

SENATE
S. B. No. 3353

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Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature".

Several other provisions are scattered in the Constitution in Articles II and XIII giving particular attention to the protection of the environment and conservation of our natural resources *vis a vis* sustainability of our food sources, national development and promotion of health for the benefit of the citizens of the Philippines.

The trend during the past decades is to stimulate economic development which has proven to be beneficial for Filipinos both in the urban and rural areas. But progress does not come without a price. We all bore witness to the ills that the environment is susceptible of suffering as a by-product of development, be it economic, industrial, and even agricultural growth.

Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 was enacted for the purpose of providing and reaffirming the autonomy of local government units with the end in view of each local government unit being empowered and capable to spur development within its constituency.

By mandating the appointment of an Environment and Natural Resources Officer for the intended local government units, this bills seeks to reconcile development and growth with the State's constitutionally mandated duty to safeguard the environment for future generations to come. In doing so, the powers and duties of the Environment and Natural Resources Officer provided in R.A. 7160, with due regard to the legislative intent of preservation and rehabilitation of the environment, shall be exercised by the designated officers in fruition.

Ultimately, the responsibility of the State mentioned in Sec. 16 Art. II of the 1987 Constitution is not only a concern of our local government units, but of the citizenry and the national government as well, thus, partnership among all in achieving such goal is most necessarily desired.

Passage of this bill into law is therefore recommend.


RAMON "BONG" REVILLA, JR.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 484(a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1991"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 484(a) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended,
otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby further
amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 484. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. - (a) x x x "The
appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is [optional]
MANDATORY for the provincial, city, CAPITAL TOWNS and FIRST AND
SECOND CLASS municipal governments [.] INCLUDING THE
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF PATEROS IN METROPOLITAN
MANILA: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF SAID
OFFICER IS OPTIONAL FOR THIRD TO SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN MANILA."

SEC. 2. Sections 443(b), 454(b) and 463(b) of the Local Government
Code of 1991 insofar as the appointment of municipal, city and provincial
environment and natural resources officer respectively, and any law, decree,
executive order and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby
amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.