

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9053, March 30, 2001]

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE

Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Landscape Architecture
Act of 2000."

ARTICLE II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* -

- a. "Scope of the practice of Landscape Architecture" refers to the act of planning, designing, specifying, supervising and giving general administration and responsible direction to the functional, orderly and aesthetic arrangement, changing and development of natural scenery and land areas to produce the most desirable effect for human use and enjoyment of various outdoor spaces which consist of landscape components and the softscape of plants such as gardens, sports fields, playgrounds, recreational grounds, camping sites, resorts, national and public parks, historical parks, squares, memorial parks, subdivisions, parks and parkways, zoological and botanical gardens, greenbelts, cemeteries, plazas, patios, yards, outdoor shopping and pedestrian malls, promenades, sidewalks, roads and walkway systems, traffic islands, easements and circles, roof and open interior gardens and courts, and other open spaces; the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the natural environment and scenery to enhance the ecological system and quality of life, such as, but not limited to:

1. The act of planning sites and outdoor spaces;
2. Recommending on and formulating landscape development policies concerning visual resources, streetscapes, the rehabilitation of inner cities, slums and historical districts, parks and recreation items which are important components of area development plans at the local, regional and national levels, and as components of area development and planning codes, zoning ordinances and other studies;

3. Consultation, oral advice and direction, conferences, evaluation, investigation, estimates, appraisals and assessment, landscape architectural and operational programming;
4. Schematic design, design studies and development, concepts and contract documents;
5. Preparation of preliminary technical, economic and financial feasibility studies of plans and project promotional services including preparation of specialized studies such as environmental impact assessments (EIA);
6. Preparation of plans, specifications, bills of materials, cost estimates, general conditions and landscape work contract documents;
7. Construction and project management; giving general management, administration, supervision, coordination and responsible direction to the planning, designing, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation, repair, orderly removal or demolition, remodeling, alteration, preservation or restoration of landscape sites or structures including all their component sites and environs intended for private or public use;
8. The practice of Landscape Architecture shall also include all other works, projects and activities which require the professional competence of Landscape Architects, including teaching of Landscape Architecture subjects given in the licensure examinations for Landscape Architects; computer-aided design; the scientific, aesthetic and orderly coordination of all works and branches of the work, systems and processes necessary in order to enhance and safeguard life, health and property, and the promotion and enrichment of the quality of life; the landscape architecture design of engineered structures or any part thereof;
9. The planning, layout and utilization of spaces within and around buildings or structures including their sites; environment and urban design, site planning, outdoor space planning, landscape architectural detailing, landscape architectural lighting, laying out of associated mechanical, electrical, sanitary, plumbing and other utility systems, equipment and fixtures; and
10. Site programming, grounds maintenance and administration, and landscape architectural conservation and restoration;

b. "Landscape Architect" is a natural person qualified to practice Landscape Architecture and who has been issued a valid certificate of registration/professional license and a valid professional identification card as such by the Board of Landscape Architecture created under this Act and the Professional Regulation Commission.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Sec. 3. Creation and Composition of a Board of Landscape Architecture. - There is hereby created a Board of Landscape Architecture, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list forwarded by the Commission. Such a list shall have

five (5) nominees for each position, chosen, ranked in the order of preference and submitted by the integrated and duly accredited national association of Landscape Architects in the Philippines. The Board shall be organized not later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 4. Qualifications of Members of the Board. - A member of the Board shall, at the time of appointment, possess the following qualifications:

- a. A natural-born citizen and a resident of the Philippines;
- b. Must be at least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- c. A holder of the degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture or its equivalent, conferred by a school, academy, college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized and/or accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- d. A registered Landscape Architect with a valid certificate of registration/professional license and an active practitioner of Landscape Architecture for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment, except the first Chair and members of the Board who shall be issued with the said certificate/license pursuant to this Act;
- e. Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to appointment, be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college or university where a regular course in Landscape Architecture is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- f. Must not, for a period of three (3) consecutive years prior to appointment, be connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted at the time of appointment; and
- g. Has never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Sec. 5. Term of Office. - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years after their appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

Each member of the Board may be re-appointed for one full term of three (3) years. Of the members of the Board first appointed under this Act, one (1) member shall be appointed and hold office as Chairperson for three (3) years, one (1) member for two (2) years and one (1) member for one (1) year. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking the proper oath prior to the performance of his/her duties.

Sec. 6. Compensation of the Board Members. - The Chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation comparable to the compensation received by existing regulatory boards with the Commission in accordance with the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000."

Sec. 7. Vacancy and Removal of Board Members. - Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the term of a member shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only. The President, upon recommendation of the Commission, after giving the concerned member an opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation to be conducted by the Commission, may remove any member of the Board on the following grounds:

- a. Neglect of duty or incompetence;

- b. Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics for Landscape Architecture;
- c. Final judgment of any criminal offense; and
- d. Manipulation or rigging of the Landscape Architecture licensure examination results, disclosure of secret and confidential information on the examination questions prior to the conduct of the said examination or tampering of grades.

Sec. 8. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* - The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders or decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission. However, the Board's decisions, resolutions or orders rendered in administrative cases which are not interlocutory shall be subject to review only if on appeal. The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. To promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- b. To supervise the registration, licensure and practice of professional Landscape Architects in the Philippines;
- c. To administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- d. To issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the certificate of registration/professional license for the practice of the Landscape Architecture profession;
- e. To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- f. To monitor the conditions affecting the practice of Landscape Architecture and adopt such measure as may be deemed proper for the enhancement and maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards of the profession;
- g. To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethics and a Code of Technical Standards for the practice of Landscape Architecture;
- h. To hear and try administrative cases involving violation of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics for Landscape Architects and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents in connection therewith;
- i. To prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program in coordination with accredited association(s) for Landscape Architects;
- j. To prepare, adopt, issue or amend the syllabi of the subjects for examinations by determining and preparing questions which shall be within the scope of the syllabus of the subject for examination, as well as through full computerization, give and correct the licensure examination subjects except landscape architectural design and planning, and release the examination results;
- k. To approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary license to practice Landscape Architecture;
- l. In coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), ensure that all higher educational instruction and offerings of Landscape Architecture comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities; and
- m. To discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the Landscape Architecture profession and the upgrading, development and growth of Landscape Architecture education in the Philippines.

Sec. 9. *Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* -The Board shall be under the administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, administrative and other investigative cases conducted by the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Board, with the approval of the Commission, shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act which shall be effective fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) major daily newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Sec. 11. *Annual Report.* - The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Commission, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of Landscape Architecture in the Philippines.

ARTICLE IV

EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION AND LICENSE

SEC. 12. *Examination Required.* - Except as otherwise specifically allowed in this Act, all applicants for registration for the practice of Landscape Architecture shall be required to undergo and pass a written technical examination as provided for in this Act subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 13. *Qualifications of Applicant for Examination.* -Every applicant for examination shall, prior to admission, establish the following requisites to the satisfaction of the Board:

- a. A citizen of the Philippines or a citizen of a foreign country/state with which the Philippines has reciprocity in the practice of Landscape Architecture;
- b. A graduate of baccalaureate or postgraduate degree in Landscape Architecture from an academic institution recognized by the CHED or accredited with either the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) or the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA);
- c. Or in lieu of the preceding, a graduate of a baccalaureate degree in Architecture from an academic institution having at least twenty (20) units of Landscape Architecture design courses or with at least five (5) years experience in the field of Landscape Architecture; or a graduate of a baccalaureate degree in Horticulture from an academic institution having at least forty (40) units of Landscape Architecture design subjects or at least five (5) years experience in the field of Landscape Architecture: *Provided*, That this shall apply within ten (10) years after the passage of this Act; and
- d. Has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.