

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10350, December 17, 2012]

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

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

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

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

(c) *Commission* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

(a) Adopt, promulgate and administer the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;

(b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of the professional interior designers in the Philippines;

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

(d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the certificate of registration or professional license for the practice of the interior design profession;

(e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

(f) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and/or

the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards;

(g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all other educational institutions offering interior design comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;

(h) Prescribe and adopt a Code of Ethics and/or Code of Professional Standards for the practice of the interior design profession;

(i) Hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the Code of Professional Standards for the practice of the interior design profession and, for this purpose, to issue subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;

(j) Prescribe guidelines for the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program for interior designers in coordination with the accredited professional organization of interior designers;

(k) Prepare, adopt and issue the Table of Specifications (TOS) and syllabi of the subjects for examination in the professional licensure examination for interior designers. Determine and prepare the questions for the examination, which shall strictly be within the scope of the syllabi of the subjects of examination; and

(l) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the interior design profession and the upgrading, development and growth of interior design education in the Philippines.

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

(a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of his/her duty;

(b) Commission of the prohibited acts and/or violation of the provisions or commissions of the offenses and/or grounds for disciplinary action provided in this Act and in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and other related laws;

(c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination for interior designers, tampering with the results, disclosure of secret and confidential information relating to the examination prior to the conduct thereof or manipulation/ padding/shaving of grades and similar acts; and

(d) Conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude.

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

SEC.12. *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 examination, administrative and other investigative cases 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. 13. *Annual Report.* –The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, through the Commission, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of interior design.

ARTICLE III EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

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

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

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

(b) Of good moral character;

(c) A holder of any of the following:

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

(ii) A degree in interior design obtained from a reputable institution of learning in a foreign country/state: *Provided*, That the same is certified by the CHED as equivalent to a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design obtained in the Philippines; and

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

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

(a) Interior Design;

(b) Furniture Design and Construction;

(c) Materials of Design and Decoration;