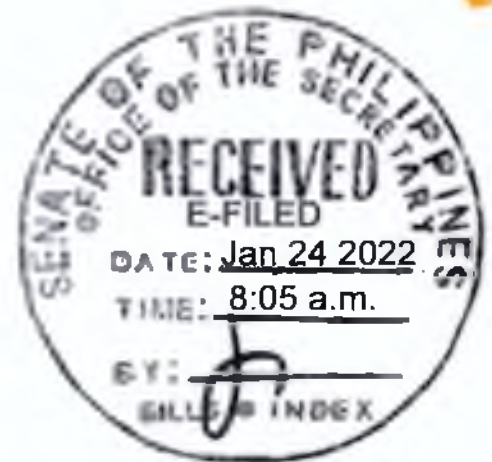


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Third Regular Session

]]]



SENATE

S.B. No. 2481

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Any country aiming to stimulate growth and development most certainly always relies on building infrastructures to encourage investors and increase government spending on infrastructures projects. Building infrastructures towards sustainable growth and development, however, does not rely on a single industry or profession alone.

A country that builds a resilient and sustainable community needs to and must rely on the collective action and competence of several professionals who work in the field of built environment, such as (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.

Clearly, Built Environment Professionals play a very important role in nation-building and development. Thus, it is necessary that we find ways to ensure that all

practicing Built Environment Professionals meet the minimum requirements to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public, foster their continuing professional growth and advancement, encourage and enhance collaboration, and continually review and improve the standards of regulation, professional service, and practice. This will be best addressed by establishing a Council which shall have an administrative supervision over these Built Environment Professions.

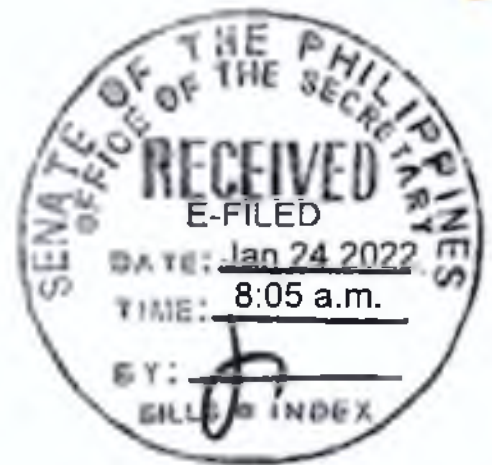
Accordingly, the proposed measure aims to create a Council of the Built Environment ("Council") that will exercise powers and functions pertaining to policy advisory, oversight, and collaborative platform among the different built environment professions with the primary objective of professionalizing and promoting synergy and cooperation among the built environment professions.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



WIN GATCHALIAN

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SENATE

S.B. No. 2481

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**AN ACT
CREATING THE "COUNCIL FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT,"
APPROPRIATING 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

6 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance and
7 contributions of the Built Environment Professions in nation-building and development.
8 Hence, the State shall ensure that all practicing Built Environment Professional meets
9 the minimum requirements to safeguard life, health, and property, foster their
10 continuing professional growth and advancement, encourage and enhance
11 collaboration, and continually review and improve the standards of regulation,
12 professional service, and practice towards Filipino Built Environment Professionals
13 becoming socially and environmentally responsible and globally competitive.
14

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

3 a) *Built Environment* means the field within which the registered professionals
4 practice their profession;

5 b) *Built Environment Professions* means the following professions –

6 i. Architecture;

7 ii. Interior Design;

8 iii. Landscape Architecture;

9 iv. Environmental Planning;

10 v. Geodetic Engineering;

11 vi. Civil Engineering;

12 vii. Electrical Engineering;

13 viii. Mechanical Engineering;

14 ix. Sanitary Engineering;

15 x. Master Plumber;

16 xi. Electronics Engineering; and

17 xii. Real Estate Services.

18 c) *Council* means the Council for the Built Environment created under Section
19 8 of this Act;

20 d) *Professional* means a person who is registered as such under any of the
21 Professional Regulatory Laws;

22 e) *Professional Regulatory Laws* refers to the legal framework governing the
23 practice of specific profession; the legal charter creating and governing the
24 various Boards, defining their functions and providing for the rules and
25 policies that govern the practice of a specific profession;

26 f) *Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to the
27 concerned Board and PRC Accredited Integrated Professional Organization
28 for a given profession which is specifically mandated by the provision of the
29 PRL to integrate the professionals into one national organization and where
30 membership therein by professionals is automatic and mandatory;

- 1 g) *Accredited Professional Organization (APO)* refers to the PRC Accredited
2 Professional Organization where membership therein by professionals is
3 only voluntary;
- 4 h) *CHED* refers to the Commission on Higher Education;
- 5 i) *MRA* refers to Mutual Recognition Agreements between or among states;
- 6 j) *PRC* refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;
- 7 k) *PRB* refers to the Professional Regulatory Board.
- 8

9 **ARTICLE II**

10 **ORGANIZATION OF MULTIPARTITE COUNCILS FOR**
11 **BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONS**

12 *SEC. 4. Creation of Multipartite Councils for the Built Environment Professions.*

13 - A Multipartite Council for each of the Built Environment Professions (herein referred
14 to as "MC") is hereby created and shall be considered an attached agency to the PRC.

15

16 *SEC. 5. Objectives of the MC.* - The objectives of the MC are as follows:

- 17 a) Provide a platform to discuss policy concerns in the education, internship,
18 professional regulation, and continuing professional development; and
- 19 b) Promote and encourage collaboration between the different stakeholders in
20 the regulation and practice of the Built Environment Professions.
- 21

22 *SEC. 6. Functions, Powers and Duties of the MC.* - The MCs shall perform the
23 following functions:

- 24 a) Monitor local and international benchmarks in professional education,
25 internship, regulation and practice;
- 26 b) Study and evaluate educational innovations that shall lead to curriculum
27 development;
- 28 c) Regularly review the Subjects for Examination;
- 29 d) Develop and regularly review the Table of Specifications for the Licensure
30 Examination;

- 1 e) Develop and regularly review Internship/Guidelines in the areas such as
2 diversification of experience, duties and responsibilities of Mentors and
3 collaborative work;
4 f) Develop and regularly review Continuing Professional Development
5 Guidelines;
6 g) Develop and regularly review of Standards of Professional Practice in areas
7 such as Scope of Services, Schedule of Fees, and inter-professional
8 collaboration; and
9 h) Develop and regularly review professional education, internship, regulation
10 and practice standards in reference to the Philippine Qualifications
11 Framework Act.
12

13 **SEC. 7. *Composition of the MC.*** - The MC shall be composed of the following –

- 14 a) Chairperson of the Professional Regulatory Board;
15 b) President of the AIPO;
16 c) President of the Academic Organization (Deans and Heads of Schools) duly
17 accredited by the PRC upon the recommendation of the CHED;
18 d) One (1) representative from Private Practice; and
19 e) One (1) representative from Government Practice.
20

21 **ARTICLE III**

22 **ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

23 **SEC. 8. *Creation of the Council of the Built Environment.*** – The Council of the
24 Built Environment (herein referred to as the "Council") is hereby created and shall be
25 an attached agency to the PRC.
26

27 **SEC. 9. *Objectives of the Council.*** -The Council is an overarching body that has
28 the following objectives -

- 29 a) Advise on policy matters concerning the interests of the public in the built
30 environment, including but not limited to:

- 1 i. sustainable development;
- 2 ii. human resource development; and,
- 3 iii. health, safety and environmental protection standards;
- 4 b) Oversee the regulation of Built Environment Professions, providing guidance
- 5 on:
- 6 i. Required qualifications;
- 7 ii. Standards of education;
- 8 iii. Training and competence;
- 9 iv. Promotion of professional status; and
- 10 v. Uniform application of standards and guidelines set by the PRC; and
- 11 c) Facilitate collaboration and cooperation of the Built Environment Professions
- 12 with:
- 13 i. Other Built Environment Professions;
- 14 ii. Foreign Professionals; and
- 15 iii. Non-professional creatives and artists.

16

17 SEC. 10. *Mandate, Functions, and Powers of the Council.* - The Council shall

18 exercise the following powers and functions:

- 19 a) Act in an advisory capacity on any matter concerning the built environment,
- 20 including, but not limited to resource utilization, socio-economic development,
- 21 public health and safety, and the environment;
- 22 b) Provide advice and consultation on national policy that could impact on the
- 23 built environment, human resource development in relation to the built
- 24 environment professions, and the recognition of new professions;
- 25 c) Comment, if necessary, on all proposed legislation impacting on health and
- 26 safety in the built environment;
- 27 d) Ensure the consistent application of policy for the Built Environment
- 28 Professions with regard to:
 - 29 i. Registration requirements of registered professionals;
 - 30 ii. Key elements of competence testing of registered professionals;

- 1 iii. Codes of conduct;
- 2 iv. Delineation of scope of services;
- 3 v. The principles upon which to base the Standards of Professional
- 4 Practice and Schedule of Fees;
- 5 vi. Standards of health, safety and environmental protection within the
- 6 built environment;
- 7 vii. The accreditation of APOs/AIPOS for the built environment professions,
- 8 by approving the accreditation framework giving due recognition of the
- 9 characteristics of each Built Environment Profession;
- 10 viii. Establishment of education and training standards in terms of the
- 11 Philippine Qualifications Framework Act;
- 12 e) Act as an appeal body with regard to matters referred to it in terms of the
- 13 PRLs regulating the Built Environment Professions;
- 14 f) Receive and assimilate the annual reports of the PRBs, AIPOs and Academic
- 15 Sectors and submit a summary to the Commissioner.
- 16 g) Promote coordination between the Commission on Higher Education and the
- 17 Academic Sectors for the Built Environment Professions in relation to the
- 18 accreditation of education institutions;
- 19 h) Coordinate the establishment of MRAs for Built Environment Professionals,
- 20 providing guidelines on the practice of Filipino Professionals abroad as well
- 21 as Foreigner Professionals in the Philippines;
- 22 i) Foster and encourage collaboration and cooperation between Built
- 23 Environment Professionals by setting up guidelines, terms of reference and
- 24 standards;
- 25 j) Establish terms of engagement to facilitate the efficient and mutually
- 26 beneficent collaboration of Built Environment Professional with Non-
- 27 Professional creatives and artists.

28

29 SEC. 11. *Composition of Council.* - The Council shall be composed of ex-officio

30 members and regular members.

1 The ex officio members of the Council are:

2 (1) Chairperson of the PRC;

3 (2) Chairperson of the CHED;

4 (3) Chairpersons of the PRBs of all Built Environment Professions;

5 The regular members of the Council are one (1) representative from each of the
6 Multipartite Councils (non-PRB) of all Built Environment Professions.

7
8 **SEC. 12. *Appointment of Members of the Council.*** The ex-officio members of the
9 Council, except the Chairperson of the PRC, who shall serve as Chairperson of the
10 Council, may designate their respective next-in-rank officials as permanent alternates
11 whose acts are considered as the acts of their principals.

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

24
25 **SEC. 13. *Removal From Office.*** - The Chairperson of the Council may remove a
26 member of the Council from office on account of misconduct or inability to perform
27 his or her duties after due process.

28
29 **SEC. 14. *Disqualification, Vacation and Filling of Vacancies.*** - A person may not be
30 appointed as a member of the Council if that person:

- 1 a) Is not a Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- 2 b) Has been convicted of a criminal involving moral turpitude;
- 3 c) Has in terms of this Act been found guilty by the Council of improper conduct;
- 4 or
- 5 d) Is not a registered professional as embodied in this Act.

6 A member of the Council must vacate his or her office if he or she -

- 7 a) Becomes disqualified from being appointed as a member of the Council;
- 8 b) Resigns by written notice addressed to the Chairperson;
- 9 c) Has, without leave of the Council, been absent for more than two consecutive
- 10 meetings of the Council;
- 11 d) Ceases to be permanently resident in the Philippines; or
- 12 e) Is removed from office under Section 13 of this Act.

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

18
19 **SEC. 15. *Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.*** - The Council shall be chaired by
20 the Chairperson of the PRC.

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

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

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

30

1 SEC. 16. *Meetings of the Council.* - The Council shall meet at least once every six
2 (6) months, or as often as necessary at the call of the Chairperson or majority of the
3 members. Members of the Council who cannot physically attend or vote at Council
4 meetings can participate and vote through remote communication technologies or
5 other electronic means, such as videoconferencing, teleconferencing, or other
6 alternative modes of communication that allow them reasonable opportunities to
7 participate. A majority of the incumbent members of the Council shall constitute a
8 quorum to do business.

9
10 SEC. 17. *Executive Committee.* - The Council shall have an Executive Committee
11 consisting of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, and not more than three other
12 members elected by the Council. The Council may appoint alternate members to the
13 Executive Committee.

14 A member of the Executive Committee shall have a term of one year, and shall
15 remain in such position until his or her successor has been elected and duly qualified;
16 Provided that said member may be re-elected to serve as such on the Executive
17 Committee.

18 No two members of the Executive Committee shall come from the same Built
19 Environment Profession.

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

22
23 SEC. 18. *Powers of the Executive Committee.* - The Executive Committee shall
24 exercise the following powers:

- 25 a) Ensure that the resolutions of the Council are carried out;
26 b) Consider any matter delegated to it by the Council in terms of any law, and to
27 advise the Council in connection therewith;
28 c) Exercise or perform any power, duty or function delegated to it by the Council;
29 and

1 d) Report at every ordinary meeting of the Council on the activities of the
2 Executive Committee.

3
4 SEC. 19. *Committees of Council.* - The Council may establish any Committee to:

- 5 a) Assist it in the performance of its functions; or
6 b) Investigate and make recommendations on matters relating to any of its
7 functions.

8 The Council shall designate a Chairperson for any such Committee and determine
9 the quorum for meetings. The Council shall also determine the terms of reference of
10 the Committees.

11
12 SEC 20. *Secretariat and Staff.* - The Council shall establish a Secretariat; and may
13 employ such staff, as it may deem necessary, for the carrying out of its functions, on
14 such conditions, including the payment of remuneration and allowances, as it may
15 determine, and may dismiss any person so appointed.

16
17 SEC 21. *Delegation of Powers.* - The Council may, delegate any power, duty or
18 function conferred or imposed on it by this Act to -

- 19 a) A Committee established under Section 19;
20 b) The Executive Committee elected under section 17;
21 c) The Chairperson of the Council or any member of the Council; or
22 d) Any officer of the Council.

23
24 SEC. 22. *Reporting.* - The Council shall furnish the Commissioner an Annual
25 Report on the performance and exercise of the functions and affairs of the Council
26 including, but not limited to:

- 27 a) a report regarding the execution of the functions of the Council;
28 b) a report regarding the envisaged strategies of the council; and
29 c) such other information as the Commissioner may from time to time
30 determine.

1 *SEC. 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

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

8

9 *Approved,*