

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

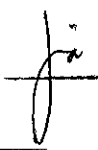


Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. B. No. 699

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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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SENATE

S. B. No. 699

RECEIVED BY: *Jci*

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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 Engineering
2 Act".

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

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

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

- 14
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 (2) Extension, alteration and modifications of all pipings for fixtures, equipment,
22 appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the above scope.

23
24 (3) The enumeration of sub-section (1) and (2) above shall not be construed as excluding
25 any other work requiring plumbing knowledge and application.

26
27 (4) Engagement in the transfer of the knowledge and technology of plumbing engineering
28 in any institution of learning.

29
30 **SECTION 3. Creation and Composition of the Board of Plumbing Engineering -**

31 There is hereby created a Board of Plumbing Engineering, hereinafter called the Board, to be
32 composed of a chairman and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines
33 from a list of three (3) recomendees of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter
34 called the commission for each position, chosen in rank in the order of preference and from the
35 list of five (5) nominees for each position submitted by the accredited Integrated National

1 Organization of Plumbing Engineers and Master Plumbers. The first set of nominees for the first
2 composition may be submitted by the present association of Plumbing Engineers unless the
3 integrated shall have been set up for the purpose. The first composition shall be organized not
4 later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.
5

6 **SECTION 4. Qualifications of Members of the Board** - A member of the Board shall
7 at the time of his/her appointment, possess the following qualifications:
8

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

24 **SECTION 5. Term of Office** - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of
25 three (3) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Of the
26 members of the Board first appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and
27 hold office for three (3) years; and one (1) member for two (2) years, one (1) member for one
28 year.
29

30 The Chairman or member of the Board may be re-appointed for another term but in no
31 case shall he serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Each member of the Board shall
32 qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to the assumption in the performance of duties.
33 Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the board within the term of a member shall be
34 filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.
35

36 **SECTION 6. Compensation of the Board Members** - The Chairman and members of
37 the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and
38 allowances received by existing Professional Regulatory Boards with Professional Regulation
39 Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, as provided for in the General
40 Appropriations Act.
41

42 **SECTION 7. Vacancy and Removal of Board Members** - Any vacancy occurring in
43 the membership of the Board within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired
44 portion of the term only. The President may remove any member of the Board, upon the
45 recommendation of the Commission, on the following grounds:
46

- 47 (a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;
- 48 (b) Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics or Technical
49 Standards for Plumbing Engineers;
- 50 (c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.
51

52 He/She shall be given due notice and hearing where his/her right to be heard and to
53 defend him/ herself, assisted by counsel, shall be respected in a proper administrative
54 investigation the commission shall conduct.
55

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

- 1
2 (a) To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the
3 provisions of this Act;
4 (b) To supervise the examination, registration, licensure and practice of Plumbing
5 Engineering and Master Plumbing in the Philippines;
6 (c) To administer oaths in connection with the successful examinees entering the practice
7 of Plumbing Engineering and Master Plumbing;
8 (d) To issue the Certificate of Registration to successful examinees;
9 (e) To issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the Certificate of Registration and Professional
10 License for the practice of the Plumbing Engineering profession;
11 (f) To adopt an official seal of the Board;
12 (g) To look into the conditions affecting the practice of the professions and whenever
13 necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance
14 of high professional and ethical standards of the professions;
15 (h) To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that
16 all educational institutions offering Plumbing Engineering education comply with the policies,
17 standards and requirements of the course prescribed by CHED in the areas of curriculum,
18 faculty, library and facilities;
19 (i) To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for the
20 practice of the Plumbing Engineering professions;
21 (j) To hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing
22 rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics / Technical Standards and for the purpose, to issue
23 subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearances of witnesses and the production
24 of documents in connection therewith;
25 (k) To prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program in
26 coordination with the accredited integrated National Association of Professional Plumbing
27 Engineers;
28 (l) To prepare, adopt issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for examination.
29 (m) To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary special permit license to practice
30 Plumbing Engineering;
31 (n) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the
32 enhancement of the Plumbing Engineering professions and the upgrading, development and
33 growth of Plumbing Engineering education in the Philippines;

34
35 **SECTION 9. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and**
36 **Support Services** - The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission.
37 All records of the Board, including the application *for examination*, examination papers and
38 results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other investigations involving Plumbing
39 Engineers shall be kept by the Commission.
40 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and
41 other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

42
43 **SECTION 10. Annual Report** - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year,
44 submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Professional Regulation
45 Commission, giving detailed account of its recommendation for the adoption of measures that
46 will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of Plumbing Engineering in the
47 Philippines.

48
49 **SECTION 11. Examinations Required** - All applicants for registration for the practice
50 of Plumbing Engineering shall be required to undergo and pass a written technical examination
51 provided for in this Act.

52
53 **SECTION 12. Qualifications of Applicant for Plumbing Engineering Examination** -
54 Every applicant for Plumbing Engineer examination shall establish the following:

- 55
56 (a) He/she is a citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country state has
57 reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of the profession;

- 1 (b) Of Good Moral Character; and
2 (c) Within five years upon approval of this Act, a graduate of any BS degree in
3 Engineering or Architecture may qualify for the examination provided.
4 (d) That he/she is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Plumbing Engineering in a
5 school, academy, institute or college duly recognized by the Government.
6

7 **SECTION 13. Fraudulent Application** - The Board may suspend or revoke a
8 Certificate of Registration obtained through misrepresentation made in the application for
9 examination.
10

11 **SECTION 14. Scope of Examinations** - The examination for Plumbing Engineering
12 shall basically cover the following subjects:
13

- 14 a. Mathematics;
15 b. Theory and Practice of Plumbing
16 c. Hydraulic and Plumbing Principles
17 d. Plumbing Design and Installation
18 f. Plumbing Laws and National Codes
19 g. Laws on Obligations and Contracts
20 h. Code of Ethics of the Profession
21

22 The said subjects and their syllabi maybe amended by the Board so as to conform to
23 technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.
24

25 **SECTION 15. Rating in the Board Examination** - To be qualified as having passed the
26 board examination for Plumbing Engineers, a candidate must obtained a weighted general
27 average of seventy (70%) with no grade lower than fifty-five percent (55%) in any given subject
28 must take the examination in the subject or subjects where he/she obtained a grade below fifty-
29 five percent (55%).
30

31 **SECTION 16. Report of Ratings** - The board shall submit to the commission the rating
32 obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) calendar days after the examination, unless
33 extended for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the board shall send
34 by mail the rating received by each examinee at his given address using the mailing envelope
35 submitted during the examination.
36

37 **SECTION 17. Re-examination** - An applicant who fails to pass the examination for the
38 third time shall be allowed to take another examination only after the lapse of one year.
39

40 **SECTION 18. Oath** - All successful candidates in the examinations shall be required to
41 take an oath of profession before the Board or any PRC Official authorized by the PRC to
42 administer oaths, prior to entering upon the practice of the Plumbing Engineering profession.
43

44 **SECTION 19. Certificate of Registration and Professional License** - A Certificate of
45 Registration shall be issued to applicants who pass the examination for Plumbing Engineers
46 subject to payment of registration fees.
47

48 The Certificate of Registration of a Professional Plumbing Engineer shall bear the
49 signatures of the Chairman of the Board and its member attested by the Secretary of the
50 Professional Regulation Commission and stamped with the official seal of the Board indicating
51 that the person named therein is a registered Plumbing Engineer.
52

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

1
2 **SECTION 20. Seal and Use of Seal** - (a) Each registrant shall, upon registration, obtain
3 the seal of such design as the Board of Plumbing Engineering may adopt. Plans and
4 specifications prepared by, or under the direct supervision of a registered Plumbing Engineer,
5 shall be stamped with said seal during the validity of the professional license. No person shall
6 stamp or seal any document with the seal of a registrant after his professional license has
7 expired, lost its validity, unless he has been reinstated at the practice and/or unless his license has
8 been renewed.

9
10 (b) No officer or employee of the government, chartered cities, provinces and municipalities now
11 or hereafter charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to all
12 Plumbing Engineering practices shall accept or endorse any plumbing plans or documents which
13 have not been prepared and submitted in full accord with the provisions of this Act, nor shall any
14 payment be approved by any such officer for any work, the plans and documents of which have
15 not been prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed Plumbing Engineer.

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

23
24 The Board shall formulate, adopt and promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for
25 the effective implementation of the provisions relating to the design of the seal, the signing and
26 sealing of drawings, specifications, reports and other documents by Plumbing Engineers.

27
28 (d) Plans and documents duly signed, stamped *or* sealed as instruments of service are the
29 property and documents of the Plumbing Engineer.

30
31 **SECTION 21. Indication of License and Professional Tax Receipt** - The Plumbing
32 Engineer shall be required to indicate his professional license number, the duration of validity,
33 including the professional tax receipt number and the official receipt number of the payment of
34 his/her annual dues with the duly accredited organization on the documents he signs, uses in
35 connection with the practice of his profession.

36
37 **SECTION 22. Grounds for Suspension and Revocation of License, Cancellation of**
38 **Temporary / Special Permit** - The Board shall have the power, upon due notice and hearing, to
39 revoke or suspend the license of a Plumbing Engineer, or to cancel a temporary / special permit
40 for any cause specified in the proceeding section, including but not limited to:

- 41
42 (a) The use or perpetration of any fraud deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration;
43 (b) For incompetence, negligence, or for abatement of the illegal practice of Plumbing
44 Engineering;
45 (c) Violation of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations and/or
46 violation of the policies of the Board including the Code of Ethics for Plumbing
47 Engineers.

48
49 Provided, however, that such action of the Board shall, be subject to appeal to the
50 Commission, within fifteen (15) days from written notice.

51
52 **SECTION 23. Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Practicing Registered**
53 **Master Plumbers/Plumbing Engineers** – All practicing Master Plumbers / Plumbing Engineers
54 who are registered at the time this Act takes effect shall automatically be registered. As per
55 qualification enumerated in Sec. 30 sub-section (c).

1 (c) Certificate of Registration without Examination shall be issued within a grace period of two
2 (2) years by the Board first constituted to applicant Who meet the qualifications and
3 requirements enumerated hereunder.
4

5 (d) Registered Master Plumber to Professional Plumbing Engineer:
6

- 7 (1) That he is a citizen of the Philippines and at least twenty one (21) years old;
- 8 (2) That he is of good moral character;
- 9 (3) That he is aphysically and mentally healthy;
- 10 (4) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber at the same time he is registered
11 and licensed engineer and architect;
- 12 (5) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least two (2) years of
13 college in Engineering and Architecture, two (2) years of plumbing experience acceptable
14 to the Board; or
- 15 (6) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least three (3) years of
16 college in Engineering or Architecture and one (1) year experience acceptable to the
17 Board; or
- 18 (7) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least four (4) years
19 experience in plumbing acceptable to the Board; or
- 20 (8) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with at least two (2) years
21 plumbing experience and CPE units earned as prescribed by the CPE Council and
22 approved by the Board;
- 23 (9) That he is a registered and licensed Master Plumber with a combination of college
24 work, plumbing experience and CPE units earned as shall be prescribed and approved by
25 the Board.
26

27 (e) A registered and licensed Master Plumber who does not qualify for automatic registration for
28 Plumbing Engineer as provided for in the preceding paragraph (d), sub-section (c) Section 30,
29 Article VI are therefore required to take the Bachelor Science in Plumbing Engineering course to
30 qualify for the Plumbing Engineering examination.
31

32 **SECTION 31. Penalties** - In addition to the administrative sanctions, any of the
33 provisions of this Act, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand
34 pesos (₱ 50,000.00) nor more than Two hundred thousand pesos (₱ 200,000.00) or imprisonment
35 of not less than six (6) years, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.
36

37 **SECTION 32. Separability Clause** - If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof
38 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair
39 any other part thereof, but such judgment shall merely be confined to the clause, provision,
40 paragraph or part directly involved in the controversy upon which such judgment has been
41 rendered.
42

43 **SECTION 33. Repealing Clause** - Republic Act No. 1378 is hereby repealed. All other
44 laws, decrees, National Codes, executive orders, letter of instructions and other administrative
45 issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
46 modified, suspended or repealed accordingly.
47

48 **SECTION 34. Effectivity** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
49 publication in full in the Official Gazette or major daily newspaper of general circulation in the
50 Philippines, whichever is earlier.
51

52 *Approved,*