



S E N A T E

S. No. 1832

---

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS; FINANCE; WAYS AND MEANS; AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH SENATORS GO, SOTTO, REVILLA, DELA ROSA, TOLENTINO, CAYETANO, ANGARA, POE, PACQUIAO, ZUBIRI, RECTO, VILLANUEVA, MARCOS AND VILLAR AS AUTHORS

---

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 TITLE I

2 TITLE AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

3 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “BFP  
4 Modernization Act”.

5 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the  
6 State to ensure public safety through the prevention and



1 entities, forests; land transportation vehicles and  
2 equipment; ships or vessels docked at piers or wharves or  
3 anchored in major seaports, petroleum industry  
4 installations; and airports; and in the event of plane  
5 crashes and other similar incidents: *Provided*, That the  
6 BFP shall collaborate with various local government units  
7 (LGUs) on fire protection services, such as fire prevention  
8 and preparedness, response planning, and information  
9 sharing, as well as on handling fire management and  
10 operational issues;

11 (b) Respond to natural or man-made disasters and  
12 other emergencies, including the conduct of rescue  
13 operations, medical emergency, and containment of  
14 Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT), Chemical, Biological,  
15 Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) materials:  
16 *Provided*, That the BFP shall actively coordinate and  
17 cooperate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
18 Management Council and the LGUs on disaster response,  
19 risk reduction and management, in line with Republic Act  
20 No. 7160 or The Local Government Code of 1991 and

1 Republic Act No. 10121 or The Philippine Disaster Risk  
2 Reduction and Management Act of 2010;

3 (c) Issue implementing rules and regulations, and  
4 prescribe standards, schedule of fees, fire service charges  
5 and administrative penalties in connection with the  
6 enforcement of Republic Act No. 9514 otherwise known as  
7 The Fire Code of the Philippines and other related laws;

8 (d) Require building owners to submit plans and  
9 specifications of their respective building and other  
10 pertinent documents as listed in the Bureau's Citizen's  
11 Charter pursuant to Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of  
12 Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery  
13 Act of 2018 and evaluate the same to ensure compliance  
14 with Republic Act No. 9514 and other applicable codes and  
15 standards. For this purpose, a fire safety evaluation  
16 clearance shall be issued as a prerequisite for the issuance  
17 of the building permit in accordance with Republic Act No.  
18 11032;

1 (e) Investigate all causes of fires, and if necessary, file  
2 the proper complaints with the city or provincial  
3 prosecutor who has jurisdiction over the case;

4 (f) Maintain regional offices which shall formulate  
5 and implement policies, plans and programs of the BFP,  
6 with prior consultation from the LGUs and monitor,  
7 evaluate and coordinate the operations and activities of the  
8 fire service units at the regional levels in coordination with  
9 the Central Office;

10 (g) Establish and maintain fire laboratory and  
11 research and testing facilities with complete equipment  
12 one for Luzon, one for the Visayas and one for Mindanao;

13 (h) Conduct training of its personnel and officers  
14 including fire volunteers, fire safety practitioners and fire  
15 volunteer organizations, pertaining to fire prevention and  
16 suppression, fire inspection and clearance, investigation,  
17 disaster preparedness, rescue, emergency medical,  
18 HAZMAT, CBRNE, and other operations: *Provided*, That  
19 the conduct of such training must be in coordination with  
20 the LGUs;

1 (i) Conduct monthly fire prevention campaigns and  
2 information drive in partnership with the LGUs, the  
3 Department of The Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
4 the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and economic  
5 zones;

6 (j) Develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive  
7 fire safety and protection program that aims to strengthen  
8 the capacity of the National Government and LGUs, to  
9 build the fire resilience of communities, and to  
10 institutionalize measures for reducing disaster risk, and  
11 enhancing disaster and emergency preparedness and  
12 response capabilities. That BFP shall also empower  
13 existing community-based fire volunteer brigades and  
14 encourage the creation of the same in all local government  
15 units.

16 (k) Enter into contracts, agreements or similar  
17 undertaking for the acquisition, ownership, possession,  
18 use, administration, lease, disposition, or acceptance of  
19 real or personal property in its name;

1 (l) Request assistance from the Philippine National  
2 Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines, or any  
3 government agency or instrumentality, including  
4 government-owned and/or controlled corporations and  
5 LGUs, in exercising its powers and functions, including the  
6 use of the agency's personnel and facilities upon approval  
7 of the head of the agency concerned;

8 (m) Perform such other functions as the President or  
9 the Secretary of DILG may assign.

10 TITLE III

11 BFP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

12 SEC. 4. *BFP Modernization Program.* – The BFP, in  
13 coordination with the DILG, shall establish and implement  
14 the BFP Modernization Program geared towards the  
15 capability enhancement of its personnel and acquisition of  
16 state-of-the-art fire prevention, fire suppression, fire  
17 investigation, emergency medical and rescue services  
18 facilities and equipment, which shall consist of the  
19 following components:

1 (a) Fire Protection Service – The Modernization  
2 Program shall include the establishment of Fire Protection  
3 Service including the establishment of rescue hotlines in  
4 all LGUs: *Provided*, That priority shall be given to  
5 municipality with no existing fire protection services;

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



1 (c) Capability, Material, and Technology Development –

2 Upon the effectivity of this Act, the existing fire protection  
3 equipment and services of the BFP shall be upgraded  
4 through the acquisition of new and modern equipment  
5 including, but not limited to, vehicles, and personal  
6 protective equipment: *Provided*, That the acquisition of  
7 new equipment shall be synchronized with the phase-out of  
8 uneconomical and obsolete major equipment and systems  
9 in the BFP inventory;

10 (d) Specialized Services Development – The

11 Modernization Program shall establish specialized fire  
12 protection services such as, but not limited to, high-rise  
13 building fires, forest fires, aircraft and airport fires,  
14 chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical  
15 services. It shall also include establishment of a Search  
16 and Rescue Force and HAZMAT units and fire and arson  
17 investigation unit in every region and city, as well as  
18 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in every municipality  
19 and city: *Provided*, That each EMS unit to be established  
20 shall be comprised of ambulance with adequate medical

1 equipment, and qualified and trained personnel such as,  
2 but not limited to, ambulance crew and drivers;

3 (e) Human Resource Development – The  
4 modernization program shall include the development of a  
5 comprehensive training program for BFP personnel and  
6 BFP volunteers, including mandatory training for new  
7 entrants and newly-appointed personnel of the BFP, and  
8 BFP volunteers, and establishment of training facilities.

9 The BFP shall encourage and promote volunteerism  
10 and shall develop guidelines for the enlistment and  
11 training of the BFP volunteers. Internationally accredited  
12 training consultants and advisers may be hired after the  
13 determination of the non-availability of a Filipino who is  
14 competent, able, and willing to provide the same expertise,  
15 in order to accelerate the Personnel Development Program.

16 The BFP, in coordination with the Department of  
17 Health (DOH) and Technical Education and Skills  
18 Development Authority (TESDA), shall provide necessary  
19 trainings for its EMS, which include, but limited to,  
20 infection control and exposure, emergency vehicle

1 response, incident rehabilitation, critical incident stress  
2 management, response to HAZMAT, response to Mass  
3 Casualty Incidents (MCI), response to vehicle accidents,  
4 among others.

5       SEC. 5. *Submission to Congress.* – Within one  
6 hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act,  
7 the BFP, in consultation with the Secretaries of the DILG,  
8 the Department of Budget and Management, and the  
9 Department of Finance, shall submit the BFP  
10 Modernization Program to Congress. It shall contain the  
11 following:

12       (a) Personnel strength and inventory of facilities and  
13 equipment of the BFP;

14       (b) Modernization projects and activities under the  
15 program to be undertaken and the particular component  
16 and corresponding objective to which such projects relate to;

17       (c) Priorities, schedules and phases of implementation  
18 of modernization projects and activities; and

19       (d) Estimated average cost of each modernization  
20 project or activity to be undertaken.

1           SEC. 6. *Multi-Year Contract and Other Contractual*  
2 *Arrangement.* – (a) The BFP, pursuant to the BFP  
3 Modernization Program, projects and appropriations  
4 approved by Congress, may, subject to the approval of the  
5 President, provisions of existing laws and regulations  
6 including those of the Commission on Audit and under  
7 such terms and conditions most favorable to the  
8 government, enter into a multi-year contracts or other  
9 contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers and  
10 contractors in the implementation of this Act;

11           (b) For multi-year contracts, Congress shall, upon  
12 issuance of a multi-year obligational authority or  
13 contractual authority by the Department of Budget and  
14 Management (DBM), make the corresponding  
15 appropriation for the ensuing fiscal years: *Provided*, That  
16 the BFP and the DBM shall issue the implementing  
17 guidelines to ensure consistency with the BFP  
18 Modernization Program and existing guidelines in the  
19 contracting of multi-year projects;

1           (c) The Chief of BFP shall submit to Congress,  
2 through the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees  
3 on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and Finance and  
4 the Chairpersons of the House Committees on Public Order  
5 and Safety and Appropriations, copies of these multi-year  
6 contracts and other agreements/arrangements to enable  
7 Congress to appropriate funds.

8           SEC. 7. *BFP Modernization Trust Fund.* – The trust  
9 fund created pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No.  
10 9514, otherwise known as the “Revised Fire Code of the  
11 Philippines of 2008”, shall be transferred to a new trust  
12 fund to be known as the BFP Modernization Trust Fund. It  
13 shall be administered by the Chief of the BFP in  
14 accordance with existing government budgeting,  
15 accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

16           The BFP Modernization Trust Fund shall be used  
17 exclusively for the implementation of the BFP  
18 Modernization Program as provided for in this Act,  
19 including all expenses necessary for the procurement of  
20 facilities, machineries, equipment and services: *Provided,*

1 That expenses chargeable against the trust fund shall  
2 exclude salaries and allowances for BFP personnel.

3 The BFP Modernization Trust Fund shall be sourced  
4 from the following:

5 (a) Appropriations for the revised BFP Modernization  
6 Program as provided in Section 10 of this Act;

7 (b) Eighty percent (80%) share of the BFP from all  
8 taxes, fees, and fines collected pursuant to Republic Act  
9 No. 9514, otherwise known as the “Revised Fire Code of  
10 the Philippines of 2008”;

11 (c) Proceeds from the disposal of excess and/or  
12 uneconomically repairable equipment and other movable  
13 assets of the BFP;

14 (d) Funds from budgetary surplus, if any, as may be  
15 authorized by Congress;

16 (e) Loans, grants, bequests, or donations coming from  
17 local and foreign sources, specifically earmarked to be used  
18 for the BFP Modernization Program; and

19 (f) All interest income that accrues to the trust fund.

1           The amount allocated shall be released to the BFP  
2 based on the objectives of the BFP Modernization Program  
3 as provided for in this Act: *Provided*, That fund releases  
4 charged against the trust fund shall not be subject to any  
5 ceiling by the DBM.

6           SEC. 8. *Local Equity in the BFP Modernization*  
7 *Program.* – City and municipal governments shall be  
8 authorized to use their respective share from all taxes,  
9 fees, and fines collected pursuant to Republic Act No. 9514,  
10 otherwise known as the “Revised Fire Code of the  
11 Philippines of 2008”, for the following purposes:

- 12           (a) Operation and maintenance of local fire stations;
- 13           (b) Construction, repair, rehabilitation and  
14 improvement of local fire stations;
- 15           (c) Acquisition of lots and right-of-way for local fire  
16 stations;
- 17           (d) Acquisition or installation of firefighting  
18 equipment, including fire trucks and aerial ladders;

1 (e) Procurement of personal protective equipment,  
2 self-contained breathing apparatus and other firefighting  
3 tools; and

4 (f) Other relevant programs, projects and activities as  
5 may be identified by the BFP in accordance with Section 4  
6 subsections (a), (c) and (d) of this Act.

7 LGUs shall be authorized to implement development  
8 programs and projects complementary and supplementary  
9 to the BFP Modernization Program, to be charged against  
10 the allocation for local development projects as provided in  
11 Section 287 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as  
12 the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended:  
13 *Provided*, That development programs and projects  
14 implemented by LGUs in accordance with this Act shall be  
15 included in their respective local development plans and  
16 annual investment programs.

17 SEC. 9. *Period of Implementation.* – The BFP  
18 Modernization Program shall be implemented over a  
19 period of ten (10) years effective upon the date of the  
20 approval of this Act: *Provided*, That payment for



1 amortization of outstanding multi-year contract,  
2 obligations incurred under the modernization program  
3 may extend beyond this period.

4       SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to  
5 implement the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from  
6 the BFP Modernization Trust Fund as provided in Section 8.

7       In addition, the annual appropriations for the BFP  
8 Modernization Program shall include amount necessary to  
9 support the funding requirements for all modernization  
10 projects submitted to Congress. The funds to be  
11 appropriated to implement the provisions of this Act shall  
12 be included in the General Appropriations Act under the  
13 BFP.

14       SEC. 11. *Strict Application of Ease of Doing Business*  
15 *and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.* –  
16 Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11032 and its implementing  
17 rules and regulations shall be strictly enforced in the  
18 processing of any application or renewal of fire safety  
19 permits, clearances and certificates.



1           SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees,  
2 ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts  
3 thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
4 repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,