

**SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS** )  
**First Regular Session** )

Office of the Secretary

13 NOV 18 1931

**SENATE**

RECEIVED  
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Senate Bill No. 1931

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Provided under Section 16 of the Republic Act No. 8550 or otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Local Government Unit (LGU) has Jurisdiction on Municipal Waters. Section 16 provides that the municipal/city government shall have jurisdiction over municipal waters as defined in the Code. The municipal/city government, in consultation with the FARMC shall be responsible for the management, conservation, development, protection, utilization, and disposition of all fish and fishery/aquatic resources within their respective municipal waters. The municipal/city government may, in consultation with the FARMC, enact appropriate ordinances for this purpose and in accordance with the National Fisheries Policy. The ordinances enacted by the municipality and component city shall be reviewed pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160 by the Sanggunian of the province which has jurisdiction over the same.

In connection with the above-mentioned jurisdiction, under Section 139 (3) of Republic Act No. 7160 or otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the Sangguniang Bayan has the authority to issue licenses for the operation of the fishing vessels three (3) tonnage or less.

In terms of registration of fishing vessels with gross weight of three (3) tons or less, the marginalized fisherfolks encounter difficulty in registration where the offices of the concerned government agency authorized to register are inaccessible. The League of Municipalities of the Philippines, the League of Cities of the Philippines and the National Anti-Poverty Commission Fisherfolk Sectoral Council strongly recommend that the authority to undertake the registration of fishing vessels three (3) tonnage and below be devolved to the LGU's in line with their mandate under R.A. 7160 and 8550.


This bill seeks to implement the devolution of the registration of fishing vessels with a maximum gross weight of three (3) tons or less to the municipalities and cities, which have marine or inland waters in their respective jurisdictions.

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



**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

**SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
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13 NOV 18 25:47

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Senate Bill No. 1931

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

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**AN ACT DEVOLVING TO MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES THE  
REGISTRATION OF FISHING VESSELS WITH A MAXIMUM GROSS  
WEIGHT OF THREE (3) TONS OR LESS**

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

**SECTION 1.** *Devolution of Registration of Fishing Vessels.* – The registration of fishing vessels with a maximum gross weight of three (3) tons or less is hereby devolved to municipalities and cities, which have marine or inland waters in their respective jurisdictions.

**SECTION 2.** *Responsibilities of the Local Government Units.* – The municipality or city, as the case may be, shall perform the following responsibilities:

(a) To maintain updated records of all registered fishing vessels within its jurisdiction;

(b) To furnish on a regular basis the respective regional offices of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) station/detachment and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) with a certified true copy of the list of vessels registered and their complete description;

(c) To institute a strict monitoring process to determine compliance by the owners of registered fishing vessels and to issue a new certificate number which must be clearly posted in the registered vessel for proper identification;

(d) To cancel or revoke, after due process, the registration of the fishing vessel if found to have violated pertinent municipal or city ordinances and maritime laws. The owner/operator shall be immediately notified of the scheduled hearings. The MARINA, PCG and DA-BFAR shall be provided with a copy of the result of the hearing and its decision thereto; and

(e) To impose reasonable administrative fines and penalties for non-registration of the fishing vessel within its territorial jurisdiction. The revenues collected out of fines shall be retained by the local government units concerned and shall be used for training or hiring of

additional personnel to handle the registration of fishing vessels and the monitoring of compliance to such registration.

**SECTION 3.** *Responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Offices.* – The DA-BFAR Regional Offices shall maintain a separate data bank of the list of registered fishing vessels for record purposes and proper monitoring of fishing activities in their respective area of operations.

**SECTION 4.** *Responsibilities of the Owner/Operator.* – The owners/operators of registered fishing vessels shall report within ten (10) working days any changes in the ownership of the registered fishing vessel or change of home port or change of name of the fishing vessel. Such changes shall only be reflected upon submission of a new application for the issuance of a new certificate of registration.

**SECTION 5.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The MARINA, PCG, DA-BFAR and the Leagues of Municipalities and Cities of the Philippines, in consultation with the fisherfolk sector, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SECTION 6.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,