

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 544, June 17, 1950]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

ARTICLE I.- Title of the Act and Definition of Terms

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*-This act shall be known as the "Civil Engineering Law."

SEC. 2. *Definition of terms.*-

- a. The practice of civil engineering within the meaning and intent of this Act shall embrace services in the form of consultation, design, preparation of plans, specifications, estimates, erection, installation and supervision of the construction of streets, bridges, highways, railroads, airports and hangars, port-works, canals, river and shore improvements, lighthouses, and dry docks; buildings, fixed structures for irrigation, flood protection, drainage, water supply and sewerage works; demolition of permanent structures; and tunnels. The enumeration of any work in this section shall not be construed as excluding any other work requiring civil engineering knowledge and application.
- b. The term "civil engineering" as used in this Act shall mean a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers in the manner as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE II.- Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers

SEC. 3. *Composition of Board.* -Within thirty days after the approval of this Act there shall be created a Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of a chairman and two members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications. 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 Secretary of Public Works and Communication for neglect of duty, incompetency, 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 and shall appoint a temporary member in his place. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled

for the unexpired term only.

SEC. 4. *Powers and duties of the Board.*-The Board of Examiners for Civil Engineering for Civil 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 civil engineering, issue certificates of recognition to civil engineers already registered under this Act for advance studies, research, and/or highly specialized training in any branch of civil engineering, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, to investigate such violations of this Act and regulations, thereunder as may come to the knowledge of the Board and, for this purpose, issue *subpoena* and *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 civil engineering, civil engineering works, projects or corporations, established in the Philippines and for safe-guarding of life, health and property, to discharge such other powers and duties as may affect ethical and technological standards of the civil engineering profession in the Philippines. For the purpose of this Act, the Director of Public Works and/or his authorized representative 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.

The Board may, with the approval of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, issue such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The Board shall also adopt a code of ethics in the practice of civil engineering and have an official seal to authenticate its official documents.

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 civil engineering from a recognized and legally constituted school, institute, college or university;
- d. Be a registered civil engineer duly qualified to practice civil engineering in the Philippines;
- e. Have practiced civil engineering, with a certificate as such, for a period of not less than ten years prior to his appointment;
- f. Not a member of the faculty of any school, institute, college or university where civil engineering course is taught, nor have a pecuniary interest in such institutions;
- g. No former members of the faculty of any school, institute or university where civil engineering is taught can become a member of the Board unless he had stopped teaching for at least three consecutive years.

SEC. 6. *Fees and compensation of Board.*- The Board of Examiners for Civil Engineers shall charge for each application for examination the sum of forty pesos payable to the collecting and disturbing officer of the Bureau of Civil Service upon filing of said application for examination, and for each certificate of registration, twenty pesos. Each member of the Board shall receive a compensation of five pesos for each applicant examined. A civil engineer in the service of the Government of

the Republic 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, including the compensation provided for herein, shall be paid by the collecting and disbursing officer of the Bureau of Civil Service out of such appropriation as may be made for the purpose.

SEC. 7. *Annual report.*- The Board shall, at the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Secretary of Public Works and Communications a detailed report of its activities and proceedings during the period covered by the fiscal year ended.

ARTICLE III.- *Examination and Registration*

SEC. 8. *Examination requirement.*- All applicants for registration for the practice of civil engineering shall be required to pass a technical examination as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 9. *Holding of examination.*- Examination of candidates desiring to practice civil engineering in the Philippines shall be given in the City of Manila beginning the second Monday of February and August of each year, provided that such days do not fall on official holidays, otherwise the examinations shall be held on the days next following.

SEC. 10. *Subjects of examination.*-Applicants for certificates of registration as civil engineer shall be examined, in the discretion of the Board, on the following subjects: mathematics, including algebra, plane and spherical trigonometry, analytics, descriptive and solid geometry, differential and integral calculus, and rational and applied mechanics; hydraulics; surveying, including highway and railroad surveying; plane, topographic and hydrographic surveying, and advance surveying; design and construction of highways and railroads, masonry structures, wooden and reinforced concrete buildings, bridges, towers, walls, foundation, piers, ports, wharves, aqueducts, sanitary engineering works, water supply systems, dikes, dams, and irrigation and drainage canals.

SEC. 11. *Executive officer of the Board.*- The Commissioner of the Civil Service shall be executive officer of the Board and shall conduct the examinations given by said Board. He shall designate any subordinate officer of the Bureau of Civil Service to act as the Secretary and custodian of all records including examination papers and minutes of the deliberation of the Board.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications for examination.*- Any person applying for admission to the civil engineering examination as herein provided shall, prior to the date of 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 a good reputation and moral character; and
- d. Be a graduate of a four-year course in civil engineering from a school, institute, college or university recognized by the Government or the State wherein it is established.