FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

7 JUL -2 ATT: 14

SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 364

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, authorizes the Legislature to undertake review of said Code, with the primary objective of providing a more responsive and accountable local government structure.

This proposed measure seeks to further institutionalize local autonomy by strengthening the fiscal autonomy of local government units (LGUs), by giving greater leeway in the choice of their depository bank.

National government agencies have interpreted differently the preference over government-owned banks as depository banks. One interpretation is such that a local government unit shall choose only one (1) depository bank, whether the Land Bank of the Philippines or the Development Bank of the Philippines within its area of jurisdiction.

On the other hand, a rural bank may accept deposits of local government notwithstanding the presence of government-owned banks within the locality concerned, on the condition that such rural banks are duly authorized by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

HINGGOY JERCITO ESTRADA Senator

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR GREATER FISCAL AUTONOMY IN FAVOR OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) IN THE CHOICE OF DEPOSITORY BANKS, AMENDING SECTION 311 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 311 of Republic Act No. 7160 is herby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 311. Depository Accounts. – Local treasurers shall maintain depository accounts in the name of their respective local government units with banks DULY ACCREDITED AS SUCH BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS [preferable government-owned] located in or nearest their respective areas of jurisdiction. Earnings of each depository account shall accrue exclusively thereto."

SEC 2. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,