

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1364, June 18, 1955 ]**

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF SANITARY  
ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

*ARTICLE I.—Title of Act and Definition of Terms*

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*—This Act shall be known as the "Sanitary Engineering Law."

SEC. 2. *Definition of terms.*—The practice of sanitary engineering within the meaning and intent of this Act shall embrace the following activities:

- a. Sanitary surveys, reports, design, direction, management, consultation, and investigation of:
  1. Water purification plants, water collection and distribution systems, reservoirs, drainage and sewer systems, sewage treatment plants, malaria control structures, sewage disposal tanks, and other structures for public health and welfare.
  2. Projects relating to stream pollution, insect and vermin control or eradication, rural and camp sanitation, and milk and food sanitation.
  3. Systems for the prevention of atmospheric pollution or the control of indoor air, especially the air of working spaces in industrial establishments (industrial hygiene engineering).
- b. Professional research and laboratory work supporting the activities listed in subsection (a).
- c. The term "sanitary engineer" as used in this Act shall mean a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers in the manner as hereinafter provided.

*ARTICLE II.—Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers*

SEC. 3. *Composition of Board.*—Within thirty days from the effectivity of this Act there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers, 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 from among such persons of recognized standing in their profession as may be certified as having practiced at least five years, and academically and morally fully qualified by their respective bona fide sanitary engineering associations. The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed

and shall have duly qualified. 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 for neglect of duty, incompetence, malpractice, unprofessional, unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct, after having been given opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation: *Provided*, That during the process of investigation, the President shall have the power to suspend such member under investigation and shall appoint a temporary member in his place. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term.

SEC. 4. *Powers and duties of the Board.*—The Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers is vested with authority, conformable with the provisions of this Act, to administer oaths, issue, suspend and revoke certificates of registration for the practice of sanitary engineering, issue certificates of recognition to sanitary engineers already practicing prior to the effectivity of this Act for advanced studies, research and/or highly specialized training in any branch of sanitary engineering, subject to the approval of the President, to investigate such violations of this Act and the regulations thereunder as may come to the knowledge of the Board and for this purpose, issue *subpoena duces tecum* to secure appearance of witnesses in connection with the charges presented to the Board, to inspect, at least once a year, educational institutions offering courses in sanitary engineering, to discharge such other powers and duties as may affect ethical and technological standards of the sanitary engineering profession in the Philippines. For the purpose of this Act, the Secretary of Health, and/or his duly authorized representatives in the provinces and chartered cities shall be *ex officio* agents of the Board, and as such it shall be their duty to help in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

If any person shall refuse to obey any *subpoena* so issued or shall refuse to testify or produce any book, document, etc., 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, papers, documents, etc., as may be deemed necessary and pertinent by the Board. Any person failing or refusing to obey the subpoena or order of the said court, may be proceeded against in the same manner as for refusal to obey any other *subpoena* or order of the court.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications of Board members.*—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;
- c. Be a graduate of sanitary engineering or a registered civil engineer who has taken major subjects in sanitary engineering from a recognized and legally constituted school, institute, college or university and/or a registered Civil Engineer who has passed the Civil Service examination for Senior Sanitary Engineer;
- d. Be a registered sanitary engineer duly qualified to practice sanitary engineering in the Philippines and have practiced sanitary engineering, with a certificate as such, for a period of not less than five years prior to his appointment;

- e. Not be a member of the faculty of any' school, institution, college, or university where sanitary engineering course is taught nor have a pecuniary interest in such institution;
- f. No former members of the faculty of any school; institution, college or university, where sanitary engineering is taught can become a member of the Board, unless he had stopped teaching for at least three consecutive years prior to his appointment.

SEC. 6. *Registration and examination fees.*—The Board of Examiners shall charge for each application for examination, the sum of thirty-five pesos and for each certificate of registration, ten pesos.

SEC. 7. *Compensation of Board Members.*—The members of the Board shall each receive as compensation, the sum of five pesos for each applicant examined. A sanitary engineer in the service of the Government of the Philippines, appointed as member of the Board shall receive the compensation as herein provided in addition to his salary in the Government. All authorized expenses of the Board shall be paid by the Bureau of Civil Service. The Board, including the compensation provided for hereinafter, shall be paid by the collecting and disbursing office of the Bureau of Civil Service, out of such appropriation, as may be made for the purpose.

SEC. 8. *Executive Officer of the Board.*—The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the executive officer of the Board, and shall conduct the examinations given by the Board and shall designate any subordinate officer of the Bureau of Civil Service to act as secretary of the Board. All records and minutes of the Board, including all examination papers, shall be kept by the Bureau of Civil Service.

SEC. 9. *Annual report.*—The Board shall submit an annual report to the President after the close of each fiscal year, giving a detailed account of its proceedings during the year and making such recommendations as may be deemed proper.

SEC. 10. *Roster of Sanitary Engineers.*—A roster showing names and place of business and permanent home addresses of all professional sanitary engineers, shall be prepared by the Commissioner of Civil Service during the month of July of every year, commencing one year after the date this Act becomes effective. Copies of this roster shall be mailed to each person so registered and placed on file with the President; and copies thereof, shall be furnished to all Department Heads, to the mayors of all chartered cities, to the Director of Public Works, to the Collector of Customs, to such other bureaus, or government agencies and provincial and municipal authorities as may be deemed necessary, and to the public upon request.

### ARTICLE III.—*Examination for Registration*

SEC. 11. *Examination requirement.*—All applicants for registration for the practice of sanitary engineering, shall be required to pass a technical examination as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 12. *Holding of examination.*—Examination of candidates desiring to practice sanitary engineering in the Philippines shall be given in the City of Manila, beginning the last Monday of January and August of each year, provided that such days do not fall on official holidays, otherwise the examination shall be held on the days next following.

SEC. 13. *Subjects of examination.*—Applicants for certificates of registration as sanitary engineers shall be examined in the following subjects: Mathematics, including algebra, plane and spherical trigonometry, analytics, descriptive and solid geometry, differential and integral calculus, rational and applied mechanics; hydraulics; topographic and hydrographic surveying; design and construction of wooden, masonry, reinforced concrete, and steel structures as flumes, water towers and drainage canals; hydrology; water and sewage analysis; microbiology and bacteriology; design and construction of sewers, storm drains, water purification plants, sewage treatment plants and plumbing: *Provided, however,* That duly registered civil engineers shall be exempted from taking examinations in the following subjects: (1) Mathematics, including algebra, plane and spherical trigonometry, differential and integral calculus, rational and applied mechanics; (2) hydraulics; (3) topographic and hydrographic surveying; and (4) design and construction of wooden, masonry, reinforced concrete and steel structures as flumes, water towers and drainage canals.

SEC. 14. *Report of ratings.*—The Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineering shall, within one hundred and twenty days after the date of completion of the examination, report the rating obtained by each candidate to the Commissioner of Civil Service, who shall submit such ratings to the President.

SEC. 15. *Reexamination.*—An applicant who for the third time fails to pass the examination for the same grade shall not be allowed to take another until at least one year has elapsed after his last examination.

SEC. 16. *Issuance of certificates.*—The President shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, issue a certificate of registration upon payment of the registration fee as provided in this Act to any applicant, who, in the opinion of the Board and after approval by the President, has satisfactorily met all the requirements specified in this Act.

All certificates of registration shall show the full name of the registrant, shall have a serial number, and shall be signed by all the members of the Board, the President and the Commissioner of Civil Service and shall be attested by the official seal of the same Board.

The issuance of a certificate of registration by the Board to a registrant shall be evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a registered sanitary engineer, while said certificate remains unrevoked and unsuspended, unless the same is revoked or suspended.

SEC. 17. *Qualifications for examination.*—Any person applying for admission to the sanitary engineering examination as herein provided, shall, prior to the date of the examination, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that he has the following qualifications:

- a. Be at least twenty-one years of age;
- b. Be a citizen of the Philippines;
- c. Be of good reputation and moral character; and,
- d. Be a graduate of a four-year course in sanitary engineering or BSCE having taken major subjects in sanitary engineering from a school, institute, college