

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

8 APR 17 2015

SENATE
S. B. No. **2163**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Section 463, Chapter 2, Title 4, Book III of the Local Government Code of 1991 as well as its Implementing Rules and Regulations, specifically Article 115(b), by making mandatory instead of optional the appointment of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer or PENRO.

Time was when the country was teeming with rich forest reserves and lush mountain ranges surrounded by age-old timber resources that provided sanctuary to a variety of wildlife. This forest cover did not only provide us with quality building materials like wood or supply us with a steady flow of wildlife for food but also protected us from the destructive consequences of strong typhoons that often hit the country.

Times have changed and together these changes transformed some of our forest lands into virtual savannas due to the illegal logging activities which have scalped it of the precious cover that in the past has served as protection against rampaging rain water during the typhoon season.

It is in light of the foregoing circumstances that the government should be enjoined to protect and preserve our precious forest reserved to avoid destructive flooding. It is also for the same reasons that the government should designate an official

who should be responsible for ensuring that the forest lands in every province are protected from wanton and illegal cutting of logs and that in areas where reforestation is needed, the same shall be undertaken to avoid destructive flooding in the future. This bill seeks to address this concern.


This is a Senate counterpart bill to the one filed in the House of Representatives by Representative Rodriguez D. Dadivas.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

1 FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
2 OF THE PHILIPPINES)
3 First Regular Session)

APR 17 1975

4 SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

5 S.B. No. 2163

6 Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

7 AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 463,
8 CHAPTER 2, TITLE FOUR, BOOK III OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
9 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

12 SECTION 1. Section 463, Chapter 2, Title Four, Book III of Republic Act No. 7160,
13 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 463. Officials of the Government —

15 (A) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the
16 sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary
17 to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a
18 provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial
19 planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial
20 administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development
21 officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, a provincial
22 veterinarian, and a PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
23 RESOURCES OFFICER.

24 SECTION 2. In relation thereto, Article 115(b) of the Implementing Rules and
25 Regulations of Republic Act No. 7160 is accordingly amended to read as follows:

26 "Article 115. Appointive Provincial Officials. (a) The mandatory appointive provincial
27 officials are as follows:

- 28 (1) secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;

- 1 (2) provincial treasurer;
- 2 (3) provincial accountant;
- 3 (4) provincial budget officer;
- 4 (5) provincial planning and development coordinator;
- 5 (6) provincial engineer;
- 6 (7) provincial health officer;
- 7 (8) provincial administrator;
- 8 (9) provincial legal officer;
- 9 (10) provincial agriculturist;
- 10 (11) provincial social welfare and development officer;
- 11 (12) provincial veterinarian;
- 12 (13) provincial general services officer;
- 13 (14) PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER

14 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
16 valid and subsisting.

17 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
19 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

20 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

22 Approved,