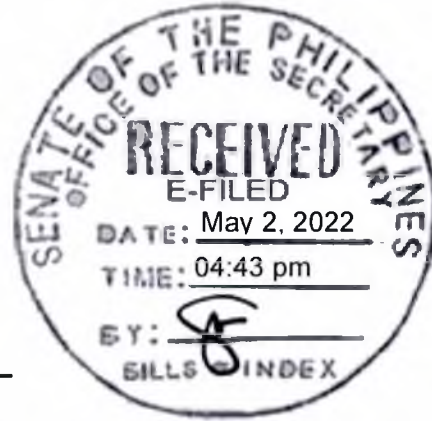


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)**



**SENATE
S.B. No. 2517**

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**AN ACT
CREATING THE "COUNCIL FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT," APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Any infrastructure is vital to economic development, as it is key to achieving higher and stable economic growth.

Quality infrastructure is needed to maintain economic growth, improve income levels, proceed with economic and demographic changes, provide better services to citizens, and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The critical importance of collaboration and inclusion of sustainability at the beginning of projects include the engagement of professionals who work in the field of built environment. These professionals are in the field of (i) architecture; (ii) interior design; (iii) landscape architecture; (iv) environmental planning; (v) geodetic engineering; (vi) civil engineering; (vii) electrical engineering; (viii) mechanical engineering; (ix) sanitary engineering; (x) master plumber; (xi) electronics engineering; and (xii) real estate services.

The proposed law ensures that all practicing Built Environment Professional meets the minimum requirements to safeguard life, health, and property, foster their continuing professional growth and advancement, encourage, and enhance collaboration, and continually review and improve the standards of regulation, professional service, and practice towards Filipino Built Environment Professionals becoming socially and environmentally responsible and globally competitive.

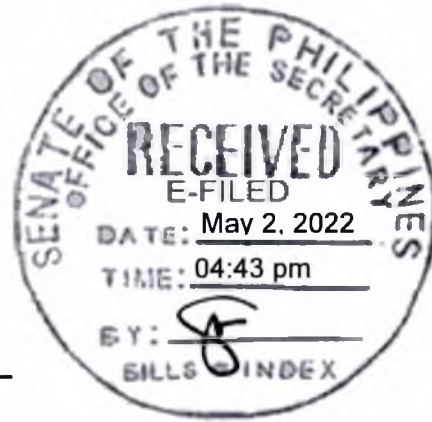
It is, thus, imperative to establish a council which shall have an administrative supervision on these Built Environment Professions.

The Council for the Built Environment ("Council") shall (i) advise on policy matters concerning the interests of the public in the built environment; and (ii) oversee the regulation and facilitate collaboration and cooperation of Built Environment Professions. In relation to these objectives, the Council shall have the powers and functions pertaining to policy advisory, oversight, and collaborative platform which help in professionalizing and promoting synergy and cooperation among the built environment professions.

It is for the reasons stated above that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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**AN ACT
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FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1
2
3 **Section 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Council for the Built
4 Environment Act of 2022."

5 **Section 2. *Statement of Policy.*** – The State recognizes the importance and
6 contributions of the Built Environment Professions in nation-building and development.
7 Hence, the State shall ensure that all practicing Built Environment Professional meets the
8 minimum requirements to safeguard life, health, and property, foster their continuing
9 professional growth and advancement, encourage, and enhance collaboration, and
10 continually review and improve the standards of regulation, professional service, and
11 practice towards Filipino Built Environment Professionals becoming socially and
12 environmentally responsible and globally competitive.

13 **Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, unless the context
14 otherwise requires, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 15 a. *Built Environment* means the field within which the registered professionals
16 practice;
17 b. *Built Environment Professions* means the following professions -
18 i. Architecture;
19 ii. Interior Design;
20 iii. Landscape Architecture;
21 iv. Environmental Planning;
22 v. Geodetic Engineering;

- 1 vi. Civil Engineering;
 - 2 vii. Electrical Engineering;
 - 3 viii. Mechanical Engineering;
 - 4 ix. Sanitary Engineering;
 - 5 x. Master Plumber;
 - 6 xi. Electronics Engineering; and
 - 7 xii. Real Estate Services.
- 8 c. *Council* means the Council for the Built Environment created under Section
 - 9 8 of this Act;
 - 10 d. *Professional* means a person who is registered as such under any of the
 - 11 Professional Regulatory Laws;
 - 12 e. *Professional Regulatory Laws* refers to the legal framework governing the
 - 13 practice of specific profession; the legal charter creating and governing the
 - 14 various Boards, defining their functions and providing for the rules and
 - 15 policies that govern the practice of a specific profession;
 - 16 f. *Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to the
 - 17 concerned Board and PRC Accredited Integrated Professional Organization
 - 18 for a given profession which is specifically mandated by the provision of the
 - 19 PRL to integrate the professionals into one national organization and where
 - 20 membership therein by professionals is automatic and mandatory;
 - 21 g. *Accredited Professional Organization (APO)* refers to the PRC Accredited
 - 22 Professional Organization where membership therein by professionals is
 - 23 only voluntary;
 - 24 h. CHED refers to the Commission on Higher Education;
 - 25 i. MRA refers to Mutual Recognition Agreements between or among states;
 - 26 j. PRC refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;
 - 27 k. PRB refers to the Professional Regulatory Board.

28 **ARTICLE II**
 29 **ORGANIZATION OF MULTIPARTITE COUNCILS FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
 30 **PROFESSIONS**

31 **Section 4. *Creation of Multipartite Councils for the Built Environment***
 32 ***Professions.*** - A Multipartite Council for each of the Built Environment Professions
 33 (herein referred to as "MC") is hereby created to be attached to the PRC.

34 **Section 5. *Objectives of the MC.*** -The objectives of the MC are to –
 35 a. Provide a platform to discuss policy concerns in the education, internship,
 36 professional regulation, and continuing professional development; and
 37 b. Promote and encourage collaboration between the different stakeholders in
 38 the regulation and practice of the Built Environment Professions.

39 **Section 6. *Functions, Powers and Duties of the MC.*** The MC shall perform
 40 the following functions:

- 1 a. Monitor local and international benchmarks in professional education,
2 internship, regulation and practice;
- 3 b. Study and evaluate educational innovations that shall lead to curriculum
4 development;
- 5 c. Regularly review the Subjects for Examination;
- 6 d. Develop and regularly review the Table of Specifications for the Licensure
7 Examination;
- 8 e. Develop and regularly review Internship/Guidelines in the areas such as
9 diversification of experience, duties and responsibilities of Mentors and
10 collaborative work;
- 11 f. Develop and regularly review Continuing Professional Development
12 Guidelines;
- 13 g. Develop and regularly review of Standards of Professional Practice in areas
14 such as Scope of Services, Schedule of Fees, and inter-professional
15 collaboration; and
- 16 h. Develop and regularly review professional education, internship, regulation
17 and practice standards in reference to the Philippine Qualifications
18 Framework Act.

19 **Section 7. Composition of the MC.** The MC shall be composed of the following

- 20 –
- 21 a. Chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board;
 - 22 b. President of the AIPO;
 - 23 c. President of the Academic Organization (Deans and Heads of Schools) duly
24 accredited by the PRC upon the recommendation of the CHED;
 - 25 d. One (1) representative from Private Practice; and
 - 26 e. One (1) representative from Government Practice.

27 **ARTICLE III**
28 **ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

29 **Section 8. Creation of the Council of the Built Environment.** –The Council
30 of the Built Environment (herein referred to as the “Council”) is hereby created, to be
31 attached to the PRC.

32 **Section 9. Objectives of the Council.** –The Council is an overarching body that
33 has the following objectives –

- 34 a. Advise on policy matters concerning the interests of the public in the built
35 environment, including but not limited to:
 - 36 i. sustainable development;
 - 37 ii. human resource development; and,
 - 38 iii. health, safety and environmental protection standards;
- 39 b. Oversee the regulation of Built Environment Professions, providing guidance
40 on:

- 1 i. Required qualifications;
- 2 ii. Standards of education;
- 3 iii. Training and competence;
- 4 iv. Promotion of professional status; and
- 5 v. Uniform application of standards and guidelines set by the PRC; and

- 6 c. Facilitate collaboration and cooperation of the Built Environment Professions
- 7 with:
- 8 i. Other Built Environment Professions;
- 9 ii. Foreign Professionals; and
- 10 iii. Non-professional creatives and artists.

11 **Section 10. Mandate, Functions, and Powers of the Council.** The Council
12 shall exercise the following powers and functions:

13 *POLICY ADVISORY*

- 14 a. Act in an advisory capacity on any matter concerning the built environment,
- 15 including, but not limited to: resource utilization, socio-economic
- 16 development, public health and safety, and the environment;
- 17 b. Provide advice and consultation on national policy that could impact on the
- 18 built environment, human resourcedevelopment in relation to the built
- 19 environment professions, and the recognition of new professions;
- 20 c. Comment, if necessary, on all proposed legislation impacting on health and
- 21 safety in the built environment;

22 *OVERSIGHT*

- 23 d. Ensure the consistent application of policy for the Built Environment
- 24 Professions with regard to -
- 25 i. Registration requirements of registered professionals;
- 26 ii. Key elements of competence testing of registered professionals;
- 27 iii. Codes of conduct;
- 28 iv. Delineation of scope of services;
- 29 v. The principles upon which to base the Standards of Professional
- 30 Practice and Schedule of Fees;
- 31 vi. Standards of health, safety and environmental protection within the
- 32 built environment;
- 33 vii. The accreditation of APOs/AIPOS for the built environment
- 34 professions, by approving the accreditation framework giving due
- 35 recognition of the characteristics of each Built Environment
- 36 Profession;
- 37 viii. Establishment of education and training standards in terms of the
- 38 Philippine Qualifications Framework Act;

- 39 e. Act as an appeal body with regard to matters referred to it in terms of the
- 40 PRLs regulating the Built Environment Professions;
- 41 f. Receive and assimilate the annual reports of the PRBs, AIPOs and Academic
- 42 Sectors and submit a summary to the Commissioner.

1 *COLLABORATION PLATFORM*

- 2 g. Promote coordination between the Commission on Higher Education and
3 the Academic Sectors for the Built Environment Professions in relation to
4 the accreditation of education institutions;
- 5 h. Coordinate the establishment of MRAs for Built Environment Professionals,
6 providing guidelines on the practice of Filipino Professionals abroad as well
7 as Foreigner Professionals in the Philippines;
- 8 i. Foster and encourage collaboration and cooperation between Built
9 Environment Professionals by setting up guidelines, terms of reference and
10 standards;
- 11 j. Establish terms of engagement to facilitate the efficient and mutually
12 beneficent collaboration of Built Environment Professional with Non-
13 Professional creatives and artists.

14 **Section 11. *Composition of Council.*** The Council shall be composed of *ex*
15 *officio* members and regular members.

16 The *ex officio* members of the Council are:

- 17 a. Chairperson of the PRC;
- 18 b. Chairperson of the CHED;
- 19 c. Chairpersons of the PRBs of all Built Environment Professions;

20 The regular members of the Council are:

- 21 a. One (1) representative from each of the Multipartite Councils (non-PRB) of
22 all Built Environment Professions;

23 **Section 12. *Appointment of Members of the Council.*** The *ex officio* members
24 of the Council, except the Chairperson of the PRC, who shall serve as Chairperson of the
25 Council, may designate their respective next-in-rank officials as permanent alternates
26 whose acts are considered as the acts of their principals.

27 Every regular member shall be appointed by the President from a list submitted
28 by the Chairperson of the PRC upon consultation with the other *ex officio* members of
29 the Council, drawn from a nomination process resulting from public consultations with
30 stakeholders engaged in each Built Environment Profession, nominating at least three (3)
31 nominees for every regular member seat: Provided, That each of the nominees is not a
32 holder of any government position and must have at least ten (10) years of experience
33 in the profession which the nominee belongs to; Provided, further, That each of the
34 nominees shall have been officially endorsed by the AIPO and the duly recognized
35 association of academics of their profession; Provided, finally, That the list of nominees
36 shall be vetted by a joint task force constituted by the Professional Regulation Commission
37 and the Commission on Higher Education representing the professional and academic
38 interests of the Filipino people, respectively.

1 **Section 13. Removal From Office.** The Chairperson of the Council may remove
2 a member of the Council from office on account of misconduct or inability to perform his
3 or her duties after due process.

4 **Section 14. Disqualification, Vacation and Filling of Vacancies.** A person
5 may not be appointed as a member of the Council if that person -
6 a. Is not a Filipino citizen and resident in the Philippines;
7 b. Has been convicted of a criminal involving moral turpitude;
8 c. Has in terms of this Act been found guilty by the Council of improper
9 conduct; or
10 d. Is not a registered professional.

11 A member of the Council must vacate his or her office if he or she -
12 a. Becomes disqualified from being appointed as a member of the Council;
13 b. Resigns by written notice addressed to the Chairperson;
14 c. Has, without leave of the Council, been absent for more than two
15 consecutive meetings of the Council;
16 d. Ceases to be permanently resident in the Philippines; or
17 e. Is removed from office under Section 13 of this Act.

18 If a member of the Council dies or vacates his or her office before the expiration
19 of his or her term of office, the Chairperson must, within sixty (60) days from the date
20 on which the vacancy occurred, appoint the person nominated by the Council, to fill the
21 vacancy for the unexpired portion of the period for which that member was appointed.

22 **Section 15. Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.** The Council shall be
23 chaired by the Chairperson of the PRC.

24 The Council shall elect a deputy chairperson among the regular members.

25 The regular members of the Council shall serve for a term of six (6) years, unless
26 sooner separated from the service due to death, voluntary resignation, or removal for
27 cause. In case of death, resignation, or removal for cause, their replacements shall serve
28 only the unexpired terms of the replaced members. Of the first set of regular members,
29 eleven (11) shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and the remaining eleven (11)
30 for a term of six (6) years.

31 The regular members of the Council shall receive *per diem* every meeting in
32 accordance with existing rules and regulations.

33 **Section 16. Meetings of the Council.** The Council shall meet at least once
34 every six (6) months, or as often as necessary at the call of the Chairperson or majority
35 of the members. Members of the Council who cannot physically attend or vote at Council
36 meetings can participate and vote through remote communication technologies or other
37 electronic means such as videoconferencing, teleconferencing, or other alternative modes
38 of communication that allow them reasonable opportunities to participate. A majority of
39 the incumbent members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business.

1 **Section 17. *Executive Committee.*** The Council shall have an Executive
2 Committee consisting of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Council and not
3 more than three other members elected by the Council. The Council may appoint
4 alternate members to the Executive Committee.

- 5 A member of the Executive Committee -
- 6 a. Serves on the executive committee for a period of one year;
 - 7 b. May be re-elected; and
 - 8 c. Remains in office until his or her successor is elected.

9 No two members of the Executive Committee shall come from the same Built
10 Environment Profession.

11 The Executive Committee must hold a meeting as and when necessary, but at
12 least four (4) times per year.

13 **Section 18. *Powers of the Executive Committee.*** The Executive Committee
14 shall exercise the following powers:

- 15 a. Ensure that the resolutions of the Council are carried out;
- 16 b. Consider any matter delegated to it by the Council in terms of any law, and
17 to advise the Council in connection therewith;
- 18 c. Exercise or perform any power, duty or function delegated to it by the
19 Council; and
- 20 d. Report at every ordinary meeting of the Council on the activities of the
21 Executive Committee.

22 **Section 19. *Committees of Council.*** The Council may establish any Committee
23 to –

- 24 a. Assist it in the performance of its functions; or
- 25 b. Investigate and make recommendations on matters relating to any of its
26 functions.

27 The Council shall designate a Chairperson for any such Committee, and determine
28 the quorum for meetings. The Council shall also determine the terms of reference of the
29 Committees.

30 **Section 20. *Secretariat and Staff.*** The Council –

- 31 a. shall establish a Secretariat; and
- 32 b. may employ such staff, as it may deem necessary, for the carrying out of
33 its functions, on such conditions, including the payment of remuneration
34 and allowances, as it may determine, and may dismiss any person so
35 appointed.

1 **Section 21. *Delegation of Powers.*** The Council may, delegate any power, duty
2 or function conferred or imposed on it by this Act to –

- 3 a. A Committee established under Section 19;
- 4 b. The Executive Committee elected under section 17;
- 5 c. The Chairperson of the Council or any member of the Council; or
- 6 d. Any officer of the Council.

7 **Section 22. *Reporting.*** The Council shall furnish the Commissioner an Annual
8 Report about the functions and affairs of the Council including, but not limited to:

- 9 a. a report regarding the execution of the functions of the council;
- 10 b. a report regarding the envisaged strategies of the council; and
- 11 c. such other information as the Commissioner may from time to time
12 determine.

13 **Section 23. *Delineation of Scope of Work and Terms of Reference for***
14 ***Collaboration.*** The Council must, after receipt of the recommendations submitted to it
15 by the MCs in terms of the Professional Regulatory Laws –

- 16 a. Determine policy with regard to the identification of work for the different
17 Built Environment Professions;
- 18 b. Consult with any person, body or industry that may be affected by the
19 identification of work in terms of this section;
- 20 c. Identify the scope of work for every Built Environment Profession; and
- 21 d. Establish terms of reference for collaboration between Built Environmental
22 Professionals, Foreign Professionals and Non-Professional creatives and
23 artists.

24 **ARTICLE IV**

25 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

26 **Section 24. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary for the immediate
27 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28 **Section 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Professional
29 Regulation Commission, the Commission on Higher Education, together with the
30 Professional Regulatory Boards and AIPOs of the Built Environment Professions are tasked
31 to prepare the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) required for the
32 implementation of this Act. The IRR shall be promulgated within ninety (90) days upon
33 approval of this Act.

34 **Section 26. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any section or provisions
35 of this Act is declared unconstitutional, or invalid, the other sections and provisions, which
36 are not affected by it, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 **Section 27. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, agreements,
2 rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
3 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **Section 28. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after is
5 complete publication in either the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

7 Approved.