

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10587, May 27, 2013 ]**

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHT, ENTITLED "LAW REGULATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

ARTICLE I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Environmental Planning Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of environmental planning in nation-building and development. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, virtuous, productive and well-rounded professional environmental planners whose standards of practice and service shall be excellent, world-class and globally competitive through honest, effective, relevant and credible licensure examinations and through regulatory programs, measures and activities that foster their professional growth, social responsibility and development.

SEC. 3. *Coverage of this Act.* – This Act shall cover the following aspects of the practice of the profession:

- (a) Examination, registration and licensure of environmental planners;
- (b) Supervision, control and regulation of the practice of environmental planning;
- (c) Development, upgrading and updating of the curriculum of the environmental planning profession; and
- (d) Development and improvement of the professional competence and practice of environmental planners through, among others, continuing professional education and development.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* –

- (a) *Environmental planning*, also known as urban and regional planning, city planning, town and country planning, and/or human settlements planning, refers to the multi-disciplinary art and science of analyzing, specifying, clarifying, harmonizing, managing and regulating the use and development of land and water resources, in relation to their environs, for the development of sustainable communities and ecosystems.

(b) *Environmental planner* refers to a person who is registered and licensed to practice environmental planning and who holds a valid Certificate of Registration and a valid Professional Identification Card from the Board of Environmental Planning and the Professional Regulation Commission.

(c) *Accredited Professional Organization (APO)* refers to the duly integrated and accredited professional organization of environmental planners, of which there shall be only one as prescribed by Republic Act No. 8981, the Comprehensive Professional Code, and in Section 32 of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Scope of Practice.* – The practice of environmental planning, within the meaning and intent of this Act, shall embrace the following:

(a) Providing professional services in the form of technical consultation, rendering of technical advice, plan preparation, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation of implementation involving the following:

1. National, regional or local development and/or physical framework and comprehensive land-use plans;
2. Zoning and related ordinances, codes and other legal issuances for the development and management, preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, regulation and control of the environment, including all land, water, air and natural resources;
3. Planning and development of a barangay, municipality, city, province, region or any portion or combination thereof; and
4. Development of a site for a particular need or special purpose, such as economic or ecological zones; tourism development zones; and housing and other estate development projects, including the creation of any other spatial arrangement of buildings, utilities, transport and communications;

(b) In relation to any of the activities enumerated in paragraph (a) above, preparing the following studies:

1. Pre-feasibility, feasibility and other related concerns;
2. Environmental assessments; and
3. Institutional, administrative or legal systems;

(c) Curriculum and syllabi development in licensure examinations for environmental planners and teaching in academic institutions and conducting review courses in environmental planning;

(d) Serving as expert witness, resource person, lecturer, juror or arbitrator in hearings, competitions, exhibitions and other public fora; conduct of hearings, competitions, exhibits and other public fora;

(e) Ensuring compliance with environmental laws including the acquisition of regulatory permits.

The Professional Regulatory Board, subject to approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, may add to, or exclude from, this section any activity or act of professional practice, or revise it as the need arises to conform to changes and

new developments brought about by the latest trends in environmental planning; and

(f) Perform other acts or conduct other activities that may be determined by the Board, subject to approval by the Professional Regulation Commission in light of the trend of the practice of the profession.

## ARTICLE II PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

SEC. 6. *Professional Regulatory Board of Environmental Planning.* – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Environmental Planning, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) Members under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission. They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees for each position, ranked by the Commission from a list of five (5) nominees for each position, and submitted by the APO of environmental planners.

The new Board under this Act shall be constituted within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Term of Office.* – The Chairperson and the Members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of their appointment or until their successors shall have qualified and been appointed. They may be reappointed to their positions for another term of three (3) years immediately after the expiry of their terms: *Provided*, That the holding of such position shall not be for more than two (2) terms nor more than six (6) years, whichever is longer: *Provided, further*, That the first Board under this Act shall hold these terms of office: the Chairperson for three (3) years, the first Member for two (2) years, and the second Member for one (1) year: *Provided, furthermore*, That any appointee to a vacancy with an unexpired term shall only serve such period. The Chairperson and the Members shall take their oath of office before discharging the functions of their positions.

SEC. 8. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – Each member of the Board shall, at the time of his/her appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- (a) A citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- (b) Of good moral character and of sound mind;
- (c) A holder of a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning or its equivalent;
- (d) A registered and licensed environmental planner with a valid Certificate of Registration and a Professional Identification Card and with at least seven (7) years of practice in environmental planning prior to his/her appointment;
- (e) Not a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where a regular academic course or review course in environmental planning is offered, nor a member of a staff of reviewers in a review school or center and does not have any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in such an institution;
- (f) A member in good standing but not an officer or trustee thereof of the APO; and

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

SEC. 9. *Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board.* – The Board shall have the following specific powers, duties and responsibilities:

(a) Prescribe and adopt the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;

(b) Supervise the registration, licensure and practice of environmental planning in the Philippines;

(c) Administer oaths in connection with the implementation of this Act;

(d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate Certificate of Registration for the practice of environmental planning;

(e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

(f) Prepare the contents of licensure examination, score and rate the examination papers and submit the results thereof to the Commission;

(g) Adopt and promulgate a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards issued by the APO;

(h) Assist the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to ensure that all instruction and offering of environmental planning comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED or other authorized government offices in the areas, among others, of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

(i) Adopt measures necessary for the enhancement of the profession;

(j) Investigate officially reported violations of this Act and its rules and regulations, Code of Ethics, Code of Technical Standards, policies and measures and for this purpose issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and submission of the documents and other evidences necessary in connection with the performance of its functions;

(k) Seek the assistance of the Commission in the conduct of hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before the Board;

(l) Promulgate decisions on such administrative cases;

(m) Discharge such other powers and duties that may affect professional, ethical and technological standards of the environmental planning profession in the Philippines; and

(n) Perform such other functions and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the "Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Modernization Act of 2000?.

The policies, resolutions, bylaws and rules and regulations issued and promulgated by the Board shall be subject to review and approval by the Commission; however, the Board's decisions, resolutions or orders which are not interlocutory, rendered in an administrative case, shall be subject to review only on appeal.

SEC. 10. *Compensation of the Board.* – The Chairperson and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by the Chairpersons and Members of other existing professional regulatory boards under the Commission as provided for by the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examinations, and administrative and other investigative hearings conducted by the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Grounds for Disciplinary Action on Suspension or Removal of the Chairperson/Members of the Board.* – The President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Commission, after due process and administrative investigation conducted by the Commission, may remove or suspend a Chairperson or Member of the Board on any of the following grounds:

- (a) Gross negligence, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of his/her duty;
- (b) Commission of any of the prohibited acts provided in this Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, Republic Act no. 3019, otherwise known as the "Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices Act", and other laws;
- (c) Manipulation, tampering or rigging of the results of the licensure examination for the practice of environmental planning; and
- (d) Unlawful disclosure of secret and confidential information on the examination questions or other administrative matters pertaining thereto prior to the conduct thereof.

The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by Section 7(s) of Republic Act No. 8981, the Rules on Administrative Investigation, and the applicable provisions of the New Rules of Court.

SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the end of each calendar year, submit to the Commission a detailed report of its activities and proceedings during the year, embodying also such recommendations as it may deem proper to promote the policies and objectives of this Act.

### ARTICLE III EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 14. *Registration Required.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, no person shall practice or offer to practice environmental planning in the Philippines without having obtained from the Board and the Commission a Certificate of Registration and a Professional Identification Card or a Temporary/Special Permit.

SEC. 15. *Examination Required.* – Unless provided otherwise under this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of environmental planning shall be required to pass the professional licensure examination as herein provided, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. Examinations for the practice of environmental planning in the Philippines shall be given by the Board at least