 administer oaths prior to entering the practice of the interior design profession.

29
30 **SEC.20. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card.*** -
31 A certificate of registration shall be issued to applicants who pass the examination for interior
32 designers subject to payment of registration fees.

33 The certificate of registration as professional interior designer shall bear the signatures of
34 the Chairperson of the Commission and the Board members, stamped with the official seal,
35 indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the profession with all the

1 privileges appurtenant thereto. This certificate shall remain in full force and effect until
2 withdrawn, suspended or revoked, in accordance with this Act.

3 A certificate of registration bearing the registration number, date of issuance and expiry
4 date, duly signed by the Chairman of the Board, shall likewise be issued to every registrant who
5 has paid the required fees. This license will serve as evidence that the licensee can lawfully
6 practice his/her profession.

7 A professional identification card, whether new or for renewal, shall be released by the
8 PRC upon compliance with the requirements for the application or renewal of identification card
9 and upon presentation of the updated receipt of payment of annual membership dues of the
10 accredited professional organization of interior designers and proof of completion of the CPE
11 requirements.

12 Once registered, the interior designer may use "IDr." as his official appendage title.
13

14 **SEC. 21. *Refusal to Register.***- The Board shall not register any successful applicant for
15 registration who has been:

- 16 (a) Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction;
17 (b) Who has been found guilty of *immoral or dishonorable conduct* by the Board;
18 (c) Adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions to Examinees by the Board; and/or
19 (d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction.
20

21 In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting
22 forth the reasons therefore and shall file a copy thereof in its records.
23

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

- 29 (a) Violation of any provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, the Code of Good
30 Governance, the Code of Professional Standards for the practice of interior design as well as
31 the policy measures promulgated by the Board and/or the Commission;
32 (b) Perpetration and/or use of fraud in obtaining his/her certificate of registration, professional
33 identification card or temporary/special permit;
34 (c) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death, injury or damage;

- 1 (d) Refusal to join or to remain a member in good standing of the Accredited and Integrated
2 Professional Organization (AIPO) for interior designers;
- 3 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive years;
- 4 (f) Knowingly aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and licensed person by
5 allowing him/her to use his/her certificate of registration and/or professional identification
6 card and/or his or her temporary/special permit;
- 7 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during his/her suspension from the practice thereof;
- 8 (h) Addiction to a drug or alcohol abuse, impairing his/her ability to practice his/her profession
9 or being declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- 10 (i) Noncompliance with the CPE requirements, unless he/she is exempted therefrom, for the
11 renewal of his/her professional identification card.

12 The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and amend, modify,
13 revise, exclude and/or add new ones as the circumstances and the developments in the profession
14 may require, subject to approval of the Commission.

15 Any person, firm or association may file charge/s in accordance with the provision of this
16 section against any registered interior designer or the Board may *motu proprio* investigate
17 violation of any of the abovementioned causes. Affidavit embodying the complaint shall be filed
18 together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary evidence with the Board through
19 the Legal and Investigation Office. Any *motu proprio* action of the Board to conduct an
20 investigation shall be embodied in a formal charge to be signed by at least majority of the
21 members of the Board. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall
22 govern the hearing or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act No.
23 8981 and the Revised Rules of the Court.

24

25 **SEC. 23. Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration, Replacement of Lost or**
26 **Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or Temporary/Special**
27 **Permit.-** The Board may, upon petition on meritorious grounds, reinstate or reissue a revoked
28 certificate of registration after two (2) years from the date of effectivity of the period for
29 revocation. The date of effectivity of the period of revocation shall be reckoned from the date of
30 receipt by the respondent of the final order or resolution revoking his or her registration or the
31 date of the surrender by the respondent of his or her certificate of registration and professional
32 identification card, if it is still valid.

33 The Board may not require the holder thereof to take another licensure examination. The
34 petitioner shall prove to the Board that the ground or grounds for the revocation of his/her

1 certificate of registration no longer exists. For the grant of his/her petition, the Board shall issue a
2 Board Resolution subject to approval by the Commission.

3 A duplicate copy of lost certificate of registration, professional identification card or
4 temporary/special permit may be reissued in accordance with rules thereon and upon payment of
5 the prescribed fee therefor.

6
7 **SEC. 24. *Nonpayment of the Annual Registration Fees.***- The Board shall suspend a
8 registered interior designer from the practice of his/her profession for nonpayment of the annual
9 registration fees for five (5) consecutive years from his/her last or previous year of payment.
10 The resumption of his/her practice shall take place only upon payment of the delinquent fees plus
11 surcharges and interest and in accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of the
12 five (5)-year period may be interrupted upon written notice of the discontinuance of his/her
13 practice and surrender of his/her certificate of registration and professional identification card to
14 the Board and/or the Commission.

15
16 **SEC. 25. *Vested Rights.***- All practicing interior designers who are registered at the time
17 of the passage of this Act shall automatically be registered and issued certificates of registration,
18 subject to existing rules and regulations.

19
20 **ARTICLE IV**
21 **PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

22
23 **SEC. 26. *Lawful Practitioners of Interior Design.***- The following persons shall be
24 authorized to practice the interior design profession:

25 (a) Natural persons who are:

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

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

31 (b) Juridical persons:

32 (1) Single proprietorship owned by a registered and licensed interior designer;

33 (2) General professional partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange
34 Commission (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the Civil Code and
35 composed of partners who are all duly registered and licensed interior designers; and

1 (3) Corporation whose chief executive officer (CEO) and other key officers are all
2 registered and licensed interior designers may be duly registered with the SEC as
3 engaged in the practice of interior design.
4

5 **SEC. 27. Issuance and Use of Seal.**- A duly registered interior designer shall sign and
6 affix the seal as approved and provided by the Board of Interior Design on all plans,
7 specifications and contract documents prepared by him/her and/or under his/her direct
8 supervision during the validity of his/her certificate of registration.

9 Officers and/or employees of the government, chartered cities, provinces, municipalities
10 now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of the laws, ordinances or regulations relating to
11 the construction or alteration of the interiors of buildings shall accept only those interior plans,
12 specifications, and contract documents which have been prepared by or under the supervision of
13 a duly licensed interior designer and signed and sealed by him/her and submitted in full accord
14 with the provisions of this Act.

15 Violation of the foregoing shall be ground for administrative and/or criminal action.
16

17 **SEC. 28. Proprietary Rights.**- An interior designer shall enjoy proprietary rights over all
18 drawings and specifications and other contract documents prepared by him/her resulting from his
19 professional labor and duly signed, stamped or sealed by him/her, as instruments of service, as
20 well as over the original concepts and designs contained and/or included therein. No person may
21 engage in any activity prejudicial to the proprietary rights of the interior designer, including the
22 reproduction of the contract work or substantial portion thereof, making any alteration,
23 distortion, mutilation, or other modification of, or any derogatory action in relation to, the
24 contract work and the detailed works contained therein, without the written consent of the
25 interior designer unless the said contract work is a commissioned piece of work duly paid for by
26 the person or party who/which commissioned the same in which case the said person or party
27 shall have the right to alter, revise and/or modify the drawing, specification, design, concept
28 and/or contract works.
29

30 **SEC. 29. Foreign Reciprocity.**- No foreign interior designer shall be issued a certificate
31 of registration to practice the interior design profession or be entitled to any of the rights and
32 privileges under this Act unless the country of which he/she is a subject or citizen has a policy
33 which permits Filipino interior designers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis
34 as the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country.
35

1 **SEC. 30. Practice through Temporary/Special Permit.-** (a) Foreigners intending to
2 work in the Philippines to perform professional services as interior designers or consultants
3 whether employed through official foreign-funded or foreign-assisted projects initiated by the
4 government, or engaged by private Filipino or foreign contractors and/or firms shall first secure a
5 temporary/special permit from the PRC through the Board of Interior Design specifically
6 authorizing him/her to practice on the special project or commission named therein: *Provided,*
7 That:

8 (1) He/She is legally and professionally qualified and registered to practice interior
9 design in his/her own country; and

10 (2) His/Her expertise is unique and useful to the Philippines, resulting in the transfer of
11 information and technology, the establishment of international standards in design,
12 and the sharing of other specialized skills.

13 (b) The foreign interior designer shall be required to work in every case with a duly
14 licensed Filipino counterpart who has been in continuous practice of interior design for at least
15 ten (10) years and whose competence and integrity have been established by the Board of
16 Interior Design on the basis of uniform standards contained in their IRR.

17 (c) The foreign and Filipino interior designers working jointly on a special project shall
18 divide the professional fees and other charges from said project equitably, according to
19 their participation in or professional services rendered to the project. Similarly, all
20 documentation expenses, taxes and other liabilities incurred on the shared project shall also be
21 borne equitably by both foreign and Filipino interior designers.

22 (d) Foreigners working jointly with Filipino interior designers shall sign contracts,
23 designs and other credits together with his/her Filipino counterpart. Both foreign and Filipino
24 interior designers shall at all times be acknowledged in all marketing and promotional materials
25 and reportorial compliance for the project, whether prepared and/or submitted locally or abroad.
26 All residual earnings shall also be equitably shared between foreign and local interior designers.

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

30 (f) Any violation of these requirements or other illegal practices undertaken by either
31 foreign design firms or their Filipino counterparts shall be punishable by law and/or the IRR
32 issued by the Board of Interior Design.

33 **SEC. 31. Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration, Professional Tax Receipt**
34 **and AIPO Membership.-** The interior designer shall be required to indicate his/her certificate of
35 registration number and date of issuance, the expiry of his/her current professional identification

1 card, the professional tax receipt number and its date of issuance, and his/her AIPO membership
2 number and date with official receipt number and date of membership payment (annual/lifetime)
3 on all the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice of his/her
4 interior design profession.

5
6 **SEC. 32. Roster of Interior Designers.**- The Board shall prepare and maintain a roster of
7 the names, residence and/or office address of all registered interior designers which shall be
8 updated annually in cooperation with the AIPO, indicating therein the status of the certificate of
9 registration, professional identification card and AIPO membership, whether valid, delinquent,
10 suspended or surrendered or terminated due to death or other reasons. The said roster shall be
11 conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the information therefrom
12 made available to the public upon inquiry or request.

13
14 **SEC. 33. Integration of the Interior Designers.**- The interior designers shall be
15 integrated into one (1) national organization of interior designers that is duly registered with
16 the SEC. The Board of Interior Design, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit
17 the said organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization
18 (AIPO) of interior designers. All interior designers whose names appear in the Registry Book of
19 Interior Designers shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof and shall receive
20 therefrom all the benefits and privileges due to members upon payment of AIPO membership
21 fees and dues.

22 Membership in other organizations of Interior Designers shall not be barred.

23
24 **ARTICLE V**
25 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

26
27 **SEC. 34. Penal Clause.**- The following acts shall be punished by a fine of not less than
28 Three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00) but not more than One million pesos
29 (Php1,000,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3)
30 years, or both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

31
32 **(a) Local Practitioner. -**

33 (1) Practicing interior design, rendering work and consultations or rendering equivalent
34 services as interior designer as defined in this Act or using the title "Interior
35 Designer", "Interior Design Consultant", "Interior Design Stylist", or "Interior

1 Design” or the official appendage title "IDr." in any signage, calling card,
2 advertisement or any other mode of publicity without a valid certificate of registration
3 and/or a valid professional identification card or a valid temporary/special permit;

4 (2) Using or attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and/or professional
5 identification card of a registered interior designer or temporary/special permit issued
6 to foreign professional;

7 (3) Abetting the illegal practice of interior design by an unregistered or unauthorized
8 person; and,

9 (4) Impersonating a registered interior designer or a holder of a temporary/special permit;
10

11 (b) **Foreign Practitioner/Firm.** – The responsible officers of a foreign interior design firm
12 and/or a foreigner who shall be found guilty of illegally practicing the interior design profession
13 shall be penalized with a fine equivalent to thirty percent (30%) of their gross fees in addition to
14 payment of back taxes due to the Philippine government, if any, and imprisonment of not less
15 than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment as well as
16 permanent ban from practice in the Philippines, at the discretion of the court.

17
18 (c) Violation of any provision of this Act or the IRR thereof.
19

20 **SEC. 35. Civil Liability.**– The Interior Designer shall assume full responsibility for the
21 contract work within one (1) year from the final acceptance by the Client and may be held
22 responsible for any damage or destruction of the works except those occasioned by *force*
23 *majeure*. The Interior Designer shall be fully responsible for the safety, protection, security
24 and convenience of his clients/user, personnel, third parties, and the public at large, as well
25 as the works, equipment installation and the like to be affected by his work.

26 The liability period for defects in the projects shall be one (1) year from final acceptance
27 by the Client. During this period, the Interior Designer shall undertake the repair works, at
28 his/her own expense, of any damage to the projects arising from his/her design and/or
29 specifications, within forty-five (45) days from the time the client has issued a notification of
30 the need to undertake repair. In case of failure or refusal to comply with this mandate, the
31 Client may undertake such repair works and shall be entitled to full reimbursement of
32 expenses incurred therein upon demand.

33 The failure of the responsible interior designer with the preceding paragraph shall be a
34 ground for administrative disciplinary action for which he/she can be held liable for suspension
35 or any appropriate penalty as may be determined by the Board.

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

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

SEC. 38. *Transitory Provisions.*- The incumbent Chairman and members of the Board shall, in an interim capacity, continue to function as such until the Chairman and members of the new Board created under this Act shall have been appointed, constituted and/or organized pursuant thereto.

SEC. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- The Board, with the approval of the Commission, shall adopt and promulgate such implementing rules and regulations (IRR) it may deem appropriate within ninety (90) days from its constitution. The same shall take effect after fifteen days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country.

SEC. 40. *Separability Clause.*- If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other part hereof, and shall be merely confined to the clause, provision, paragraph or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment has been rendered.

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

SEC. 42. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country.

Approved,