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SENATE

S. No. 1832

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(In substitution of Senate Bills Nos. 204, 947 and 1017)

Prepared by the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Finance; Ways and Means; and Local Government with Senators Go, Sotto, Revilla, Dela Rosa, Cayetano, Tolentino, and Angara as authors

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

TITLE I

TITLE AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "BFP Modernization Act of 2020."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, with the active support of the community.

Toward this end, the State shall formulate plans and programs to enhance and modernize the Bureau of Fire Protection, with expanded capability, responsive to the demands of the times.

1 TITLE II

2 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BFP

3 SEC. 3. Section 54, Chapter IV of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended
4 to read as follows:

5 **Section 54. Powers and Functions.** -- [~~The Fire Bureau shall be~~
6 ~~responsible for the prevention and suppression of all destructive fires~~
7 ~~on buildings, houses and other structures, forest, land transportation~~
8 ~~vehicles and equipment, ships or vessels docked at piers or wharves or~~
9 ~~anchored in major seaports, petroleum industry installations, plane~~
10 ~~crashes and other similar incidents, as well as the enforcement of the~~
11 ~~Fire Code and other related laws.~~

12 ~~The Fire Bureau shall have the power to investigate all causes of fires~~
13 ~~and, if necessary, file the proper complaints with the city or provincial~~
14 ~~prosecutor who has jurisdiction over the case.]~~

15 **THE BUREAU OF FIRE**
16 **PROTECTION (BFP) or FIRE BUREAU SHALL HAVE THE**
FOLLOWING POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:

17 (a) **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVENTION AND**
18 **SUPPRESSION OF ALL DESTRUCTIVE FIRES ON**
19 **BUILDING, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES,**
20 **INCLUDING THOSE FOUND IN ECONOMIC ZONES, AGRO-**
21 **INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC ZONES, FREE PORTS, AND**
22 **SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES, IT PARKS/CENTERS,**
23 **TOURISM ECONOMIC ZONE, AND OTHER SIMILAR**
24 **ENTITIES, FOREST, LAND TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES**
25 **AND EQUIPMENT, SHIPS OR VESSELS DOCKED AT PIERS**
26 **OR WHARVES OR ANCHORED IN MAJOR SEAPORTS,**
27 **PETROLEUM INDUSTRY INSTALLATIONS, AIRPORTS,**
28 **PLANE CRASHES AND OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS;**

- 1 (b) RESPOND TO DISASTERS, WHETHER MAN-MADE OR
2 NATURAL, AND RESPOND TO OTHER EMERGENCIES,
3 INCLUDING RESCUE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL,
4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT), CHEMICAL,
5 BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR AND EXPLOSIVE
6 (CBRNE) MATERIALS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES
- 7 (c) ISSUE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND
8 PRESCRIBE STANDARDS, SCHEDULE OF FEES, FIRE
9 SERVICE CHARGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES
10 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF
11 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
12 FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER RELATED
13 LAWS;
- 14 (d) REQUIRE THE BUILDING OWNER TO SUBMIT PLANS AND
15 SPECIFICATIONS OF THE SAID BUILDING AND OTHER
16 PERTINENT DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY
17 BFP AND EVALUATE THE SAME TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
18 WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514 AND OTHER APPLICABLE
19 CODES AND STANDARDS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, A FIRE
20 SAFETY EVALUATION CLEARANCE SHALL BE ISSUED AS A
21 PREREQUISITE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE BUILDING
22 PERMIT;
- 23 (e) INVESTIGATE ALL CAUSES OF FIRES AND IF NECESSARY,
24 FILE THE PROPER COMPLAINTS WITH THE CITY OR
25 PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR WHO HAS JURISDICTION
26 OVER THE CASE;
- 27 (f) ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICE WHICH SHALL
28 FORMULATE POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS OF THE
29 BFP, AND MONITOR, EVALUATE AND COORDINATE THE
30 OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRE SERVICE
31 UNITS AT THE REGIONAL LEVELS IN COORDINATION
32 WITH THE CENTRAL OFFICE;

- 1 (g) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN REGIONAL FIRE
2 LABORATORY AND RESEARCH AND TESTING FACILITIES
3 WITH COMPLETE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE;
- 4 (h) CONDUCT TRAINING OF ITS PERSONNEL AND OFFICERS
5 INCLUDING FIRE VOLUNTEERS, FIRE SAFETY
6 PRACTITIONERS AND FIRE VOLUNTEER
7 ORGANIZATIONS, PERTAINING TO FIRE PREVENTION
8 AND SUPPRESSION, INVESTIGATION, DISASTER
9 PREPAREDNESS, RESCUE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL,
10 HAZMAT, CBRNE, AND OTHER OPERATIONS;
- 11 (i) CONDUCT MONTHLY FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS
12 AND INFORMATION DRIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
14 THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG);
- 15 (j) ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR TRANSACTION FOR THE
16 ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, USE,
17 ADMINISTRATION, LEASE, DISPOSITION, OR
18 ACCEPTANCE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY IN ITS
19 NAME;
- 20 (k) REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
21 POLICE, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, OR ANY
22 OTHER AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING
23 GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED
24 CORPORATIONS, IN EXERCISING ITS POWERS AND
25 FUNCTION, SUCH ASSISTANCE MAY INCLUDE THE USE
26 OF THE AGENCY'S PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES UPON
27 APPROVAL BY THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED;
- 28 (l) PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS THE PRESIDENT
29 OR THE SECRETARY OF DILG MAY ASSIGN.
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1 **TITLE III**

2 **BFP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM**

3 **SEC. 4. *BFP Modernization Program.*** – The BFP, in coordination with the DILG,
4 shall establish and implement the BFP Modernization Program geared towards the
5 capability enhancement of its personnel and acquisition of state-of-the-art fire
6 prevention, fire suppression, fire investigation, emergency medical and rescue
7 services apparatus, which shall consist of the following components:

8 (a) Fire Protection Service – The modernization program shall include the
9 establishment of Fire Protection Service including the establishment of rescue
10 hotlines in all local government units;

11 (b) Force Restructuring and Organizational Development – The BFP shall develop
12 the BFP into a compact, efficient, responsive and modern with the capability
13 to implement Republic Act No. 9514. Within ninety (90) days from the
14 promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act, the
15 BFP shall recommend and submit to the Secretaries of the DILG and the
16 Department of Budget and Management the revised organizational structure
17 and staffing pattern for officers and personnel of the BFP. The BFP shall
18 design and establish a qualifications upgrading program for the BFP officers
19 and personnel in accordance with the Civil Service Commission’s rules and
20 regulations;

21 (c) Capability, Material, and Technology Development – The modernization
22 program shall upgrade existing fire protection equipment and services and
23 acquire of new equipment for fire protection: *Provided,* That the acquisition of

1 new equipment shall be synchronized with the phase-out of uneconomical
2 and obsolete major equipment and weapons systems in the BFP inventory;

3 (d) Specialized Services Development – The modernization program shall
4 establish specialized fire protection services within the BFP such as but not
5 limited to high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft and airport fires,
6 chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical services. It shall
7 also include establishment of a Search and Rescue Force and HAZMAT units in
8 every Region and City, as well as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in every
9 first to 3rd class municipalities and cities;

10 (e) Human Resource Development – The modernization program shall include
11 trainings for BFP personnel, and establish training facilities, hire
12 internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if experts of equal
13 qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate the personnel
14 development program. A newly appointed uniformed personnel of the BFP
15 shall undergo a Mandatory Training Program.

16 **SEC. 5. *Submission to Congress.*** – Within one hundred eighty (180) days
17 from the effectivity of this Act, the BFP, in consultation with the Secretaries of the
18 DILG, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Finance,
19 shall submit the BFP Modernization Program to Congress.

20 **SEC. 6. *Multi-Year Contract and Other Contractual Arrangement.*** – (a)
21 The BFP, pursuant to the BFP Modernization Program, projects and appropriations
22 approved by Congress, may subject to the approval of the President, provisions of
23 existing laws and regulations including those of the Commission on Audit and under

1 such terms and conditions most favorable to the government, enter into a multi-year
2 contracts, lease, and lease purchase agreement;

3 (b) For multi-year contracts, Congress shall, upon issuance of a multi-year
4 obligational authority by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), make
5 the corresponding appropriation for the ensuing fiscal years: *Provided*, That the BFP
6 and the DBM shall issue the implementing guidelines to ensure consistency with
7 the PNP Modernization Program and existing guidelines in the contracting of multi-
8 year projects;

9 (c) The Chief of BFP shall submit to Congress, through the Chairpersons of the
10 Senate Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and Finance and the
11 Chairpersons of the House Committees on Public Order and Safety and
12 Appropriations, copies of these multi-year contracts and other
13 agreements/arrangements to enable Congress to appropriate funds.

14 **SEC. 7. *Period of Implementation.*** – The BFP Modernization Program shall be
15 implemented over a period of three (3) years effective upon the date of the approval
16 of this Act: *Provided*, That payment for amortization of outstanding multi-year
17 contract, obligations incurred under the modernization program may extend beyond
18 this period.

19 **SEC. 8. *Appropriation.*** – The amount needed for the initial implementation of
20 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the BFP.
21 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this
22 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **TITLE III**

2 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days
4 from the effectivity of this Act, the BFP and DILG, and other concerned government
5 agencies and stakeholders shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for
6 the effective implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act
8 is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions which are not
9 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

10 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules,
11 regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are
12 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
14 after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
15 circulation.

Approved,