

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session*

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SENATE S. B. No. <u>774</u>

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT

TO ENHANCE THE USE OF NATIONAL WEALTH FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT BY AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN BOOK II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates that Local Government Units (LGUs) is entitled to forty percent (40%) of the "gross collections, derived by the national government from the preceding fiscal year from mining taxes, royalties, forestry and fishery charges, and such other taxes, fees, or charges including related surcharges or fines" and from "any co-production, joint venture or production sharing agreement in the utilization and development of the national wealth within their territorial jurisdiction".¹ The Code further states that the proceeds from these collections shall be used to finance local development and livelihood project. However, where the proceeds are from energy sources including hydrothermal and geothermal the collections shall be applied solely to lowering the cost of electricity in the community.²

During the review of the Local Government Code, under this representation's chairmanship of the Committee on Local Government in the 17th Congress, it was found that the foregoing restriction on the collections from energy sources has not only limited the efficient use of the resource but may have led to preference for non-priority projects aimed at lowering the cost of electricity if only to utilize the funds.

¹ Secs. 289 and 290, Chapter II, Title III, Book II, Local Government Code

² Sec. 294, Chapter II, Title III, Book II, Local Government Code

It is therefore recommended that this restriction on the use of proceeds from the development and utilization of energy sources be removed to allow the LGUs to apply the funds to more critical projects, program activities identified and prioritized in their medium-term investment program and annual investment program.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

SONNY ANGARA 2p

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

- Section 1. Section 294 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
 Government Code of 1991, hereinafter referred to as the "Code", is hereby amended
 to read as follows:
- 4 "Sec. 294. Development and Livelihood Projects. - The proceeds from the 5 share of local government units pursuant to this chapter shall be 6 appropriated by their respective sanggunian to finance local government 7 and livelihood projects IN THE APPROVED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT 8 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM: 9 Provided, however, That [at least eighty percent (80%) of the proceeds 10 derived from the development and utilization of hydrothermal. geothermal, 11 and other sources of energy shall be applied solely to lower the cost of electricity in the local government unit where such a source of energy is 12 13 located] THE PROCEEDS, OR A PORTION THEREOF DERIVED FROM 14 THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF HYDROTHERMAL, 15 GEOTHERMAL, AND OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY MAY BE 16 APPLIED, AT THE OPTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, TO

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LOWER THE COST OF ELECTRICITY IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT WHERE SUCH SOURCE OF ENERGY IS LOCATED."

Sec. 2. *Use of Unutilized Shares.* – The concerned local government units are hereby authorized to use the proceeds previously derived from the development and utilization of hydrothermal, geothermal, and other sources of energy which remain unutilized, in accordance with their approved local development investment program and annual investment program.

8 Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All general and special laws, acts, city charters, 9 executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts 10 thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are 11 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Approved,

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