

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 728

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by: Hon. Karlo A. B. Nograles AND Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to professionalize the practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines and to guarantee a more effective government supervision and control over the practice of plumbing engineers in the interest of the general public.

Plumbing engineering is not just a simple trade or occupation. It involves public interest as it deals with the health, comfort and safety of the public. As such, it necessitates state legislation. Republic Act No. 1378, otherwise known as the Plumbing Law, took effect in June 18, 1955 or almost sixty (60) years ago. The said law regulates the practice of master plumbers.

As advances in technology and the emergence of high rise buildings and structures have tremendously changed the trends in the plumbing works system, the law has become outmoded and impractical as there is a growing need to adopt modern measures in carrying out more efficient plumbing designs and installations. It is therefore imperative that the law be updated to be more responsive to the constructions and plumbing needs of the construction industry in the country.

Unlike in other countries, the practice of plumbing is not recognized as a regular profession in the Philippines but a mere trade. High school graduates with five years plumbing experience as master plumbers are still dominating the trade. We are left behind by other developing countries because they are able to produce highly competitive plumbers with engineering expertise educated in science and engineering courses.

Today, plumbing practice has grown in scope and magnitude with the progress in complexities of constructions such as high rise buildings with multi-level basement floors that now require electro-mechanical equipment and controls. The dwindling water resources intensify water use conservation. Modern or state-of-the-art plumbing designs and installations require formal education in engineering science in order to cope with the complexity of architectural and engineering works which spell out the demand for plumbing engineers.

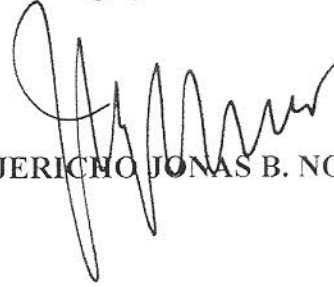
The time has come that the plumbing profession must be upgraded by giving plumbing engineering professional acceptance and recognition. In addition, by regulating the plumbing profession, plumbing services will benefit businesses, residents, legitimate plumbers, and the government alike. Also, licensing and registration of the profession will mean more government income.

For this purpose, this bill aims to elevate the plumbing industry into professional engineering and establish a governing board for the plumbing trade that will regulate, set standards, supervise, improve, upgrade and ensure the quality of education and graduates in plumbing engineering and master plumbing. The proposed measure likewise mandates the Board to conduct licensure examinations, registration and licensing for plumbing engineering and master plumbers in order to professionalize the practice of plumbing engineering and master plumbing in the country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.



HON. KARLO A. B. NOGRALES



HON. JERICHO JONAS B. NOGRALES

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INTRODUCED BY: Hon. Karlo A. B. NOGRALES AND Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

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

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE, OBJECTIVE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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

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

(b) *Practice of plumbing engineering* refers to the 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, installation of fixtures, sanitary drainage, vent system, storm drainage, gas piping, swimming pools, water feature, fire protection system, irrigation system,

private water system and private sewerage disposal system within or adjacent to any buildings and other structures. It shall embrace services to the following activities:

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE II

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Be a Plumbing Engineer holding a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid professional license as Plumbing Engineer having a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

and an active practitioner in Plumbing Engineering for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Prepare the examination questions in accordance with Section 14 hereof and supervise, check, and rate the licensure examination papers;

(d) Prescribe, amend, or revise the requirements and subjects in the licensure examination for plumbing engineers and their relative weights, subject to the approval of the PRC;

(e) Administer oaths to successful examinees entering the practice of plumbing engineering in the Philippines;

(f) Issue, suspend, or revoke the license for the practice of plumbing engineering or to reissue the same;