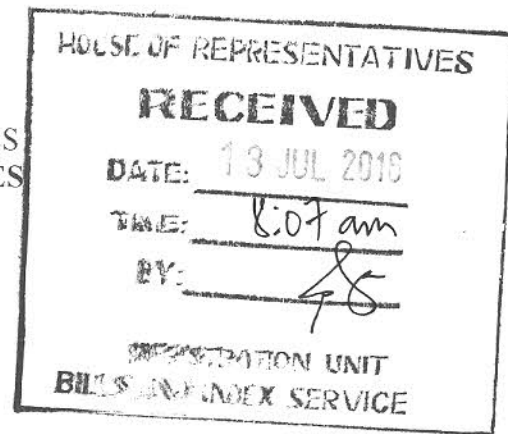


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1510



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

Explanatory Note

This bill was originally introduced as House Bill No. 5127 by the undersigned during the 16th Congress.

Architects have been practicing their art and science since antiquity. The profession as we know it today has undergone extensive growth and change. The profile of architects' work has become more demanding, clients' requirements and technological advances have become more complex, and social and ecological imperatives have grown more pressing. These changes have spawned changes in services and collaboration among the many parties involved in the design and construction process.

As professionals, architects have a primary duty of care to the communities they serve. This duty prevails over their personal interest and the interests of their clients

Members of the architectural profession are dedicated to standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence, and thereby bring to society unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct.

Given the public interest in a quality, sustainable built environment and the dangers and consequences associated with the development of that environment, it is important that architectural services are provided by properly qualified professionals for the adequate protection of the public."¹

The recent natural calamities that the country experienced have amplified the need for resilient, sustainable and well-planned communities. These kinds of communities will greatly mitigate the effects of natural calamities in the lives of the Filipinos. Undoubtedly, architects will play a crucial role in the development of new and existing communities to be resilient, sustainable and well planned.

The passage of Republic Act No. 9266, otherwise known as the Architecture Act of 2004, is a significant step in protecting and assuring the public that only Architects can offer and provide architectural services. It is envisioned to raise the level of

¹ Union Internationale des Architects (UIA), UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice. <http://www.aia.org/aiauemp/groups/aia/documents/pdf/aia075164.pdf>

Philippine architecture in order to develop a built environment that is resilient, sustainable and well planned, conducive for the advancement of the Philippine culture to help promote the country as a center for business, culture and tourist destination in Asia.

After a decade since its passage, however, the need to strengthen R.A. 9266 and harmonize other laws affecting the practice of architecture has become evident. R.A. 9266 has not been fully implemented by government agencies due to the fact that other laws have varying incompatible provisions. Consequently, the teal intent of R.A. 9266 in protecting and assuring the public chat only Architects can offer and provide architectural services has not been realized.

In addition, the impending ASEAN integration has also manifested the need to prepare the Filipino architect's qualifications to practice architecture in other jurisdictions.

To protect public interest and to comply with the provisions of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement, this bill seeks to strengthen the architecture profession in the country through the amendment and repeal of specific provisions and the introduction of architectural terms that will delineate the practice of architecture from other professions.

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


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
TO STRENGTHEN THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT 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:*

1 **SECTION 1.** Sec. 3 (1) of Republic Act No. 9266 is hereby amended to
2 include the following terms:

3 **(3) ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS – ALSO REFERRED TO AS**
4 **“DESIGN(S)” AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE**
5 **ILLUSTRATED CONCEPT THAT FOCUSES ON THE FEATURES**
6 **OR ELEMENTS OF BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE**
7 **UTILIZATION OF THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND**
8 **SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND**
9 **UNIFIES THEM INTO A COHERENT AND FUNCTIONAL**
10 **WHOLE, FOLLOWING A GENERALLY ACCEPTED APPROACH**
11 **TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES(S), ABIDING BY SET NORMS**
12 **AND CONSIDERING THE ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES OF**
13 **UTILITY, STRENGTH AND BEAUTY, EXCLUSIVELY**
14 **PREPARED BY AN ARCHITECT;**

15
16 **(4) ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS- ALSO REFERRED TO AS**
17 **“DOCUMENTS” AS USED IN THIS ACT, MEANS THE**
18 **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS, ARCHITECTURAL PLANS,**
19 **DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, TECHNICAL DOCUMENT AND**
20 **OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE PREPARED, SIGNED AND**
21 **SEALED EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;**

22
23 **(5) ARCHITECTURAL PERMIT – MEANS A MANDATED**
24 **DOCUMENT ISSUED BY ANY REGULATING GOVERNMENT**
25 **ENTITY BASED ON ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS**
26 **AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING(S) OR**

1 **STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE STATE AND**
2 **SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH BUILDING(S) OR**
3 **STRUCTURE(S);**

4
5 **(6) ARCHITECTURAL PLANS- ALSO REFERRED TO AS**
6 **“PLANS” AS USED IN THIS ACT MEANS THE LATERAL**
7 **SECTION OR DIMENSIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF A**
8 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMET OR REDEVELOPMENT OF**
9 **BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) AND THE UTILIZATION OF**
10 **THE SITE AND SPACE WITHIN AND SURROUNDING SUCH**
11 **BUILDING(S) OR STRUCTURE(S) SHOWING FEATURES OR**
12 **ELEMENTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SUCH AS THE**
13 **FLOOR PLANS, ELEVATIONS, CROSS AND LONGITUDINAL**
14 **SECTIONS, PERSPECTIVE, REFLECTED CEILING PLAN, SITE**
15 **DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS, AND**
16 **OTHER ARCHITECURAL DETAILS PREPARED, SIGNED AND**
17 **SEALED EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT;**

18
19 **Section 2.** Sec. 20 (2) of Republic Act No. 9266 is hereby amended by
20 adding a new provision which reads as follows:

21 *Sec. 20. Seal, Issuance and Use of Seal.- xxx*

22 (2-A) No officer or employee of this Republic, chartered cities, provinces
23 and municipalities, now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of laws,
24 ordinances or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of
25 buildings, shall accept or approve any architectural plans or specifications
26 which have not been prepared **EXCLUSIVELY BY AN ARCHITECT**
27 and submitted in full accord with all the provisions of this Act. Nor shall
28 any payments be approved by such officer for any work, the plans and
29 specifications for which have not been so prepared **EXCLUSIVELY** and
30 signed by an Architect.

31 **UPON APPROVAL OF THE ARCHITECTURAL**
32 **DOCUMENTS, THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL**
33 **PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO**
34 **BUILDING PERMIT OR SIMILAR IMPORT SHALL BE ISSUED**
35 **WITHOUT THE CORRESPONDING ARCHITECTURAL**
36 **DESIGNS, PLANS AND DOCUMENTS PREPARED**
37 **EXCLUSIVELY AND SIGNED BY AN ARCHITECT.**

38
39 **Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Professional
40 Regulatory Board or Architecture (PRBoA), the United Architects of the
41 Philippines (UAP), together with the Department of Public Works and Highways
42 (DPWH), and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
43 (HUDCC) is tasked to prepare the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)
44 required for the implementation of this Act. The IRR shall be promulgated within
45 ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

1 **Section 5. *Separability Clause.***- If, for any reason, any section or
2 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional , or invalid, the other sections
3 and provisions, which are not affected by it, shall continue to be in full force and
4 effect.

5
6 **Section 6. *Repealing Clause.***- Sec. 43 of Republic Act No. 9266 is hereby
7 repealed. All laws, decrees, executive orders, agreements, rules and regulations or
8 parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or
9 modified accordingly.

10
11 **Section 7, *Effectivity.***- The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 complete publication in either the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspaper of
13 general circulation.

Approved,