



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6795

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BY REPRESENTATIVES SILVERIO, GONZALEZ, CUA (J.), ESCUDERO AND  
ALMARIO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2343

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AN ACT TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF  
INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8534, KNOWN AS “THE  
PHILIPPINE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 1998”,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 TITLE, POLICY, OBJECTIVES, TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

3 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Interior  
4 Design Act of 2009”.

5 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the important role  
6 of the interior design profession in nation-building. Towards this end, the  
7 State shall promote the sustained development of professional interior  
8 designers, whose technical competencies have been determined by honest and  
9 credible licensure examinations and whose standards of professional service  
10 and practice are internationally recognized and considered globally

1 competitive, brought about by regulatory measures and human resource  
2 programs and activities that foster their professional growth and advancement.

3 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act provides for and shall govern:

4 (a) The examination, registration and licensure of professional interior  
5 designers;

6 (b) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of interior  
7 design;

8 (c) The development of the professional competence of interior  
9 designers through continuing professional education; and

10 (d) The integration of the interior design profession.

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

13 (a) *Interior design* refers to the science and art of planning,  
14 specifying, selecting and organizing the surface finishes and materials  
15 including furniture, furnishings and fixtures and other items of décor of an  
16 architectural interior for the purpose of space allocations to suit, enhance and  
17 meet the intended function, movement and character for which the interior of  
18 the building is designed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise, exclude  
12 from, or add to, the above-enumerated acts or activities as the need arises to  
13 conform to the latest trend in the practice of interior design.

## 14 ARTICLE II

### 15 THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF INTERIOR DESIGN

#### 16 SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Interior Design.* –

17 There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Interior Design,  
18 hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and  
19 supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter  
20 referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairperson and two (2)  
21 members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of two  
22 (2) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission, and from a  
23 list of three (3) nominees for each position recommended by the duly  
24 accredited professional organization of interior designers. The new Board  
25 shall be created within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

26 SEC. 7. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members.* – The  
27 Chairperson and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment,  
28 possess the following qualifications:

- 1           (a) Must be a natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- 2           (b) Must be a holder of a bachelor's degree in Interior Design or  
3 Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Interior Design, conferred by a school,  
4 academy, college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized  
5 and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- 6           (c) Must be a registered interior designer with a valid certificate of  
7 registration and professional identification card and an active practitioner of  
8 interior design for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;
- 9           (d) Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, where a regular  
10 course in Interior Design is being taught, or have pecuniary interest in, or  
11 administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- 12           (e) Must not be connected with a review center or with any group  
13 giving review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination;
- 14           (f) Must be a member in good standing of the duly accredited  
15 professional organization of interior designers but not a trustee or officer  
16 thereof; and
- 17           (g) Has never been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or  
18 a civil and/or criminal offense.

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

24           Of the members to be appointed for the first Board under this Act, one  
25 (1) member shall hold office as Chairperson for three (3) years; one (1)  
26 member for two (2) years; and one (1) member for one (1) year. Each member  
27 of the Board shall take the proper oath prior to assumption of duty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15          (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;

16          (f) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and  
17 adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the  
18 profession and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical  
19 standards;

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

24          (h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional  
25 Standards for the practice of the Interior Design profession;

26          (i) Hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act,  
27 its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the Code of Ethics for  
28 Professional Interior Designers and, for this purpose, to issue subpoena and

1 subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the  
2 production of documents in connection therewith;

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

6 (k) Prepare, adopt and issue the syllabi of the subject for examination  
7 by determining and preparing the questions, which shall strictly be within the  
8 scope of the syllabi of the subject of examination; and

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

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

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

21 (b) Violation of any of the causes/grounds and the prohibited acts  
22 provided in this Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft  
23 and Corrupt Practices Act, and other laws; and

24 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination for interior  
25 designers results, disclosure of secret and confidential information on the  
26 examination questions prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of grades.

27 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by  
28 Section 7(s) of Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC

1 Modernization Act of 2000, the rules on administrative investigation and the  
2 applicable provisions of the new Rules of Court.

3 SEC. 12. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its*  
4 *Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the  
5 administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board,  
6 including applications for examination, administrative and other investigative  
7 cases conducted by the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission.  
8 The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide  
9 the secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this  
10 Act.

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

### 17 ARTICLE III

#### 18 EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

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

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

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

3 (b) Of good moral character;

4 (c) A holder of a bachelor's degree in interior design duly recognized  
5 or accredited by the CHED and conferred by a school/college/university duly  
6 authorized by the government or its equivalent degree obtained by either a  
7 Filipino or foreign citizen from an institution of learning in a foreign  
8 country/state: *Provided*, That it is duly recognized and/or accredited by the  
9 CHED; and

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

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

14 (a) Interior Design;

15 (b) Furniture Design and Construction;

16 (c) Materials for Decoration and Color Theory;

17 (d) History of Arts and Interior Design;

18 (e) Construction; and

19 (f) Professional Practice and Ethics.

20 The said subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board so as  
21 to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the  
22 profession, in coordination with the accredited council of interior design  
23 educators.

24 SEC. 17. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.* – To be qualified as  
25 having passed the Board examination for interior designers, a candidate must  
26 obtain a weighted general average of seventy percent (70%).



1           SEC. 18. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the  
2 Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) days  
3 after the examination unless extended by the Commission for just cause. Upon  
4 the release of the results of the examination, the Board shall send by mail the  
5 rating received by each examinee at his given address using the mailing  
6 envelope submitted during the examination.

7           SEC. 19. *Oath.* – All successful candidates in the examination shall be  
8 required to take an oath of profession before the Board or any government  
9 official authorized by the Commission to administer oaths prior to entering the  
10 practice of the interior design profession.

11           SEC. 20. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional*  
12 *Identification Card.* – A certificate of registration shall be issued to applicants  
13 who pass the examination for interior designers subject to payment of  
14 registration fees.

15           The certificate of registration as professional interior designer shall bear  
16 the signatures of the Chairperson of the Commission and Board members,  
17 stamped with the official seal, indicating that the person named therein is  
18 entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto.  
19 This certificate shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended  
20 or revoked, in accordance with this Act.

21           A certificate of registration bearing the registration number, date of  
22 issuance and expiry date, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Board, shall  
23 likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the required fees. This  
24 license will serve as evidence that the licensee can lawfully practice his/her  
25 profession.

26           A professional identification card, whether new or renewed, shall be  
27 released by the PRC upon compliance with the requirements for the application  
28 or renewal of identification card and upon presentation of the updated receipt

1 of payment of annual membership dues of the accredited professional  
2 organization and proof of completion of the CPE requirements.

3 Once registered, the interior designer may use "IDr." as his official  
4 appendage title.

5 SEC. 21. *Refusal to Register.* – The Board shall not register any  
6 successful applicant for registration with or without licensure examination who  
7 has been:

8 (a) Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of  
9 competent jurisdiction;

10 (b) Found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct by the Board;

11 (c) Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions  
12 to Examinees by the Board; and

13 (d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction.

14 In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written  
15 statement setting forth the reasons therefor and shall file a copy thereof in its  
16 records.

17 SEC. 22. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration*  
18 *and Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board shall have the  
19 power, upon notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the certificate of  
20 registration of a registered and licensed interior designer or to cancel a  
21 temporary/special permit granted to foreign interior designer, for violation of  
22 any of the grounds or causes in Section 21 of this Act, except (c) thereof and  
23 any of the following grounds:

24 (a) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, the Code of Ethics, the  
25 Code of Good Governance, the Code of Technical Standards for the practice of  
26 interior design, policy and measure of the Board and/or the Commission;

27 (b) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining his/her certificate of  
28 registration, professional identification card or temporary/special permit;

1 (c) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death,  
2 injury or damage;

3 (d) Refusal to join or to remain a member in good standing of the  
4 Accredited Professional Organization (APO);

5 (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5)  
6 consecutive years;

7 (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and  
8 licensed person by allowing him/her to use his/her certificate of registration  
9 and/or professional identification card or his/her temporary/special permit;

10 (g) Illegally practicing the profession during his/her suspension from  
11 the practice thereof;

12 (h) Addicted to a drug or alcohol, impairing his/her ability to practice  
13 his/her profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of competent  
14 jurisdiction; and

15 (i) Noncompliance with the CPE requirement, unless he/she is  
16 exempted therefrom, for the renewal of his/her professional identification card.

17 The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and  
18 revise or exclude or add new ones as the need arises, subject to approval of  
19 the Commission.

20 Any person, firm or association may file charge/s in accordance with the  
21 provision of this section against any registrant, or the Board may investigate  
22 violation of any of the abovementioned causes. Affidavit-complaint shall be  
23 filed together with the affidavits of witnesses and other documentary evidence  
24 with the Board through the Legal and Investigation Office. The *motu proprio*  
25 move to conduct an investigation shall be embodied in a formal charge to be  
26 signed by at least a majority of the members of the Board. The rules on  
27 administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern the hearing

1 or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act  
2 No. 8981 and the Rules of the Court.

3 SEC. 23. *Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration,*  
4 *Replacement of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional*  
5 *Identification Card or Temporary/Special Permit.* – The Board may, upon  
6 petition, reinstate or reissue a revoked certificate of registration after two (2)  
7 years from the effectivity of the period for revocation, which is the date of  
8 surrender of the said certificate and/or the professional identification card if  
9 still valid to the Board and/or the Commission. The Board may not require the  
10 holder thereof to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall  
11 prove to the Board that he/she has valid reason/s to practice his/her profession.  
12 For the grant of his/her petition, the Board shall issue a Board resolution  
13 subject to approval by the Commission.

14 A duplicate copy of lost certificate of registration, professional  
15 identification card or temporary/special permit may be reissued in accordance  
16 with rules thereon and upon payment of the prescribed fee therefor.

17 SEC. 24. *Nonpayment of the Annual Registration Fees.* – The Board  
18 shall suspend a registered interior designer from the practice of his/her  
19 profession for nonpayment of the annual registration fees for five (5)  
20 consecutive years from his/her last or previous year of payment. The  
21 resumption of his/her practice shall take place only upon payment of the  
22 delinquent fees plus surcharges and interest and in accordance with the rules of  
23 the Commission. The running of the five (5)-year period may be interrupted  
24 upon written notice about the discontinuance of his/her practice and surrender  
25 of his/her certificate of registration to the Board and/or the Commission.

26 SEC. 25. *Vested Rights.* – All practicing interior designers who are  
27 registered at the time of the passage of this Act shall automatically be  
28 registered and issued certificates of registration.

## ARTICLE IV

## PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN

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2  
3       SEC. 26. *Lawful Practitioners of Interior Design.* – The following  
4 persons shall be authorized to practice the interior design profession:

5       (a) Natural persons who are:

6           (1) Duly registered and licensed as interior designers and holders of  
7 valid certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards  
8 issued by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act; and

9           (2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board and  
10 the Commission to foreign licensed interior designers pursuant to this Act.

11       (b) Juridical persons:

12           (1) Single proprietorship whose owner is a registered interior designer;

13           (2) Partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange  
14 Commission (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the Civil Code and  
15 composed of all partners who are all duly registered interior designers; and

16           (3) Corporation whose key chief executive officers (CEOs) and  
17 majority of the Board of Directors are all registered and licensed interior  
18 designers may be duly registered with the SEC as engaged in the practice of  
19 interior design.

20       Juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and the  
21 Commission in accordance with the rules and regulations thereon.

22       SEC. 27. *Seal, Issuance and Use of Seal.* – A duly registered interior  
23 designer shall affix the seal duly approved and provided by the Board of  
24 Interior Design on all plans and specifications prepared by, or under his/her  
25 direct supervision during the validity of his/her certificate of registration.

26       Officers or employees of the government, chartered cities, provinces,  
27 municipalities now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of the laws,  
28 ordinances or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of the

1 interiors of buildings shall accept only those interior plans or specifications  
2 and contract documents which have been prepared, signed and sealed by a duly  
3 licensed interior designer and submitted in full accord with the provisions of  
4 this Act. No approval shall be given by any such person for any work, as  
5 defined under this Act, plans and specifications of which have not been so  
6 prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed interior designer.

7 Violation of the foregoing shall be a ground for administrative and/or  
8 criminal action.

9 SEC. 28. *Intellectual Property Rights.* – Drawings and specifications  
10 and other contract documents duly signed, stamped or sealed, as instruments of  
11 service, and all the works included therein, are the intellectual property of the  
12 interior designer. Any person is prohibited from engaging in any activity  
13 prejudicial to the intellectual property rights of the interior designer, including  
14 the reproduction of the contract work or substantial portion thereof, and  
15 making any alteration, distortion, mutilation, or other modification of, or any  
16 derogatory action in relation to, the contract work and the works therein,  
17 prejudicial to and without the written consent of the interior designer.

18 SEC. 29. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign interior designer shall be  
19 issued a certificate of registration to practice the interior design profession or  
20 be entitled to any of the rights and privileges under this Act unless the country  
21 of which he/she is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino interior  
22 designers to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the  
23 subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country.

24 SEC. 30. *Practice Through Temporary/Special Permit.* – (a) Foreigners  
25 intending to work in the Philippines to perform professional services as interior  
26 designers or consultants whether employed through official foreign-funded or  
27 foreign-assisted projects initiated by the government, or engaged by private  
28 Filipino, foreign contractors or firms shall first secure a temporary/special

1 permit from the PRC through the Board of Interior Design specifically  
2 authorizing him/her to practice on the special project or commission named  
3 therein: *Provided, further, That:*

4 (1) He/She is legally and professionally qualified and registered to  
5 practice interior design in his/her own country;

6 (2) His/Her expertise is unique and useful to the Philippines, resulting  
7 in the transfer of information and technology. The establishment of  
8 international standards in design, and of sharing of other specialized skills; and

9 (3) Duly licensed foreign nationals shall be required to work with a  
10 Filipino counterpart who has been in continuous practice of interior design for  
11 at least ten (10) years. Professional fees and services, and expenses of  
12 documentation pertaining to the project shall be shared by both foreign and  
13 Filipino interior designers, including liabilities and taxes due to the Philippine  
14 government, if any, according to their participation in, or professional services  
15 rendered to the project.

16 (b) A foreign interior designer shall be required to work in every case  
17 with a duly licensed Filipino counterpart whose competence and integrity has  
18 been established by the Board of Interior Design on the basis of uniform  
19 standards contained in their IRR.

20 (c) Foreign and Filipino firms working jointly on a special project shall  
21 divide the professional fees and other charges collected from said project  
22 equitably. Similarly, all documentation expenses, taxes and other liabilities  
23 incurred on the shared project shall also be borne equally by both foreign and  
24 Filipino firms.

25 (d) Foreigners working jointly with Filipino firms shall sign contracts,  
26 designs and other credits together with his/her Filipino counterpart. Both  
27 foreign and Filipino firms shall at all times be acknowledged in international

1 tri-media on proprietary and intellectual property rights. All residual earnings  
2 shall also be equitably shared between foreign and local firms.

3 (e) Foreign design firms or individuals practicing in the Philippines  
4 before the promulgation of this Act are required to comply with the  
5 requirements established by the Board of Interior Design in its IRR within the  
6 timetable it stipulates therein.

7 (f) Any violation of these requirements or other illegal practices  
8 undertaken by either foreign design firms or their Filipino counterparts shall be  
9 punishable by law or under the IRR of the Board of Interior Design.

10 SEC. 31. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration,*  
11 *Professional Tax Receipt and APO Membership.* – The interior designer shall  
12 be required to indicate his/her certificate of registration number and date of  
13 issuance, the expiry of his/her current professional identification card, the  
14 professional tax receipt number and date, and his/her APO membership  
15 number and date with official receipt number and date of membership payment  
16 (annual/lifetime) on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in connection  
17 with the practice of his/her interior design profession.

18 SEC. 32. *Roster of Interior Designers.* – The Board shall prepare and  
19 maintain a roster of the names, residence and/or office address of all registered  
20 interior designers which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the  
21 APO, indicating therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional  
22 identification card and APO membership, whether valid, delinquent, suspended  
23 or revoked or inactive due to death or other reasons. The said roster shall be  
24 conspicuously posted within the premises of the Commission and the  
25 information therefrom made available to the public upon inquiry or request.

26 SEC. 33. *Integration of the Interior Designers.* – The interior designers  
27 shall be integrated into one (1) national organization of interior designers that  
28 is duly registered with the SEC. The Board of Interior Design, subject to



1 approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one  
2 and only integrated and accredited professional organization of interior  
3 designers. All interior designers whose names appear in the Registry Book of  
4 Interior Designers shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof  
5 and shall receive therefrom all the benefits and privileges upon payment of  
6 APO membership fees and dues.

7 A membership in an affiliate organization of interior designers shall not  
8 be barred.

9 ARTICLE V

10 FINAL PROVISIONS

11 SEC. 34. *Penal Clause.* – The following acts shall be punished by a  
12 fine of not less than Three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00) but not  
13 more than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) and revocation of certificate  
14 of registration or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more  
15 than three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the  
16 court.

17 (a) Local Practitioner. – (1) Practicing interior design, rendering work  
18 and consultations or rendering equivalent services as interior designer as  
19 defined in this Act or using the title “Interior Designer”, “Interior Design  
20 Consultant”, “Interior Design Stylist” or “Interior Design” in any signage,  
21 calling card, advertisement or any other mode of publicity without a valid  
22 certificate of registration and/or a valid professional identification card or a  
23 valid temporary/special permit;

24 (2) Attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and/or  
25 professional identification card of a registered interior designer or  
26 temporary/special permit issued to foreign professional;

27 (3) Abetting the illegal practice of interior design by an unregistered or  
28 unauthorized person;

1 (4) Impersonating a registered interior designer or a holder of a  
2 temporary/special permit; and

3 (5) Violating any provision of this Act or the IRR thereof.

4 (b) Foreign Practitioner/Firm. – Foreign interior design firm or  
5 individuals who shall be found to be illegally practicing their profession shall  
6 be penalized with a fine of a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of gross fees  
7 under Five million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) and a minimum of ten percent  
8 (10%) of gross fees above Five million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) in addition to  
9 payment of back taxes to the Philippine government, imprisonment of not less  
10 than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or both fine and  
11 imprisonment or permanent ban from further practice in the Philippines at the  
12 discretion of the court.

13 SEC. 35. *Enforcement.* – The Commission shall implement the  
14 concerned provisions of this Act, enforce its IRR as adopted by the Board,  
15 conduct investigations on complaints including violations of the Code of  
16 Conduct of the profession and prosecute when so warranted.

17 SEC. 36. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the PRC shall  
18 immediately include in the Commission's program the implementation of this  
19 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
20 Appropriations Act.

21 SEC. 37. *Transitory Provisions.* – The incumbent Board shall, in an  
22 interim capacity, continue to function by carrying out the provisions of this Act  
23 without the need to issue new appointments for the Chairperson and members  
24 thereof until the first Board created under this Act shall have been constituted  
25 or organized pursuant thereto.

26 SEC. 38. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board, with the  
27 approval of the Commission, shall adopt and promulgate such rules and  
28 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective

1 after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a  
2 major daily newspaper of general circulation.

3 SEC. 39. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause, provision, paragraph or  
4 part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall  
5 not affect, invalidate or impair any other part hereof, but such judgment shall  
6 be merely confined to the clause, provision, paragraph or part directly involved  
7 in the controversy in which such judgment has been rendered.

8 SEC. 40. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 8534 is hereby  
9 repealed. All other laws, decrees, executive orders and administrative  
10 issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
11 are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

12 SEC. 41. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
13 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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