EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Second Regular Session



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SENATE S. No. _2065_

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF THE MUNICIPAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING SECTION 443 (a) AND SECTION 490 (a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When the Local Government Code was crafted years ago, the governance system was far different from what it is today. The growing needs of the people now call for a more dynamic kind of governance.

Under the Local Government Code¹, the appointment of a General Services Officer (GSO) is mandatory for the provincial and city governments. However, the law is silent with respect to its appointment in the municipal government.

A General Service Officer is one of the most important lifelines of the local government. If we go by the core functions of the GSO, we can see that a local government cannot function effectively and efficiently

¹ ARTICLE XX

The General Services Officer

The appointment of a general services officer is mandatory for the provincial and city governments.

Section 490. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. -(a) No person shall be appointed general services officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree on public administration, business administration and management from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in general services, including management of supply, property, solid waste disposal, and general sanitation, of at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city general services officer, and at least three (3) years in the case of the municipal general services officer.

without the support of a general service officer. A GSO provides diverse range of routine general services such as: (a) supply and procurement works, (b) building and ground maintenance, (c) inventory of government property and vehicles and (d) other duties and functions as may be prescribed by the Local Government Code.

While it is understandable that any creation of new position is being construed to as an unnecessary burden, a municipal general services officer could help accelerate the services needed because he or she could disentangle the congestions in the bureaucracy by ensuring the the logistical and administrative support systems are in place for all other departments especially at the municipal level.

The undersigned believes that the time has come for General Service Officer to be considered as part of the organizational structure of the local government at the municipal level. In this way, there will be a reinvigorated delivery of general services and a more attuned policy direction for all local government units.

For these reasons, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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

SECTION 1. Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2, Section 433 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ххх

Sec. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. – (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer, [and] a municipal civil registrar AND A MUNICIPAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER.

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SECTION 2. Book III, Title Five, Article 20, Section 490 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"x x x

Section 490. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. - (a) No person shall be appointed general services officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree business administration administration, public and on management from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in general services, including management of supply, property, solid waste disposal, and general sanitation, of at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city general services officer, and at least three (3) years in the case of the municipal general services officer.

The appointment of a general services officer is mandatory for the provincial, [and] city, AND MUNICIPAL governments.

x x x"

SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of
the Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary rules and
regulations for the implementation of this Act.

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SEC. 3. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared unconstitutional and invalid, the other parts or provisions of this Act not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
rules or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,

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