

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



15 FEB -2 P5:35

SENATE
S.B. No. 2611

RECEIVED BY. *J.*

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL
VETERINARIAN OFFICER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Being an agricultural country, the livelihood of a majority of the Filipino population is dependent on farming. The raising and production of farm animals therefore is imperative for this livelihood.

Most animal raising and production farms are found in rural or far-flung areas in the country. Unfortunately, in these areas, there is a pervasive dearth of veterinary services.

The Local Government Code (RA 7160) mandates only provinces and cities to have their own veterinarian officer. This leaves a greater number, the municipalities to lack the much needed public veterinary support and assistance.

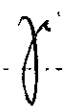
This bill seeks to address this problem by providing for a municipal veterinary officer. Hopefully, we may be able to deal with the proliferation of contagious and harmful animal diseases in the countryside. This proposal will ensure the immediate delivery of public veterinary services to far-flung villages where the raising and production of farm animals is concentrated.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “Section 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* –(a) There shall be in
4 each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice mayor,
5 sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a
6 municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a
7 municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development officer, **A**
8 **MUNICIPAL VETERINARIAN** and a municipal civil registrar.

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10 xxx”

11
12 **SECTION 2.** Section 489 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 “Section 489. *Qualifications, Powers and Duties.* – (a) No person shall be
14 appointed veterinarian unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident
15 of the local government concerned, of good moral character, and a
16 licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. He must have practiced his
17 profession for at least three (3) years in the case of provincial or city
18 veterinarian and at least one (1) year in the case of the municipal
19 veterinarian.

20 The appointment of a veterinarian officer is mandatory for the provincial,
21 [and] city, **AND MUNICIPAL** governments.

22 (b) The veterinarian shall take charge of the office for veterinary services
23 and shall:

1 (1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian, and
2 provide technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor, as
3 the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of
4 basic services and provision of adequate facilities pursuant to Section
5 17 of this Code;

6 (2) Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the
7 governor or mayor, as the case may be, implement the same,
8 particularly those which have to do with the veterinary-related activities
9 which the governor or mayor is empowered to implement and which
10 the sanggunian is empowered to provide for under this Code;

11 (3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the veterinarian
12 shall:

13 (i) Advise the governor or the mayor, as the case may be, on all
14 matters pertaining to the slaughter of animals for human
15 consumption and the regulation of slaughterhouses;

16 (ii) Regulate the keeping of domestic animals;

17 (iii) Regulate and inspect poultry, milk and dairy products for public
18 consumption;

19 (iv) Enforce all laws and regulations for the prevention of cruelty to
20 animals; [and]

21 (v) Take the necessary measures to eradicate, prevent or cure all
22 forms of animal diseases; **AND**

23 (vi) **VISIT AND RENDER VETERINARY SERVICES, AT LEAST**
24 **ONCE A WEEK, TO EVERY BARANGAY OF THE CITY OR**
25 **MUNICIPALITY WHERE THEY ARE APOINTED. PROVINCIAL**
26 **VETERINARIANS SHALL COORDINATE WITH CITY AND**
27 **MUNICIPAL VETERINARIANS REGARDING THE CONDUCT**
28 **AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERINARY SERVICES WITHIN**
29 **THEIR AREA OF JURISDICTION;**

30 (4) Be in the frontline of veterinary related activities, such as in the
31 outbreak of highly-contagious and deadly diseases, and in situations
32 resulting in the depletion of animals for work and human consumption,
33 particularly those arising from and in the aftermath of man-made and
34 natural calamities and disasters;

35 (5) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the governor or mayor,
36 as the case may be, on all other matters relative to veterinary services
37 which will increase the number and improve the quality of livestock,

1 poultry and other domestic animals used for work or human
2 consumption; [and]

3 **(6) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN AND ADVISE THE**
4 **GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, TO SEEK**
5 **FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND OTHER FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
6 **FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS**
7 **FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERINARY-RELATED**
8 **NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL**
9 **GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED; AND**

10 **(7) ASSIST THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE,**
11 **IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERINARY-RELATED NATIONAL**
12 **PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT**
13 **CONCERNED;**

14 (c) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and
15 functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.”

16
17 **SECTION 3.** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of
18 instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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21 **SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
22 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

23
24 **SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
25 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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Approved,