

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1378, June 18, 1955]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF MASTER PLUMBER

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Plumbing Law."

SEC. 2. (a) The practice of plumbing within the meaning and intent of this Act shall embrace services in the form of consultations, designing, preparation of plans, specification, estimates, erection, installation and supervision of plumbing work including the inspection and accept the materials used therein; extension and alteration of all pipings to fixtures, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with any of the following: storm and sanitary drainage, facilities of buildings, the sanitary venting of fixtures, hot or cold water supply systems within or adjacent to any building, storm drains, sewerage system of any premises and/or in connection with any public disposal or any acceptable terminal. The enumeration in this paragraph shall not be construed as excluding any other work requiring plumbing knowledge and application.

(b) The term "master plumber" as used in, this Act shall mean a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Master Plumbers in the manner as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Master Plumbers, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of a Chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Civil Service in consultation with a duly registered national association of master plumbers. The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years. The first members of the Board appointed under this Act shall hold office for the following terms: One member for one year; one member for two years; and one member for three years. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath of office before entering upon the performance of his duties. Any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines for neglect of duty, incompetency, malpractice, and unprofessional, unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct, after said member has been given opportunity to defend himself in an administrative investigation duly held. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term.

SEC. 4. The Board shall administer the provision this Act; issue, suspend or revoke certificates of registration of master plumbers; and administer oaths in connection with such certificates of registration.

In carrying into effect the provisions of this Act the Board may, under the hand of its chairman and the seal of the Board, issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces* to compel

the attendance of witnesses and require the production of books, documents, and similar evidence in a case involving violation of any of the provisions of this Act. Any member of the Board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

If any person shall refuse to obey any subpoena or subpoena duces tecum so issued, or shall refuse to testify or produce any book, record, or document, the Board may present its petition to the Court of First Instance, setting forth the facts, and thereupon such court shall, in a proper case, issue its *subpoena* to such person, requiring his appearance before such court and there to testify or produce such books, records or documents, as may be deemed necessary and pertinent by the Board. Any person failing or refusing to obey the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum or order of the said court may be proceeded against in the same manner as for refusal to obey any other subpoena or *subpoena duces tecum* or order of the court.

The Board shall, from time to time, look into conditions affecting the trade of master plumber in the Philippines, and whenever necessary, recommend to the President of the Philippines the adoption of such rules and regulations as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and standards in the trade and for the protection of public welfare, life, health, and property.

SEC. 5. The President of the Philippines is hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations to carry into effect the objectives of this Act, upon recommendation of the Board of Examiners for Master Plumbers and in consultation with a duly registered national association of master plumbers, in accordance with the following basic principles, except in cases where it may prove oppressive or excessively burdensome to those without sufficient means and to such buildings, structures or constructions valued at five thousand pesos or less:

- a. All premises intended for human habitation, occupancy, or use shall be provided with a supply of pure and wholesome water, neither connected with unsafe water supplies nor subject to the hazards of backflow or back-siphonage.
- b. Plumbing fixtures, devices, and appurtenances shall be supplied with water in sufficient volume and at pressures adequate to enable them to function satisfactorily and without undue noise under all normal conditions of use.
- c. Plumbing shall be designed and adjusted to use the minimum quantity of water consistent with proper performance and cleaning.
- d. Devices for heating and storing water shall be so designed and installed as to prevent dangers from explosion through overheating.
- e. Every building having plumbing fixtures installed and intended for human habitation, occupancy, or use on premises abutting on a street, alley, or easement in which there is a public sewer shall have a connection with the sewer.
- f. Each family dwelling unit on premises abutting on sewer or with a private sewage-disposal system shall have, at least, one water closet and one kitchen-type sink. It is further recommended that a lavatory and bath-tub or shower shall be installed to meet the basic requirements of sanitation and personal hygiene.

All other structures for human occupancy or use on premises abutting on a sewer or with a private sewage-disposal system shall have adequate sanitary

facilities but in no case less than one water closet and one other fixture for cleansing purposes.

- g. Plumbing fixtures shall be made of smooth non-absorbent material, and shall be free from concealed fouling surface.
- h. The drainage system shall be designed, constructed and maintained so as to guard against fouling, deposit of solids, and clogging, and with adequate cleanouts so arranged that the pipes may be readily cleaned.
- i. The piping of the plumbing system shall be of durable materials, free from defective workmanship and so designed and constructed as to give satisfactory service for its reasonable expected life.
- j. Each fixture directly connected to the drainage system shall be equipped with a water-seal trap.
- k. The drainage system shall be designed to provide an adequate circulation of air in pipes with no danger of siphonage, aspiration, or forcing of trap seals under condition of ordinary use.
- l. Each terminal shall extend to the outer air and be so installed as to minimize the possibilities of clogging and the return of foul air to the building.
- m. The plumbing system shall be subject to such tests as will effectively disclose all leaks and defects in the work.
- n. No substance which will clog the pipes, produce explosive mixtures, destroy the pipes or their joints, or interfere unduly with the sewage-disposal process shall be allowed to enter the building drainage system.
- o. Proper protection shall be provided to prevent contamination of food, water, sterile goods, and similar materials by backflow of sewage. When necessary, the fixture, device, or appliance shall be connected indirectly with the building drainage system.
- p. No water closet nor urinal shall be located in a room or compartment which is not properly lighted and ventilated.
- q. If water closets or other plumbing fixtures are installed in buildings where there is no sewer within a reasonable distance, suitable provision shall be made for disposing of the building sewage by some accepted method of sewage treatment and disposal.
- r. Where a plumbing drainage system may be subjecte to backflow of sewage, suitable provision shall be made prevent its overflow in the building.
- s. Plumbing system shall be maintained in a sanitary and serviceable condition.
- t. All plumbing fixtures shall be so installed with regard to spacing as to be reasonably accessible for their intended use.
- u. Plumbing shall be installed with due regard to reservation of the strength of structural members and prevention of damage to walls and other surfaces through fixture usage.
- v. Sewage or other waste from a plumbing system which may be deleterious to surface or subsurface waters shall not be discharged into the ground or into any waterway unless it has first been rendered innocuous through subjection to some acceptable form of treatment.

SEC. 6. Each member of the Board shall, at the time of his appointment:

- a. Be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Be at least thirty years of age and of good moral character; and
- c. Has been actively engaged in the trade of master plumber for at least five years.