EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. **2252**



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION OF A LOCAL HOUSING OFFICE IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to undertake a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. The creation of a local housing office in every city and municipality would significantly help in achieving the said State policy.

The local housing office shall be in charge of the housing plans, programs and policies of their respective locality. This will ensure the proactive and efficient implementation of the housing programs at the local level, which in turn would lead to a faster delivery of basic services to our people, especially the homeless and underprivileged.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

Senator

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE CREATION OF A LOCAL HOUSING OFFICE IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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Act."

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Local Housing Office

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Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to undertake a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. Toward this end, the State shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure by creating local housing offices responsible for the planning and implementation of their housing programs.

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Section 3. Local Housing Office; Creation; Functions. — There shall be created a Local Housing Office in all cities and municipalities in charge of the housing plans, programs and policies of their respective locality, and shall have the following

functions:

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- (a) Prepare, formulate or update the local shelter plan, and assist the city/municipal development councils in the formulation of their respective comprehensive land use plans;
- (b) Advise and recommend to the concerned *Sanggunian* and local chief executive policies concerning matters relative to housing and resettlement;
- (c) Oversee and coordinate government activities relative to consultation, relocation, and resettlement of underprivileged and homeless urban or rural poor dwellers in cases where evictions and demolitions affecting them are necessary and allowed by existing laws;
- (d) Ensure that the balanced housing requirements as provided in RA 10884 and its implementing rules and regulations are implemented and enforced;
- (e) In coordination with other offices within the LGU, monitor the nature and progress of land development of projects, as well as housing construction in the case of house and lot packages, to ensure their faithfulness to the approved plans and specifications thereof, and impose appropriate measures to enforce compliance therewith;
- (f) Conduct an inventory of all lands within their respective localities and update the same every three (3) years, in accordance with Section 7 of R.A. 7279 and guidelines issued for the purpose;
- (g) Identify the sites for socialized housing, subject to the requirements prescribed by Section 8 of R.A. 7279 and guidelines issued for the purpose;
- (h) Ensure the registration of underprivileged and homeless urban and rural dwellers as socialized housing beneficiaries under Sections 16 and 17 of R.A. 7279: *Provided,* That the Local Housing Office shall assume the functions of city or municipal registration committees as constituted under the implementing rules and regulations of the same sections;
- (i) Ensure the enforcement of laws, policies and programs on housing and shelter as provided for under laws, rules and regulations;
- (j) Assist in the organization of housing and shelter cooperatives, associations or organizations in establishing linkages with government agencies and NGOs involved in the promotion and integration of the concept of shelter

- development and generation, taking into account the livelihood of the people and other community activities;
- (k) Provide technical and other forms of assistance to existing housing associations or cooperatives to ensure their viability as economic enterprises and social organizations;
- (I) Coordinate with government agencies and instrumentalities performing functions which may affect housing and urban development; and
- (m) Perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

Section 4. Local Housing Officer. – The local housing office shall be headed by a Local Housing Officer who must be a citizen of the Philippines, of good moral character, and a holder of a college degree either in public administration, urban planning, civil engineering, economics, development studies or such other related courses. He must have at least five (5) years' experience in the case of cities, and three (3) years' experience in the case of municipalities, either in housing development projects, organization of housing associations or cooperatives, management and operation of housing and shelter programs or such other related activities.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the HUDCC and the DILG, in consultation with the concerned government agencies, the private sector, POs and NGOs, shall formulate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement any or all of the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby

shall continue to be in force and effect.

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Section 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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Approved,