



'16 JUL 19 P5:20

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

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

S. No. 592

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 1378, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF MASTER PLUMBER," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Plumbing system contributes a significant percentage to the value of every building or house. Considering the complexities that plumbing installation covers, professional and licensed plumbers are necessary.

Plumbing engineering involves the application of scientific principles in the design of efficient, economical and ecologically-safe systems for the transport and distribution of fluids, solids and gases to answer human and industrial needs. In the country, the act of plumbing works has become more complex and multifaceted with the emergence and expansion of all types of modernized building design and construction. This scenario is evident enough to elucidate the demand for plumbing engineers.

However, there is a partially-met demand for plumbing expertise in the country. Although Republic Act No. 1378, otherwise known as the Plumbing Law, provided for the regulation of the trade of master plumbers, it has neither been amended nor revised since its enactment in 1955. Obviously, our Plumbing Law can be considered as obsolete - given the fact that there is a growing need to adopt measures in carrying out more efficient plumbing design and installations. Thus, professionals with adequate academic and technical background in accordance with sound engineering practice and generally-accepted standards are also needed in the country.

Thus, this bill, which acknowledges the imperative to revise the old law to upgrade the practice of plumbing, seeks to elevate the plumbing trade into a professional engineering practice in the country. In view of having qualified plumbing engineers with sufficient academic background to cope with the recent technologies worldwide, this proposed measure also endeavors to have a standard Engineering Curriculum on Plumbing to be offered in colleges and universities in the country.


Recognizing the fact that the Plumbing Engineering profession needs to keep abreast with technological advancement in a rapidly-changing society, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE
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1378, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF
MASTER PLUMBER," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER
PURPOSES

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

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ARTICLE I
TITLE, STATEMENT OF POLICY, AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Plumbing
Engineering Act of 2016*".

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of plumbing
engineering in nation-building and development. The State, therefore, shall develop and
nurture competent, virtuous, productive, and well-rounded professional Plumbing Engineers
whose standards of practice and service are aimed towards excellence, quality, world-class
and global competitiveness through inviolable, honest, effective, and credible licensure
examinations and regulatory measures, programs and activities that foster their integrity,
continuing professional education, development and growth.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
mean:

a) Plumbing Engineer – a person who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration /
professional license and professional identification card issued by the Professional
Regulatory Board for Plumbing Engineering and the Professional Regulation Commission
and who is legally qualified to practice plumbing engineering in the Philippines pursuant to
this Act.

b) Practice of Plumbing Engineering – the practice of Plumbing Engineering is a
professional and organized act of applying scientific principle and technique for the design,
installation and operation of plumbing systems involving hot and cold water supply

1 installation of fixtures, sanitary drainage, vent system, storm drainage, fuel gas piping,
2 swimming pools, water feature fire protection system, irrigation system, private water
3 system, private sewage disposal system within or adjacent to any buildings and other
4 structures. It shall embrace services, but not limited to, the following activities:

5
6 1) Consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specifications, estimates,
7 erection, installation, and supervision of plumbing work including the
8 inspection and acceptance of materials used therein;

9
10 2) Extension, addition, alteration and modifications of all pipings for fixtures,
11 equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of
12 the above scope; and

13
14 3) Engagement in the teaching or transfer of knowledge and technology of
15 plumbing engineering in any institution of learning particularly on
16 subjects included in the licensure examinations.

17
18 The enumeration of the above shall not be construed as excluding any other work
19 requiring plumbing engineering knowledge and application.

20
21 c) Master Plumber – one who is a holder of a valid certificate of registration/
22 professional license and professional identification card as master plumber.

23
24 d) Practice of Master Plumber – the practice of master plumber upon the approval of
25 this Act shall embrace the following:

26
27 1) Design analysis, specification and preparations of plans of plumbing
28 installation of not more than twenty (20) plumbing units;

29
30 2) Preparation of plans including drawing and details of additional installation;

31
32 3) Preparation of cost estimates of the above items 1 and 2; and

33
34 4) Supervision or in-charge of all plumbing installation, operation and
35 maintenance of plumbing system.

36
37 The practice of Master Plumber, who holds a valid certificate of Registration
38 Professional License prior to the effectivity of the Act shall not be subjected to the above
39 mentioned plumbing installation limitation.

40
41 **ARTICLE II**
42 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING**
43

1 **SEC. 4. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Plumbing Engineering.*** – There
2 is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Plumbing Engineering, hereinafter
3 referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional
4 Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, composed of a
5 chairperson and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from
6 three (3) recommenders for each position, chosen and ranked by the Commission, which
7 recommendees from a list of five (5) nominees for each position, submitted by the Accredited
8 Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of Plumbing Engineers. The first set of
9 nominees for the first Board may be submitted by the present association of Plumbing
10 Engineers unless the AIPO shall have been setup for the purpose. The first Board shall be
11 organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.
12

13 **SEC. 5. *Qualifications of the Member of the Board.*** – The chairperson and members
14 of the Board must possess the following qualifications at the time of their appointment:
15

- 16 a) Must be a Plumbing Engineer holding a valid Certificate of Registration /
17 Professional License as a Plumbing Engineer having a degree of Bachelor of
18 Science in Plumbing Engineering and have been an active practitioner in the
19 profession of Master Plumber/Plumbing Engineering for not less than ten (10)
20 years prior to appointment;
21
- 22 b) Must be a natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
23
- 24 c) Must be a member of the accredited organization of plumbing engineering;
25
- 26 d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college or
27 university where a regular course in Plumbing Engineering is being taught, nor
28 have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institution
29 of learning;
30
- 31 e) Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to his/her appointment,
32 be connected with a review center or with any group or any association review
33 classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or
34 conducted at the time of appointment; and,
35
- 36 f) Must not have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude.
37

38 **SEC. 6. *Term of Office.*** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of
39 three (3) years or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Of the member of
40 the first Board appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office
41 for two (2) years, and one (1) member for one (1) year.
42

43 The chairperson or member of the Board may be re-appointed for another term but in
44 no case shall serve continuously for more than six (6) years. Each member of the Board shall
45 qualify by taking the proper oath of office prior to assumption in the performance of duties.
46

47 Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the board within the term of a member
48 shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.
49

1 **SEC. 7. Compensation and Allowances of the Board Members.** – The chairperson
2 and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to that
3 being received by the chairperson and members of existing regulatory boards under the
4 Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.
5

6 **SEC. 8. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of Records, Secretariat and Support**
7 **Services.** – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All
8 records of the Board, including the application for examination, examination papers and
9 Result, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other investigation involving the
10 plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers, shall be kept by the Commission.
11

12 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the
13 Secretariat necessary support services to implement the provisions of this Act.
14

15 **SEC. 9. Powers, Function, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.** – The Board
16 shall exercise the following specific powers, function, duties and responsibilities:
17

- 18 a) To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the
19 provisions of this Act;
20
- 21 b) To supervise the examination, registration, licensure and practice of Plumbing
22 Engineering/Master Plumbing in the Philippines;
23
- 24 c) To administer oaths to successful examinees entering the practice of Plumbing
25 Engineering;
26
- 27 d) To issue the Certificate of Registration to successful examinees;
28
- 29 e) To issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the Certificate of Registration for the
30 practice of the Plumbing Engineering profession;
31
- 32 f) To adopt an official seal of the Board;
33
- 34 g) To look into the conditions affecting the practice of the profession and whenever
35 necessary, adopt measure as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and
36 maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the professions;
37
- 38 h) To ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education Department
39 (CHED), that all educational institutions offering Plumbing Engineering education
40 comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by
41 CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
42
- 43 i) To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for
44 the practice of Plumbing Engineering/ Master Plumbing profession;
45
- 46 j) To hear and try administrative cases involving violation of this Act, its
47 implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics/Technical Standards and
48 for the purpose, to issue *subpoena testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to
49 secure the appearances of witnesses and the production of documents in
50 connection therewith;

- 1
2 k) To prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program
3 in coordination with the accredited integrated professional organization of
4 Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers;
5
6 l) To prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for examination;
7
8 m) To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary special permit to practice Plumbing
9 Engineering/Master Plumbers; and
10
11 n) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the
12 enhancement of the Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing Profession and the
13 upgrading, development and growth of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing
14 education in the Philippines.
15

16 **SEC. 10. Annual Report.** – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year,
17 submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Professional
18 Regulation Commission, giving detailed account of its recommendation for the adoption of
19 measure that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of Plumbing
20 Engineering/Master Plumbing in the Philippines.
21

22 **SEC. 11. Removal of Board Member.** – Any vacancy occurring in the membership of
23 the Board within the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term
24 only. The President may remove any member of the Board, upon the recommendation of the
25 Commission, on the following grounds:
26

- 27 a) Neglect of duty or incompetence;
28
29 b) Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics or the
30 Code of Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers; and,
31
32 c) Final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.
33

34 He/She shall be given due notice and hearing where he/she has the right to be heard
35 and to defend himself/herself, assisted by a counsel. He/She shall be respected in a proper
36 administrative investigation with the Commission shall conduct.
37
38

39 **ARTICLE III**
40 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, AND LICENSE**
41

42 **SEC. 12. Licensure Examination Required.** – All applicants for registration for the
43 practice of Plumbing Engineering shall be required to undergo and pass a written technical
44 examination as provided for in this Act.
45

1 **SEC. 13. *Qualification for Admission to the Licensure Examination.*** – Every
2 applicant for Plumbing Engineering examination shall establish to the satisfaction of the
3 Board that he/she is:

- 4
- 5 a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country state has reciprocity with
6 the Philippines in the practice of the profession;
- 7
- 8 b) Of good moral character;
- 9
- 10 c) A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Plumbing Engineering in a school, academy,
11 institute or college duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education
12 Department (CHED): *Provided, That, within seven (7) years upon the effectivity of*
13 *this Act, a graduate of any Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering or Architecture*
14 *may qualify for the examination.*
- 15

16 **SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.*** – The examination for Plumbing Engineering shall
17 basically cover the following subjects:

18		
19	a) Mathematics	20%
20	b) Hydraulic Plumbing Principles and Practice	30%
21	c) Plumbing Laws and Code of Ethics	20%
22	d) Sanitation / Plumbing Design	30%
23		<hr/>
24		100%

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

27

28 **SEC. 15. *Applicants.*** – All applicants for registration as master plumber shall be
29 required to pass an examination as hereinafter provided.

30

31 Persons applying for admission to the examination as herein provided, shall, prior to
32 the date of examination, establish to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners, that he/she is:

- 33
- 34 a) at least twenty-one years of age;
- 35
- 36 b) a citizen of the Philippines;
- 37
- 38 c) of good moral character;
- 39
- 40 d) at least a graduate of high school recognized by the government and
41 completing an approved course of not less than three (3) years in Plumbing
42 Technology or equivalent; or
- 43

1 e) a high school graduate and has at least five (5) years of experience in
2 actual plumbing work under the supervision of a registered Master
3 Plumber / Plumbing Engineer.
4

5 **SEC. 16. Subject for the Applicants.** – Applicants for registration as master plumbers
6 shall be examined in the following subjects:

7 a) Plumbing arithmetic	20%
8 b) Plumbing code	10%
9 c) Sanitation, plumbing design and instillation	40%
10 d) Practical problems	<u>30%</u>
11	100%

12
13 **SEC. 17. Rating.** – To pass the licensure examination, a candidate for Plumbing
14 Engineers must obtain a passing rate of seventy percent (70%) in each subject given during
15 the examination: *Provided, however,* That a candidate who obtains a passing rate in the
16 majority of the subjects but obtains a rating in the other subject/s below passing seventy
17 percent (70%) but not lower than fifty percent (50%) shall be allowed to take one removal
18 examination on the subject/s where he/she failed to obtain the passing rate: *Provided, finally,*
19 That should the examinee fail to obtain a passing rate in the removal examination, he/she
20 shall be considered as having failed the entire licensure examination.
21

22 A candidate who failed to pass for the third time shall be allowed to take the
23 examination only one (1) year after taking a refresher course.
24

25 **SEC. 18. Report of Ratings.** – The Board shall submit to the Commission the rating
26 obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) calendar days after the examination, unless
27 extended for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the Board shall
28 send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his/her given address using the mailing
29 envelope submitted during the examination.

30 **SEC. 19. Professional Oath.** – All successful examinees and all those who have
31 qualified for registration without examination shall be required to take an oath of profession
32 before any member of the Board or any person authorized by the Commission to administer
33 oaths before he/she can be registered and issued a Certificate of Registration/Professional
34 Identification card, and as a prerequisite to practice as a Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.
35

36 **SEC. 20. Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Professional Identification Card.** –
37 A Certificate of Registration shall be issued to applicants who pass the examination for
38 Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber and to those who registered without examination subject
39 to payment of registration fees.
40

41 The Certificate of Registration of a Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall bear the
42 signatures of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Members of the

1 Board and stamped with the official seal of the Commission and of the Board indicating that
2 the person named therein is a registered Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.

3
4 A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number, date of issuance,
5 expiry date and duly signed by the Chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued
6 to every registrant, upon payment of the professional fees. No person shall practice Plumbing
7 Engineering/Master Plumbing in the manner contrary to herein provided. A Plumbing
8 Engineer/Master Plumber holding a Professional Identification Card is entitled to practice the
9 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto until the expiration of the validity
10 thereof.

11
12 **SEC. 21. Registration without Examination for Plumbing Engineer.** – Within five
13 (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall issue certificates of registration and
14 professional identification cards without examination to applicants for registration as
15 Plumbing Engineers who shall present evidence or other proof of satisfactory to the Board
16 that:

17 a) he/she is a registered and licensed Master Plumber, at the same time, he is a
18 registered and licensed Engineer or Architect;

19
20 b) he/she is a registered Master Plumber with five (5) years experience in Plumbing
21 work and a holder of a Baccalaureate degree of any engineering or architecture
22 course; and

23
24 c) he/she is a holder of any Baccalaureate degree and has been in active practice in
25 plumbing for at least ten (10) years: *Provided*, That the qualifications mentioned
26 above shall be obtained prior to the effectivity of this Act.

27
28 **SEC. 22. Seal and Use of Seal.** – (a) Each registrant shall, upon registration, obtain
29 the seal of such design as the Board of Plumbing Engineering may adopt. Plans and
30 specification prepared by, or under the direct supervision of a registered Plumbing
31 Engineer/Master Plumber shall be stamped with said seal during the validity of the
32 professional identification card. No person shall stamp or seal any document with the seal of
33 a registrant after his/her professional license has expired, lost its validity, unless he/she has
34 been reinstated at the practice and/or unless his license has been renewed.

35
36 (b) Officer or employee of the government, chartered cities, provinces and
37 municipalities charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to all
38 Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing practices shall not accept or endorse any plumbing
39 plans or documents which have not been prepared and submitted in full accord with the
40 provisions of this Act, nor shall any payment to approve by any such officer for any work, the
41 plans and documents of which have not been prepared, sign by a duly licensed Plumbing
42 Engineer/Master Plumber.

43

1 (c) Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall not sign his/her name, affix his/her
2 seal or use any other method of signature on plans, specification or other documents made by
3 under another Plumbing Engineer's/Master Plumber's supervision unless the professional
4 service of the former have been officially terminated and/or the same is made in such manner
5 as to clearly indicate the part of such work actually performed by him/her, and only the
6 Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber in charge shall sign for any branch of work or any
7 function of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing practice actually performed by him/her.
8 Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber in-charge shall be fully responsible for all plans,
9 specifications and other documents issued under his/her seal or authorized signature.

10
11 (d) Plans and documents duly signed, stamped or sealed as instruments of service
12 are the property and documents of the Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber.

13
14 The Board shall formulate, adopt and promulgate all necessary rules and regulations
15 for the effective implementation of the provisions relating to the design of the seal, the
16 signing and sealing of drawings, specification, reports and other documents by Plumbing
17 Engineers/Master Plumbers.

18
19 **SEC. 23. Indication of Professional Identification Number and Professional Tax**
20 **Receipt.** – The Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber shall be required to indicate his/her
21 Professional Identification card number, the duration of validity, including the professional
22 tax receipt number on the documents he/she signs uses in connection with the practice of
23 his/her profession.

24
25 **SEC. 24. Grounds for Suspension and Revocation of Certificate of Registration,**
26 **Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.** – The
27 Board shall have the power, upon due notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the Certificate
28 of Registration and accordingly the Professional Identification Card of a Plumbing
29 Engineer/Master Plumber, or to cancel a temporary / special permit for any cause specified in
30 the proceeding section, including but not limited to:

- 31
32 a) The use or perpetration of any fraud and deceit in obtaining a certificate of
33 registration;
34
35 b) Incompetence, negligence, or for abatement of the illegal practice of Plumbing
36 Engineering/Master Plumbing; and
37
38 c) Violation of the provision of this Act, its implementing rules and regulation and/or
39 violation of the policies of the Board including the Code of Ethics for Plumbing
40 Engineers/Master Plumbers: *Provided, however,* That such action of the Board
41 shall be subject to appeal to the Commission, within fifteen (15) days from written
42 notice.
43

1 **SEC. 25. Roster of Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers.** - The Board shall
2 prepare, and maintain a roster of the names, residences and/or office addresses of all
3 registered Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers, which shall be updated annually in
4 cooperation with the accredited organizations, indicating therein the status of the certificate
5 of registration, professional identification card and membership identification card in the
6 accredited organization of the professional, whether valid, inactive due to death or other
7 reasons, suspended or revoked. The said roster shall be conspicuously posted within the
8 premises of the Commission and the information there from made available to the public
9 upon inquiry or request.

10
11 **SEC. 26. Exemptions from Examination and Registration.** - No examination and
12 registration shall be required for foreign Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber who are
13 temporarily employed by the Philippine Government or by private firms in the Philippines in
14 the following cases:

15
16 a) Where no qualified equivalent Filipino Professional is available for the
17 specific item of work to be rendered, as attested to by the accredited professional
18 organization;

19
20 b) Where the conditions of the scope and the funding of the work or project
21 are such that it stipulates the temporary employment of a foreign professional;

22
23 c) As defined in the General Agreement on Trade and Services and other
24 similar international treaties, agreements and/or covenants to which the Philippine
25 Government is a signatory and has ratified: *Provided*, however, That:

26
27 1) The said foreign professional is legally qualified to practice his/her
28 profession in his/her own country in which the requirements for
29 licensing and registration are not lower than those specified in this Act;

30
31 2) The work to be performed by said foreign professional shall be
32 limited only to the particular work or project for which he/she was
33 specifically contracted;

34
35 3) Prior to commencing the work, the foreign professional shall secure
36 a Special Permit from the Board, which shall be subject to the approval
37 of the Commission: *Provided, further*, That no working visa and/or
38 permit shall be issued by concerned government agencies unless such
39 Special Permit has been granted first;

40
41 4) The said foreign professional shall not engage in private on his/her
42 own account;

43

1 5) For every foreign professional contracted for the work or project, at
2 least two (2) corresponding Filipino professionals who are registered
3 under this Act be employed as counterparts by the Philippine
4 Government or the private firm utilizing the services of such foreign
5 professional for at least the same duration of time as the foreigner's
6 tenure of work; and
7

8 6) The Special Permit herein granted shall be valid only for a period of
9 not more than six (6) months and renewable every six (6) months
10 thereafter subject to the discretion of the Board and the approval of the
11 Commission: *Provided*, that said permit shall cease to be valid if the
12 foreigner terminates his/her employment in the work or project for
13 which said permit was originally granted and thereafter engages in an
14 occupation that required another Special Permit or registration under
15 this Act.
16
17

18 **ARTICLE IV**
19 **PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION**
20

21 **SEC. 27. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Practice Registered Plumbing***
22 ***Engineers.*** – All practicing Master Plumbers who are registered at the time this Act takes
23 effect shall automatically be registered as Plumbing Engineer provided they met the
24 qualifications.

25 **SEC. 28. *Right to Practice Plumbing Engineering.*** – The practice of Plumbing
26 Engineering is a professional service, admission to which shall be determined upon the basis
27 of an individual's personal qualifications, for which the Plumbing Engineer is responsible for
28 the correctness of his/her professional work for which he/she is responsible therefore.
29

30 Only duly registered Plumbing Engineers may organize, establish or form firms,
31 partnerships or association for the practice of Plumbing Engineers/Master Plumbers pursuant
32 to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
33

34 **SEC. 29. *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization.*** – The plumbing
35 engineering profession shall be integrated into one (1) national professional organization of
36 fisheries professionals which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange
37 Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the
38 said organization as the one and only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization
39 (AIPO) of registered plumbing engineering professionals. All plumbing engineering
40 professionals whose names appear in the Registry Book of Plumbing Engineer Profession
41 shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof and shall receive all the benefits
42 and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership fees and dues.
43

1 Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not
2 be a bar to membership in other organizations of plumbing engineering profession.
3

4 **SEC. 30. Foreign Reciprocity.** – No foreign plumbing engineer professional shall be
5 given a certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or
6 be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign
7 plumbing engineer professional is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino plumbing
8 engineer professionals to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects
9 or citizens of said country or state.
10

11 **SEC. 31. Assistance of Law Enforcement and Other Government Agencies.** – Any
12 law enforcement agency shall, upon call or request of the Board and/or Commission, render
13 such assistance in enforcing this Act including the Code of Ethics, Code of Technical
14 Standards of Practice and the Implementing rules and regulations and measures promulgated
15 thereunder, by prosecuting violators thereof in accordance with law and the Rules of Court.
16
17

18 **ARTICLE V**
19 **PENAL PROVISIONS**
20

21 **SEC. 32. Penalties.** – In addition to the administrative sanctions, any of the
22 provisions of this Act, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than fifty thousand
23 pesos (₱50,000.00) nor more than Two Hundred thousand pesos (₱200,000.00) or
24 imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the
25 discretion of the court.

26 **SEC. 33. Prohibitions and Limitations on the Practice of Plumbing Engineering /**
27 **Master Plumbing Profession.** – Unless otherwise prescribed by any supervening law, the
28 practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing shall be a professional service, admission
29 to which must be determined on the basis of the individual's personal qualifications. Hence,
30 no firm, company, partnership, association or corporation may be registered or licensed as
31 such for the practice of Plumbing Engineering/Master Plumbing. However, persons properly
32 registered and licensed as Plumbing Engineer/Master Plumber may, among themselves or
33 with any other allied professional, form a partnership or association or corporation and
34 collectively render services as such: *Provided*, That individual members of such partnership
35 or associations or corporations shall be responsible for their own respective acts.
36

37 **SEC. 34. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Subject to the approval of the
38 Commission, the Board shall adopt and promulgate such rules, regulations, resolutions, the
39 Code of Ethics and the Code of Technical Standards for Plumbing Engineers to carry out the
40 provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after thirty (30) days following their full
41 publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of general circulation.
42

1 **SEC. 35. *Funding.*** – The Chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission shall
2 include in the Commission’s program in the implementation of this Act. The funding of
3 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.
4

5 **SEC. 36. *Separability Clause.*** – If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof
6 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or
7 impair any other part thereof, but such judgment shall merely be confined to the clause,
8 provision, paragraph or part directly involved in the controversy upon which such judgment
9 has been rendered.
10

11 **SEC. 37. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 1378 is hereby repealed. All other
12 laws, decrees, National Codes, executive orders, letter of instructions and other
13 administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
14 Act are hereby modified, suspended, or repealed accordingly.
15

16 **SEC. 38. *Transitory Provision.*** – The existing Board of Master Plumbing shall
17 continue to function in the interim until such time as the new Board shall be duly constituted
18 pursuant to this Act.
19

20 **SEC. 39. *Effectivity.*** – This act shall effect fifteen (15) days following its publication
21 in full in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) major daily newspaper of general
22 circulation in the Philippines, whichever is earlier.

Approved,