



Republic of the Philippines  
Professional Regulation Commission  
Manila



Professional Regulatory Board of Environmental Planning  
Resolution No. 01  
Series of 2019

**CLARIFICATION ON THE FIVE-YEAR PRESCRIPTIVE PERIOD FOR  
THOSE COVERED UNDER SECTION 18 (B) (4), (5) AND (6) OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10587 OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ACT OF 2013**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 10587, also known as the Environmental Planning Act of 2013, is the law which regulates the practice of the environmental planning profession in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Section 18 of RA No. 10587 provides that applicants for the Environmental Planning Licensure Examination (EPL) must be holders of any of the following degrees from schools, colleges, or universities duly recognized and accredited by CHED:

1. Graduate in environmental planning, urban/city and regional planning, or town and country planning or its equivalent;
2. Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Planning, city and regional planning or its equivalent, [and with at least one (1) year of on-the-job training as required herein];
3. Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Planning, city planning or urban and regional planning, or town and country planning, or its equivalent, [and with two (2) years of on-the-job training as required herein];
4. Masters or doctorate degree in either architecture, engineering, ecology, economics, geography, geology, public administration, business administration, sociology, social science, law, environmental science, environmental management, development management, natural resources planning and development, and related disciplines acceptable to the Board, [and with three (3) years of on-the-job training as required herein];
5. Bachelor's degree in architecture, engineering, economics, public administration, law, social work and community development or sociology and other related disciplines acceptable to the Board [and with five (5) years of on-the-job training as required herein]; and
6. For incumbent holders of planning positions in the national, regional or local government offices or agencies including government-owned and -controlled corporations and have been engaged in development planning functions acceptable to the Board: *Provided*, That they are holders of professional civil service eligibility and they have undergone at least eighty (80) hours of in-service training or distance learning in developmental planning from a government agency, school or institution recognized by proper authorities.

Provided, that persons falling under paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) shall be allowed to take the EPL within the next five (5) years from the effectivity of R.A. No. 10587 or until 28 May 2018 only.

**WHEREAS**, Section 34 of RA No. 10587 further provides that after the lapse of five (5) years from its effectivity, *only registered and licensed environmental planners shall be appointed to the position of heads and assistant heads of groups, departments, divisions in government offices, agencies, bureaus or instrumentalities thereof, including government-owned and -controlled corporations, provinces, cities and municipalities, and such other positions which require the knowledge, skills and competence and qualifications of registered and licensed environmental planners*. Appointments made in violation hereof shall be considered null and void;



**WHEREAS**, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued Memorandum Circular No. 10 (s 2017) which amended the Qualification Standards of the Head Local Planning and Development Coordinator position in the local government units to conform with the provisions of RA No. 10587. Further, CSC MC (s 2017) provides for the following stipulations: (i) that temporary appointments for covered positions are allowed only until 21 June 2018 in the absence of qualified eligible personnel as certified by the appointing authority; and (ii) that those holding the positions prior to the effectivity of RA No. 10587 will no longer be disturbed, however, they cannot be promoted to higher Environmental Planning positions unless they possess the required eligibility;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has approved the Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSG) for the BS in Environmental Planning only in 2017. At present, there are only two (2) schools offering the course, Miriam College and St. Louis University;

**WHEREAS**, there is a dearth of environmental planners in the country, with only around four thousand (4,000) registered with the Commission since year 1995 up to 2018. In the 2018 EPLE, only forty percent (40%) passed out of the almost five thousand (5,000) examinees;

**WHEREAS**, given the stipulated five-year period limitation, several groups<sup>1</sup> filed with the Board appeals to allow the non-degree holders of Environmental Planning who failed in the 2018 EPLE to take a special licensure examination;

**WHEREAS**, the Board is cognizant of the reality that the shortage of environmental planners might derail the delivery of environmental planning services, especially at the local government level;

**WHEREAS**, it has been noted that the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 10587<sup>2</sup> was only issued on July 11, 2014, and which took effect on October 1, 2014 after its publication. This IRR provided for the requirements to be complied with by applicants for the EPLE, including those covered by Section 18 (B) (4), (5) and (6);

**WHEREAS**, a self-executing provision is defined as one that is *effective immediately* without need of intervening court action, ancillary legislation or other type of implementing action.<sup>3</sup> Section 18 of RA No. 10587 on the Qualifications for the EPLE is deemed to be not self-executing because such provision cannot be carried out without supplying the details for its implementation;

**WHEREAS**, the Board is of the view that inasmuch as Section 18 of RA No. 10587 became executory only after the effectivity of its IRR, then it follows that the five (5) year prescriptive period therein stated shall commence only from October 01, 2014.

**WITH THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS**, the Board hereby **RESOLVES** to clarify that the deadline of the five (5) year period prescribed for those covered by Section 18 (B) (4), (5) and (6) of RA No. 10587 shall fall on October 02, 2019 or five (5) years after the effectivity date of the IRR of RA No. 10587.

This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

<sup>1</sup> Regional Land Use Committee of the Central Luzon Regional Development Council (RDC III), League of Local Planning and Development Coordinators, Inc; and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planner Chapters

<sup>2</sup> Board Resolution No. 2014-04

<sup>3</sup> <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com>

Let copies of this Resolution be furnished the U.P. Law Center.

Done this 27th day of Feb. 2019 in the City of Manila.

  
**JOSEFINA M. RAMOS**  
Chairman

  
**LIRIO T. ABUYUAN**  
Member

  
**DOLORES A. ENDRIGA**  
Member

ATTESTED:

  
**ATTY. LOVELIKA T. BAUTISTA**  
Chief, PRB Secretariat Division

APPROVED:

  
**TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.**  
Chairman

  
**YOLANDA D. REYES**  
Commissioner

  
**JOSE Y. CUETO, JR.**  
Commissioner

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE  
OFFICIAL <sup>PHILSTAR</sup> GAZETTE: MAR. 1, 2019  
DATE OF EFFECTIVITY: MAR. 17, 2019