

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 28 P3 53

SENATE
S. No. 3178

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 463, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 4, BOOK 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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, by making mandatory instead of optional the appointment of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (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 these circumstances that the government should be enjoined to protect and preserve our precious forest reserve 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. Dadvias.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
at

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session and refiled in the Fifteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 463, Chapter 2, Title 4, Book 3 of Republic Act No. 7160,
2 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 SECTION 463. *Officials of the Government –*

5 (A) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor,
6 members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang
7 panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial
8 treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial
9 engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and
10 development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial
11 administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and
12 development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial
13 agriculturist, a provincial veterinarian, and a **PROVINCIAL**
14 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.**

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

1 **Article 115. *Appointive Provincial Officials.*** (a) The mandatory appointive
2 provincial officials are as follows:

3 (1) secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;

4 (2) provincial treasurer;

5 (3) provincial accountant;

6 (4) provincial budget officer;

7 (5) provincial planning and development coordinator;

8 (6) provincial engineer;

9 (7) provincial health officer;

10 (8) provincial administrator;

11 (9) provincial legal officer;

12 (10) provincial agriculturist;

13 (11) provincial social welfare and development officer;

14 (12) provincial veterinarian;

15 (13) provincial general services officer;

16 (14) **PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
17 **OFFICER.**

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

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

1 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause*: – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
2 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

Approved,

/ctrs25Dec2015