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Introduced by **HON. RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Records at the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) of the Department of Interior and Local Government reveal that for 2006, a total of 8,823 fires were recorded nationwide or an average of 24 reported incidents daily. The National Capital Region topped the list with the most number of fire occurrences at 3,665, Region 4-A ranked second at 1,238, followed by Region 6 at 803. The total amount of damages recorded at P3,203,838,834 and resulted to 867 casualties both firefighters and civilians.

In order to effect a meaningful reduction of the alarming fire losses, there is a need to develop national consciousness and involvement of all persons in the prevention and suppression of fires. To effectively implement all efforts to minimize the occurrence of fires and their destructive effects, full financial, equipment and personnel support by the government and the private sector is necessary.

To this effect there are 28 accredited fire volunteers in the country. But this is not enough. Consistent with the policy of the state to ensure the autonomy of local governments, there is a need to empower these LGUs to prepare plans and programs on fire safety, prevention and suppression and evaluate implementation thereof.

This bill seeks to aid the LGUs in their quest for the immediate implementation of their fire prevention and suppression programs by providing them available funds through the 25% retention scheme that this measure is proposed to achieve.

Hence, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

