

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4846



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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

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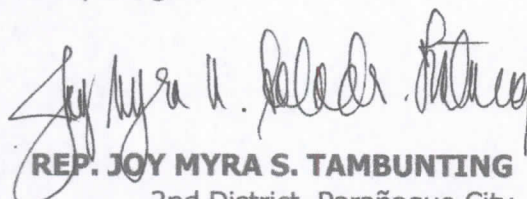
#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Architecture is the art and science that incorporates aesthetics and ever emerging technologies in designing and creating habitable spaces and experiences. As a professional, an architect is both an artist responsible for endowing a certain structure with beauty and a practitioner that design and supervises the erection of structures. An architect works towards ensuring the sustainability of the built space and the welfare and needs of the community.

It is imperative for the State to reeducate society about the roles and functions of architects, and what they do for society. This proposed measure seeks to strengthen and protect the architecture profession to prevent illegal practitioners from copying, adopting, and implementing their work. This bill shall include specific architectural terms that will distinguish the practice of architecture from other professions; and require that architectural designs, plans and documents prepared exclusively and signed by an Architect are required before any building permit may be issued.

This proposed measure is based on House Bill No. 23 which was filed by Hon. Francis Gerald Abaya during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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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) ARCHITETCURAL 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 IMPRT 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,*