

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8534, February 23, 1998]

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN IN
THE PHILIPPINES**

*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 Interior Design Act of 1998."

ARTICLE II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* -

a. Practice of Interior Design - The practice of interior design is the act of planning, designing, specifying, supervising and giving general administration and responsible direction to the functional, orderly and aesthetic arrangement and development of interiors of buildings and residences that shall contribute to the enhancement and safeguard of life, health and property and the promotion and enrichment of the quality of life. It shall embrace the following activities relative thereto:

1. Consultation, advice, direction, evaluation, estimates, appraisals, adjustments and operational programming;
2. Schematic designs and development, professional contract documents and construction phases;
3. Preparation of preliminary technical, economic and financial feasibility studies including preparation of specialized studies;
4. Preparation of plans, specifications, bill of materials, project cost estimates, general conditions and their contract documents;
5. Interior construction and project management; administration, supervision, coordination and direction to the planning, designing, construction, renovation, demolition, alteration, preservation or restoration of building interiors;
6. The practice of interior design shall also include all other works, projects and activities which require the professional competence of the interior designer, including teaching of interior design subjects and computer-aided design.

- b. Interior Designer - An interior designer is a natural person who has been issued a certificate of registration and a valid professional license by the Board of Interior Design.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF INTERIOR DESIGN

SEC. 3. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Interior Design.* - There is hereby created a Board of Interior Design, hereinafter called the Board, to be composed of a chairman and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, from a list of three (3) recommendees for each position, submitted by the Professional Regulation Commission hereinafter called the Commission, from a list of five (5) nominees for each position recommended by the duly accredited and integrated association of interior designers in the Philippines. The first Board shall be organized within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

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

- a. Must be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- b. Must be at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of proven integrity as evidenced by his past professional conduct;
- c. Must be holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design conferred by a school, academy, college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized and/or accredited by the Philippine government;
- d. Must be a registered interior designer with a valid certificate of registration and professional license and an active practitioner of interior design for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;
- e. Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, where a regular course in Interior Design is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in, or administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;
- f. Must not be connected with a review center or with any group giving review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination;
- g. Must be a member in good standing of the duly accredited and integrated association of interior designers in the Philippines; and
- h. Has never been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 5. *Term of Office.* - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. They may, however, be reappointed for a second term. Of the members to be appointed for the first Board, one (1) member shall hold office as Chairman 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 take the proper oath prior to assumption of duty.

SEC. 6. *Compensation of the Board Members.* - The Chairman and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by existing regulatory boards with the Professional Regulation Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Vacancy and Removal of Board Members.* - Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board within the term of a member shall be filled for the

unexpired portion of the term only. The President may remove any member of the Board on the following grounds:

- a. Neglect of duty or incompetence;
- b. Malpractice or tolerance of irregularities in the examination;
- c. Violation or tolerance of the violation of this Act or the Code of Ethics for Interior Designers; or
- d. Final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude.

SEC. 8. Powers and Duties of the Board. - The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. To adopt, promulgate and administer the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- b. To supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of professional interior designers in the Philippines;
- c. Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- d. Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the certificate of registration or professional license for the practice of the interior design profession;
- e. To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- f. Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards;
- g. Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all higher educational institutions offering interior design comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- h. To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for the practice of the interior design profession;
- i. To hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, the Code of Ethics for Professional Interior Designers 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;
- j. Prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program in coordination with the accredited and integrated association for professional interior designers;
- k. Insofar as applicable, adopt a program for the full computerization of the licensure examination;
- l. Prepare, adopt and issue the syllabi of the subjects for examination by determining and preparing the questions, which shall strictly be within the scope of the syllabi of the subject for examination;
- m. Approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary license to practice interior design; and
- n. Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the interior design profession and the upgrading, development and growth of interior design 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.* - The Board with the approval of the Commission shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations, to carry out the provisions of this Act as approved by the Commission, which shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following their publication in the Official Gazette or in a major daily newspaper of general circulation.

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 Professional Regulation 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 interior design in the Philippines.

ARTICLE IV

EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 12. *Examination Required.* - All applicants for registration for the practice of interior design 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 to the examination, establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- a. He is a citizen of the Philippines;
- b. He has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- c. He is a Bachelor of Interior Design or Master of Interior Design degree holder in a school, academy, institute, or college duly recognized by the government.

SEC. 14. *Fraudulent Application.* - The Board may suspend or revoke any certificate of registration obtained by any misrepresentation made in the application for examination.

SEC. 15. *Scope of Examination.* - The examination for interior design shall basically cover the following subjects:

1. Interior Design;
2. Furniture Design and Construction;
3. Materials of Decoration;
4. History of Arts and Interior Design;
5. Building Construction; and
6. Professional Practice and Ethics.

The said subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board so as to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.

SEC. 16. *Rating in the Board Examination.* - To be qualified as having passed the Board examination for interior designers, a candidate must obtain a weighted