

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 184, June 21, 1947]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
AND ELECTRICIANS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Article I.—Organization

SECTION 1. *Title of Act.*—This Act shall be known as the "Electrical Engineering Law."

SEC. 2. *Creation and composition of a Board of Electrical Engineering Examiners.*—Within thirty days after the approval of this Act, there shall be created a Board of Electrical Engineering Examiners to be composed of a chairman and two members to be appointed by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications.

SEC. 3. *Powers vested in Board.*—The Board of Electrical Engineering Examiners is vested with authority conformably with the provisions of this Act, to administer the provisions thereof, to issue, suspend or revoke certificates of registration for the practice of electrical engineering and to administer oaths in connection therewith.

In carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, the board may under the hand of its chairman and the seal of the board, subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance, and may also require the production of books, documents, etc., in a case involving violation of any of the provisions of this Act. Any member of the board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it. If any person shall refuse to obey any subpoena so issued, or shall refuse to testify or produce any book, document, etc., the board may present its petition to the Court of First Instance, setting forth the facts, and thereupon such court shall, in a proper case, issue its subpoena to such person, requiring its appearance before such court and there to testify or produce such books, papers, documents, etc., as may be deemed necessary and pertinent to the board. Any person failing or refusing to obey the subpoena or order of the said court may be proceeded against in the same manner as for refusal to obey any other subpoena or order of the court.

The board shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Act, shall from time to time, look into conditions affecting the practice of electrical engineering in the Philippines and, whenever necessary, recommend to the Secretary of Public Works and Communications the adoption of such measures as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and standards in the practice of electrical engineering in the Philippines and thus safeguard public welfare, life, health and property.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of board members.*—Each member of the board shall, at the time of his appointment: (1) Be a citizen of the Philippines and a resident thereof;

(2) Hold the degree of B.S.E.E. or M.S.B.E. or the equivalent thereof conferred by an engineering school or college legally chartered and of good standing;

(3) Be legally qualified to practice professional electrical engineering for at least ten years and actually in active practice on the date of his appointment;

(4) Not be a member of the faculty of any school, college or university where a regular course in electrical engineering is taught, nor have pecuniary interest in such institution.

SEC. 5. *Term of office.*— The members of the board shall hold office for a term of three years after their appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified. The 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 prior to entering upon the performance of his duties.

SEC. 6. *Executive officer of the board.*—The Commissioner of Civil Service shall be the executive officer of the board, shall conduct the examinations given by the board and shall designate any subordinate officer of the Bureau of Civil Service to act as Secretary of the board. All records and minutes of the board including all examination papers, shall be kept by the Bureau of Civil Service.

SEC. 7. *Removal of board members.*—The Secretary of Public Works and Communications may remove any member of the board for continued neglect of duty or incompetency, or for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, after having given the member concerned an opportunity to defend himself in the proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 8. *Compensation of the board.*—The members of the board shall each receive as compensation the sum of five pesos each applicant examined or registered without examination for any of the first three grades provided under section eleven hereof; and three pesos for each applicant examined or registered without examination for the grade of Master Electrician. Any electrical engineer in the Government of the Philippines appointed as member of the board shall receive the compensation herein provided in addition to his salary. All fees shall be received by the officer designated by competent authority as collecting officer for the Bureau of Civil Service, and such officer shall pay all authorized expenditures of the board including the compensation provided for in this Act for the members of the board.

SEC. 9. *Rules and regulations.*— (a) The board may, with the approval of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications and with the advice and consent of the Commissioner of Civil Service, adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry the provision of this Act into effect. Penal provisions may be included in said regulations, the violation of which shall be punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred pesos or by imprisonment for not more than two months, or both in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 10. *Annual report.*—The board shall submit an annual report to the Secretary

of Public Works and Communications after the close of each fiscal year giving a detailed account of its proceedings during the year and making such recommendations as it may deem proper.

Article II.—Registration and Examination

SEC. 11. *Grades.*—Certificates of registration for the practice of electrical engineering shall be of four grades and in the order of rank as follows:

(1) Professional electrical engineer, (2) Associate electrical engineer, (3) Assistant electrical engineer, and (4) Master electrician.

SEC. 12. *Inhibitions against the practice of electrical engineering.*—Unless exempt from registration, no person shall practice or offer to practice electrical engineering in the Philippines without having previously obtained a certificate of registration from the Board of Electrical Engineering Examiners.

SEC. 13. *Definitions of terms.*—

(a) Electrical Engineering: A person shall be deemed to be practicing electrical engineering or rendering electrical engineering service within the meaning and intent of this Act who shall, for a fee, salary or other reward or compensation paid to himself or to another person, or even without such reward or compensation render or offer to render professional electrical engineering service in the form of consultation, investigation, valuation, planning, designing or preparation of specifications for any electrical construction, installation or project; or take charge of the sale or distribution of any electric supply or utilization equipment requiring engineering calculations and/or application of engineering principles and data; or take charge of or supervise any electrical constructions, or installation, or the operation, tending and maintenance of any electric generating plant: *provided, however,* That it shall be unlawful for any person to use in connection with his name or otherwise use, assume or advertise any title tending to convey the impression that he is a professional electrical engineer or associate electrical engineer or assistant electrical engineer or master electrician or that he is engaged in the practice of electrical engineering unless he is duly licensed and registered as such in conformity with the provisions of this Act.

(b) The term electric supply equipment as used in this Act, shall mean any equipment which produces, modifies, regulates, controls or safeguards a supply of electric energy.

(c) The term utilization equipment as used in this Act, shall mean equipment, devices and connected wiring which utilize electric energy for any purpose and are not a part of electric supply equipment or electric generating plant.

(d) The term electric generating plant as used in this Act, shall mean the complete establishment or system for the production, transmission and/or distribution of electric energy and shall include all the electric supply equipments and lines used for these purposes: *Provided, however,* That if the complete establishment includes one or more substations which are or may be interconnected, requiring personal supervision for their proper operation, each substation shall be considered as a separate

electric generating plant for purposes of compliance with the provisions of this Act: *Provided, finally,* That the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any electric generating plant of the United States Army or Navy, or of the National, provincial, city or municipal government, or to any electric generating plant on conveyances used in connection with land and air transportation.

(e) The term electric supply line as used in this Act, shall mean those conductors and their necessary supporting, or containing structures which are located entirely outside of buildings and are used for transmitting a supply of electric energy.

(f) The term substation as used in this Act, shall mean any building, room or separate place which houses electric supply equipment for tying with the generating plant and the interior of which is accessible, as a rule, only to properly qualified persons.

(g) The term kilowatt or KVA capacity or simply capacity as used in this Act, when applied to electric generating plants shall mean the total full capacity in kilowatts or kilovolt-amperes of all the electric supply equipments installed to produce electric energy for transmission and/or distribution as stamped on the name plate attached to each generator. In the absence of a nameplate rating, the kilowatt or KVA capacity shall be determined by reference to the manufacturer or by calculation or other method of determination conforming with the latest standards of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers or their equivalent.

(h) The term voltage or volts as used in this Act, shall mean the highest effective voltage between any two conductors of the circuit concerned, except that in grounded multiwire circuits not exceeding 750 volts between outer conductors, it shall mean the highest effective voltage between any wire of the circuit and the ground. In ungrounded circuits not exceeding 750 volts, voltages to ground shall mean the voltages of the circuit.

SEC. 14. *Exemptions from registration.*—Registration shall not be required of the following persons:

(a) Officers or enlisted men of the United States Army or Navy, or employees of the Federal Government of the United States, while engaged in the practice of electrical engineering for said Army and Navy or Government of the United States;

(b) Employees and officials of the Government of the Philippines whether National, provincial, city or municipal while engaged in the practice of electrical engineering for said Government;

(c) Electrical engineers, or erection or guarantee engineers called in for consultation or for a specific design, installation or project, provided that their practice shall be limited only to the particular work for which they were called and such engineers are legally qualified to practice electrical engineering in their own state or country in which the requirements and qualifications for Obtaining a certificate of registration are not lower than those specified in this Act;

(d) Foreigners employed as technical officers, professors or consultants in such special branches of electrical engineering as may, in the judgment of the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, be necessary and indispensable for the country;

- (e) Engineering students, apprentices and other persons employed or acting as subordinates of/or undergoing training under a person holding a valid certificate of registration under this Act;
- (f) Any person in charge of or supervising the operation, tending and maintenance of an electric generating plant for private use employing voltages not exceeding 250 volts: *Provided, however,* That the owner or operator shall be required to have the plant or establishment periodically inspected at intervals of not more than one year by a registered professional engineer or associate electrical engineer or by a National, city, provincial or municipal authority exercising legal jurisdiction over electrical installations.

SEC. 15. *Examination required.*—Except as otherwise specifically allowed, all applicants for registration for the practice of electrical engineering shall be required to undergo a technical examination as provided in this Act.

SEC. 16. *Qualifications of applicant for Professional Electrical Engineer.*— Any person applying for examination and for a certificate of registration as professional electrical engineer shall; prior to admission to examination, establish to the satisfaction of the board:

- (a) That he is at least twenty-five years of age;
- (b) That he is of good reputation and moral character;
- (c) That he has completed the high school course or its equivalent; That he has graduated in electrical engineering from a university, school, college, academy, or institute duly constituted and recognized as such by the Government or the state in which it is established after completing a resident collegiate course of not less than four years and, in addition has a specific record of four years or more of active practice in electrical engineering of responsible character indicating that the applicant is competent to practice professional electrical engineering in its full scope as defined in this Act; or
- (e) That he has completed at least two years of resident collegiate engineering training in a university, school, college, academy or institute duly constituted and recognized as such by the Government or the state in which it is established and, in addition, has a specific record of eight years or more of active practice in electrical engineering of responsible Character indicating that the applicant is competent to practice professional electrical engineering in its full scope as defined in this Act. In considering the qualifications of applicants, being in charge of electrical engineering teaching in an engineering school, university, college, academy or institute duly constituted and recognized as such by the Government or the state in which it is established may be regarded as active practice of electrical engineering of responsible character.

SEC. 17. *Qualifications of applicant for Associate Electrical Engineer.*—Any person applying for examination and for a certificate of registration as associate electrical engineer shall, prior to admission to examination, establish to the satisfaction of the board:

- (a) That he is at least twenty-five years of age;
- (b) That he is of good reputation and moral character; and
- (c) That he has completed the high school course or its equivalent;