

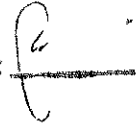
Fifteenth Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 SEP 28 10:57

SENATE

S.B. No. 2538

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The position of provincial, city or municipal social welfare and development officer is a very crucial one. He/she not only formulates measures for the approval of the local sanggunian, but he/she also provides technical assistance and support to either the governor or the mayor in carrying out various measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provisions of adequate facilities relative to social welfare and development services as provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991.

As officer-in-charge of the office on social welfare and development services, he/she develops and implements, upon approval by the governor or mayor, plans and strategies pertaining to social welfare programs and projects. He/she not only identifies the basic needs of the needy, the disadvantaged and the impoverished and develops and implements appropriate measures to alleviate their problems, but also provides relief and appropriate crisis intervention for victims of abuse and exploitation by being in the frontline of service delivery, particularly those which have to do with immediate relief and assistance during the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters and calamities.

Thus, there is an urgent need to professionalize the delivery of various basic social services by making the qualifications of these social welfare and development officers equivalent and comparable with their counterparts in the local government units. Setting certain parameters as to who would qualify as social welfare and development officers and making mandatory their appointment in municipal governments are steps in the right direction.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, BOOK 3, TITLE 5, ARTICLE 13,
SECTION 483, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 483, Article 13, Title 5, Book 3 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"*SEC. 483. Qualifications, Powers and Duties* - (a) No person shall be appointed social welfare and development officer unless he/**SHE** is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character [,] **AND** a duly licensed social worker [or a holder of college degree preferably in sociology or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent]. He/**SHE** must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city social welfare and development officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal social welfare and development officer.

"The appointment of a social welfare and development officer is mandatory for the provincial, [and] city [,] and [optional for] municipal government."

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or the application thereof to any person, circumstance or transaction is held invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions of this Act or the applicability of such provision to other persons, circumstances or transactions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. - The provisions of all other laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,