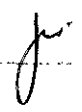


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SENATE
S. B. **2359**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION**

Explanatory Note

The economic and human costs of fires are great. In 2012, the World Fire Statistics Commission (WFSC) estimated that the annual cost of fire losses around the world was 1 percent of global GDP. This is equivalent to billions of dollars in direct losses due to damaged property¹.

In the Philippines, the following most recent statistics provide a backdrop that fire accidents and incidents are a malaise to the country's development²:

- On the average, for every Php1 million of the country's GDP, the Philippines lost to fire Php 437 in 2010 and Php 411 in 2011.
1. In 2010, Region IVA (CALABARZON) was the biggest loser from fire incidents. The region suffered losses due to fire worth Php 1,402 for every Php 1 million of its gross regional domestic product (GRDP). Other regions that suffered the heaviest losses were CARAGA and ARMM. Region V (Bicol Region), on the other hand, suffered the least from fire incidents with an estimated loss in 2010 amounting to Php203 for every Php1 million it earned in its GRDP. Other regions with minimum losses from fire per Php 1 million of GRDP were NCR and Region X (Northern Mindanao).
 2. In 2011, Caraga recorded the highest amount of losses from fire with Php 9,133 lost per Php1 million regional GRDP, followed by Region III and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Meanwhile, Region V (Bicol Region) suffered the least losses due to fire amounting to Php124 for every Php1 million in its GRDP during the period, followed by MIMAROPA and Region II (Cagayan Valley). Looks like Bicol is the safest region in the Philippines fire-wise.
 3. During the period January to February 2012, Region III (Central Luzon), NCR and CARAGA posted the highest amount of fire-related damages, while Region II (Cagayan Valley), Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) and Region I (Ilocos Region) posted the lowest amount of damages due to fires.
- For every 1,000,000 persons in the Philippines, an average of 3 civilians and firefighters in 2010 and 2 in 2011 died from fire-related causes.
1. In 2011, there were 219 fire-related fatalities among civilians and firefighters down from 275 in 2010.

¹ www.pids.com, from the study Epidemiological Assessment of Fires in the Philippines, 2010-2013, by Dr. Gloria Nenita Velasco

² Philippine Statistics Authority, Sunog, March 2012

2. NCR had the highest number of fatalities for both years with 42 and 64 fatalities for 2010 and 2011, respectively. CARAGA recorded the lowest number of 2 fire-related fatalities in 2010; for 2011, it was ARMM that had the lowest with 3 fatalities.
3. The highest recorded fire-related fatalities among civilians and firefighters in 2010 was in the 4th quarter when 88 fire-related fatalities was recorded, while, in 2011 the highest was recorded in the 1st quarter with 70 fire-related fatalities.


With the information above, this legislation is submitted.

The increased economic activity in the country has set aside safety standards and measures that could prevent, mitigate and lessen the harm of potential industrial and residential accidents like fire.

Republic Act No. 6975 mandated the Bureau of Fire protection to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, enforce the Fire Code, investigate all causes of fires and, if necessary, file the proper complaints with the appropriate agencies. For operational and logistical efficiency, the BFP will have to implement a modernization program that would safeguard the populace from the hazards of destructive fires.

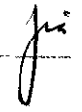
With this legislation, the following goals should be realized: (1) fire stations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will have to be created in all local government units; (2) fire trucks that can respond to buildings in financial districts and can navigate small roads and thoroughfares in densely populated urban centers will have to be purchased; (3) trauma units in public hospitals will have to be upgraded; (4) rescue hotlines promoted; and (5) fire personnel, as well as fire volunteers, will have to be trained to be state of the art in terms of fire prevention and suppression.

Early enactment of this bill is earnestly sought.


GRACE POE

14 AUG 14 P5:46

SENATE
S. B. 2359

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT
ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Fire Protection
2 Modernization Act."
3

4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to develop the Bureau
5 of Fire Protection (BFP), ensure public safety through the prevention of and suppression of all
6 kinds of destructive fires with the active support of the community, enforce Presidential Decree
7 No. 1185, and further strengthen the local government capability aimed towards the effective
8 delivery of fire protection service and competent fire protection personnel. The acquisition of
9 modern equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.
10

11 **SECTION 3. Fire Protection Modernization Program.** - The Fire Protection
12 Modernization Program shall consist of the following, for implementation over a three year
13 period:
14

- 15 a) Establishment of Fire protection Service (FPS) in all local government units with no
16 existing fire protection services;
17 b) Upgrading of existing fire protection equipment and services;
18 c) Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within the BFP such as
19 but not limited to; high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires,
20 chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical services, and the like; and
21 d) Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally accredited
22 training consultants and advisers if experts of equal qualification cannot be secured
23 locally, to accelerate the personnel development program.
24

25 **SECTION 4. Special Provident Fund.** - A special provident fund shall be created under
26 the BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits for members and scholarship for
27 dependents.
28

29 **SECTION 5. Budget.** - The amount of Eight Billion Pesos (P8,000,000,000.00) for the
30 Fire Protection Modernization Program is hereby appropriated from the following sources:
31

- 32 a) P2.5 Billion from the income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office;
33 b) P1 Billion from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
34 (PAGCOR); and
35 c) P4.5 Billion to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately
36 preceding the effectivity of this Act.
37

1 **SECTION 6. Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangement.** - The
2 Secretary of Interior and Local Government may, subject to the approval of the President, under
3 provisions of existing laws and regulations including those of the Commission on Audit and
4 under such terms and conditions favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts, 1
5 ease- purchase agreements, or other contractual agreements with local or foreign
6 suppliers/contractors in the implementation of this Act.
7

8 **SECTION 7. Special Foreign Exchange Reduction Scheme.** - In order to reduce
9 foreign exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance technology
10 transfer to the Philippines, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, as far as
11 feasible, incorporate in each contract agreement special foreign exchange reduction schemes
12 such as barter, counter-trade, in-country manufacture, co-production, build-operate-transfer
13 (BOT), or other innovative arrangements or combinations thereof.
14

15 **SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within thirty (30) days from the
16 approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the rules
17 and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act; Provided, that such
18 implementing rules and regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles crafts of various
19 types, communication equipment, facilities, and other support equipment will be equitably
20 distributed to the different fire units for the better realization of the envisioned objectives of this
21 Act.
22

23 **SECTION 9. Annual Reports.** - The Chief Fire Marshall shall submit to the president
24 and Congress, through the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, an annual report
25 containing the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization program as
26 provided for in this Act. The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall submit to the
27 President and Congress an annual report of the status of Fire Protection Modernization Program
28 Trust Fund as provided for by Section 4 hereof.
29

30 **SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared
31 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
32 continue to be in full force and effect.
33

34 **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
35 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
36 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
37

38 **SECTION 12. Effectivity,** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
39 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,