



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 823

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**Introduced by Rep. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As stated no less in the preamble or explanatory clauses of the National Building Code of the Philippines, the country's accelerating economic and physical development coupled with urbanization and population growth, makes imperative the formulation and adoption of a national building code which shall embody up-to-date and modern technical knowledge on building design, construction, occupancy and maintenance. Section 2 of the Building Code also declares that it is the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare, consistent with the principles of sound environmental management and control; and to this end, make it the purpose of the Code to provide for all buildings and structures, a framework of minimum standards and requirements to regulate and control their location, site, design, quality of materials construction, use occupancy and maintenance.

It is sad to note however, that the noble intentions of the Building Code and the valuable technical information embodied in the law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, which I understand is in the stage of amendments to make them conform to changing conditions, especially on climate change, are not properly conveyed and inculcated in the minds of the students in the academe in whose hands the future of our country on matters concerning the design and construction of buildings be it a one storey, medium rise or high rise depend. This is due to the fact that the Building Code is not prescribed as one of the subjects in courses in civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, sanitary engineering and mechanical engineering which are the professional disciplines primarily concerned in building design, construction, occupancy and maintenance.

Casualties arising from calamities such as the Manila Resort World casino building could have been avoided or at least minimized had there been strict compliance to the requirements of the Building Code.

It is therefore absolutely necessary that the State in the exercise of its police power enact a law through the legislature to make mandatory the integration of the National Building Code of the Philippines as one of the subjects in the course of civil engineering, electrical engineering, sanitary engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture.

  
**REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pampanga



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**AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS IN BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SANITARY ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 102 — Declaration of Principles of the National Building Code of the Philippines provides that it is hereby declared the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare, consistent with the principles of sound environment management and control, and to this end, make it the purpose of this Code to provide for all buildings and structures, a framework of minimum standards and requirements to regulate and control their location, site, design, quality of materials, construction, use, occupancy, and maintenance;

**WHEREAS**, Section 103 of the Code-Scope and Application, provides that the provisions of this Code shall apply to the design, location, sitting, construction, alteration, repair, conversion, use, occupancy, maintenance, moving, demolition of, and addition to public and private buildings and structures, except traditional indigenous family dwellings;

**WHEREAS**, recent events, the most prominent of which is the fire in the Manila Resort World casino building, clearly demonstrate that the loss of human lives from the ensuing fire could have been prevented or at least minimized had the designer and constructor of the building strictly complied with the requirements of the Building Code;

**WHEREAS**, the designers, construction supervisors/managers and building constructors are professionals who are graduates of either civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, sanitary engineering and architecture;

**WHEREAS**, it therefore becomes highly imperative that these professionals be made fully aware of the provisions of the Philippine National Building Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations during the formative years in the pursuit of their chosen profession which has to do with building construction;

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

**Section 1. Title** – This Act shall be known as the Integration of the National Building Code of the Philippines as One of the Subjects in the Curriculum for Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering and Architecture.

**Section 2.** Starting school year 2019-2020 the Commission on Higher Education is hereby directed to include the National Building Code of the Philippines as one of the subjects in the curriculum for Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering and Architecture.

**Section 3. Separability Clause** – If any provision or part hereof is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions.

**Section 4. Repealing Clause** – All laws, decrees, provisions of charters, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or other parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 5. Effectivity**- This Act shall take effect in the first semester if school year 2018-2019 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.