

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **5547**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The passage of Republic Act No. 9266 or the Architecture Act of 2004 was a very welcome development for the field of architecture. It not only benefited the industry but also the general public by protecting them from illegitimate architects.

Despite the passage of the law, there are still some areas where the law needs to be improved on to further strengthen the practice of the architecture profession. This may be accomplished by including specific architectural terms that will distinguish the practice of architecture from other professions as well as require that architectural designs, plans and documents prepared exclusively and signed by an architect are required before any building permit may be issued.

For the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


RUFUS B RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (R.A. No. 9266), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ARCHITECTURE ACT OF 2004"

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

SECTION 1. SEC. 3(1) of Republic Act No. 9266 is hereby amended to include the following terms after paragraph (14) to be denominated as paragraphs (15), (16), (17), and (18):

"SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1) xxx

14) xxx

15) ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN - ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DESIGN" IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE ILLUSTRATED CONCEPT THAT FOCUSES ON THE FEATURES OR ELEMENTS OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AND UNIFIES THEM INTO A COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL WHOLE, FOLLOWING A GENERALLY ACCEPTED APPROACH TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES, ABIDING BY SET NORMS AND CONSIDERING THE ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES OF UTILITY, STRENGTH AND BEAUTY, EXCLUSIVELY PREPARED BY ARCHITECT;

16) ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENT - ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DOCUMENT" AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, ARCHITECTURAL PLAN, DRAWING, SPECIFICATION, TECHNICAL DOCUMENT AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE PREPARED, SIGNED AND SEALED EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;

17) ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT - MEANS A MANDATED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY ANY REGULATING GOVERNMENT ENTITY BASED ON ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE

STATE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES;

18) ARCHITECTURAL PLAN – ALSO REFERRED TO AS “PLAN” AS USED IN THIS ACT MEANS THE LATERAL SECTION OR DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES SHOWING FEATURES OR ELEMENTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SUCH AS THE FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS, CROSS AND LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS, PERSPECTIVE, REFLECTED CEILING PLAN, SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS, AND OTHER ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS PREPARED, SIGNED AND SEALED EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;

SECTION 2. Sec. 20 (2) of Republic Act No. 9266 is hereby amended by adding a new provision which read as follows:

Sec. 20. Seal, Issuance and Use of Seal. –xxx

(2-A) No officer or employee of this Republic, chartered cities, provinces and municipalities, now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of buildings, shall accept or approve any architectural plans or specifications which have not been prepared EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT and submitted in full accord with all the provisions of this Act. Nor shall any payments be approved by such officer for any work, the plans and specifications for which have not been so prepared EXCLUSIVELY and signed by an Architect.

UPON APPROVAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS, THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED; PROVIDED, HOWEVER THAT NO BUILDING PERMIT OR SIMILAR IMPORT SHALL BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, PLAN, AND DOCUMENT PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY AND SIGNED BY AN ARCHITECT.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, presidential proclamations, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or declared unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,