

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7406

Introduced by

Representatives Manuel D. Cabochan III, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Enrico A. Pineda, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Joey Sarte Salceda, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Lorna C. Silverio, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Kristin Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Eric L. Olivarez, Strike B. Revilla, Domingo C. Rivera, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Henry R. Villarica, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Eddiebong G. Plaza, Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Wilton "Tonton" Tan Kho, Resurreccion Marrero-Acop M.D., Dahlia A. Loyola, Maria Fe R. Abunda, Junie E. Cua, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Adriano A. Ebcas, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Romeo M. Jalosjos, Jr., Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Presley C. De Jesus, Prospero A. Pichay, Jr., Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Eric Go Yap, Jose "PingPing" I. Tejada, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas, Jose Enrique "Joel" S. Garcia III, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Diego C. Ty, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño, M.D., Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Jonathan Keith T. Flores, "Olga" T. Kho, Joseph L. Lara and Edward Vera Perez Maceda

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

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1 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to ensure public
2 safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, natural or
3 human-induced. Towards this end, the State shall modernize the Bureau of Fire
4 Protection (BFP) to improve and enhance its firefighting and disaster-response
5 capabilities, thereby establishing and implementing a Fire Protection Modernization
6 Program.

7 **SEC. 3. Additional Functions of the BFP.** - Aside from its existing
8 functions under Republic Act No. 9514, otherwise known as the "Fire Code of the
9 Philippines of 2008", and Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the "Department of
10 the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990", the BFP shall have the following
11 functions:

- 12 a) Prevent and suppress all destructive fires in all buildings, houses and other
13 structures, and economic zones including agro-industrial economic zones, free
14 ports and special economic zones, information technology (IT) parks/centers,
15 manufacturing economic zones, medical tourism parks/centers, tourism
16 economic zones, and other similar entities;
- 17 b) Establish and maintain regional arson laboratories and research and testing
18 facilities with complete equipment;
- 19 c) Respond to disasters, whether natural or human-induced, and other
20 emergencies, including rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous
21 materials (HAZMAT), chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive
22 (CBRNE) materials, and other emergencies;

- 1 d) Conduct, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local
2 Government (DILG), monthly fire prevention campaigns and information drive in
3 all local government units, particularly in informal settler areas and economically
4 depressed areas; and
- 5 e) Issue a fire safety evaluation clearance as a prerequisite for the issuance of a
6 building permit, after evaluating and ensuring that the required plans and
7 specifications of the building and other pertinent documents submitted by
8 building owners are compliant with the Fire Code and other applicable codes and
9 standards.

10 **SEC. 4. Fire Protection Modernization Program . -** The Bureau of Fire
11 Protection, in coordination with the DILG, shall establish and implement a Fire
12 Protection Modernization Program, hereinafter to be referred to as the Program. The
13 Program shall have the following components:

- 14 a) Fire Protection Service - The Program shall include the establishment of Fire
15 Protection Service (FPS) in all local government units with no existing fire
16 protection services, and the establishment of a single platform of emergency
17 hotlines that shall be integrated with the "911" Hotline program of the DILG in all
18 local government units;
- 19 b) Force Restructuring and Organizational Development. - The modernization
20 program shall develop the BFP into a compact, efficient, responsible, and
21 modern firefighting force with the capability to implement Republic Act No. 9514.
22 Within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of the implementing rules and
23 regulations (IRR) of this Act, the BFP shall recommend and submit to the

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1 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through the DILG, the revised
2 organizational structure and staffing pattern for officers and personnel of the
3 BFP. The revised organizational structure shall include all the offices of the BFP,
4 specifically the National Headquarters, the regional, provincial, district, city, and
5 municipal fire stations, the Fire Training Service, and the BFP Central and
6 Regional Hospitals. The BFP shall design and establish a qualifications
7 upgrading program for the BFP officers and personnel in accordance with the
8 Civil Service Commission rules and regulations;

9 c) Capability, Material, and Technology Development – Upon the effectivity of this
10 Act, the existing fire protection equipment and services of the BFP shall be
11 upgraded through the acquisition of new and more modern equipment: *Provided,*
12 That the acquisition of new equipment shall be synchronized with the phasing-out
13 of uneconomical and obsolete major equipment and weapons systems in the
14 BFP inventory;

15 d) Specialized Services Development – Under the Program, the BFP shall establish
16 specialized fire protection services for high-rise building fires, forest fires,
17 aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue services,
18 emergency medical services, and the like; and

19 e) Human Resource Development – The Program shall likewise provide for the
20 continuing training of BFP personnel, the establishment of training facilities, and
21 the hiring of internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if experts
22 of equal qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate the BFP's

1 personnel development program. All newly appointed uniformed personnel of the
2 BFP shall undergo a Mandatory Training Program.

3 Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG
4 Secretary and the head of the BFP shall submit the details of the Fire Protection
5 Modernization Program to Congress.

6 **SEC 5. Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangements. -**

7 The DILG Secretary may, subject to the approval of the President, under provisions of
8 existing laws and regulations, including those of the Commission on Audit and Section 3
9 of Executive Order No. 91, series of 2019, and under such terms and conditions
10 favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts or other contractual
11 agreements with local or foreign suppliers and contractors in the implementation of this
12 Act.

13 **SEC. 6. Appropriations. -** The amount needed for the initial
14 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of
15 the BFP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation
16 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 **SEC. 7. Period of Implementation. -** The Fire Protection Modernization
18 Program under this Act shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years upon the
19 effectivity of this Act.

20 **SEC. 8. Congressional Oversight Committee. -** There is hereby created a
21 Congressional Oversight Committee upon the effectivity of this Act to monitor and
22 oversee the implementation of its provisions.

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1 It shall be composed of four (4) members from the House of Representatives and
2 four (4) members from the Senate, with the Chairpersons of the Committee on Public
3 Order and Safety and the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs of each
4 Chamber, respectively, as joint chairpersons. The three (3) other members representing
5 the House of Representatives shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives, while the three (3) other members from the Senate shall be
7 designated by the Senate President. The Minority shall have at least one (1)
8 representative from each Chamber.

9 The amount necessary shall be appropriated to the Congressional Oversight
10 Committee annually to carry out its functions.

11 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DILG, in
12 coordination with the BFP, the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of
13 Budget and Management (DBM) shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this
14 Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this
15 Act.

16 **SEC. 10. Annual Report.** - The BFP shall submit to the Office of the
17 President and Congress, through the DILG Secretary, an annual report containing the
18 process and status of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.

19 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** - Any portion or provision of this Act that is
20 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or
21 provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given
22 effect in their entirety.

1 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other
2 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or
3 modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*

