

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

8 JUL 21 P3:31

SENATE
S. No. 2449

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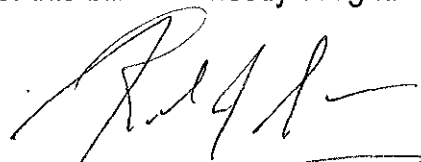
Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For the year 2007, an estimated 9,042 fire incidents were recorded by the Bureau of Fire Protection. These fire incidents led to casualties consisting of 201 deaths and 590 injuries. Aside from the damage to human lives, however, the damage caused by fires to properties reached an astounding amount of PhP 2.38 billion last year. This amount excludes losses sustained from social dislocation, cancelled business opportunities in terms of unemployment, destruction and pollution to the natural environment.

Though these incidents are unexpected and most often, unintentional, they can be prevented or at least their effects lessened through proper safety measures and protection services. With the hope of addressing the significant danger faced by the populace from fires, this bill proposes to establish a program strengthening the effective delivery of fire protection services by way of greater local government capability and active community support.

This bill seeks to establish a Fire Protection Modernization Program that will support the Bureau of Fire Protection in executing its mandate to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires. Components of the modernization program shall include the acquisition of modern fire protection equipment and advanced training for personnel, and the establishment of local government unit based operation centers for operational and logistical efficiency. For these reasons, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE
S. No. **2449**

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION
SERVICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Fire Protection
2 Modernization Act of 2008."

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to ensure public
4 safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, and to
5 strengthen the effective delivery of fire protection services to the public by enhancing
6 local government capability and fostering active community support. The acquisition
7 of modern equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection
8 Modernization Program.

9 **Sec. 3. Components of Modernization.** - The Fire Protection Modernization
10 Program shall consist of the following programs to be implemented over a three-year
11 period:

- 12 (a) Establishment of Fire Protection Services in all local government units
13 with no existing fire protection services;
- 14 (b) Upgrading of existing fire protection equipment and services;
- 15 (c) Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within
16 the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) for the management of high-rise
17 building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, and chemical
18 fires; disaster rescue services, emergency medical services and the
19 like; and

1 (d) Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally
2 accredited training consultants and advisers if experts of equal
3 qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate the personnel
4 development program of the BFP.

5 **Sec. 4. *Special Provident Fund.*** - A Special Provident Fund shall be created
6 under the BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits of members
7 and scholarship for their dependents.

8 **Sec. 5. *Budget.*** - The amount of Eight Billion Pesos (P 8,000,000,000.00) for
9 the Fire Protection Modernization Program is hereby appropriated from the following
10 sources:

11 (a) P 3.5 Billion (P 3,500,000,000) from the 32.5% share of the Armed
12 Forces of the Philippines pursuant to Section 8(1) of Republic Act No.
13 7227;

14 (b) P 2.5 Billion (P 2,500,000,000) from the income of the Philippine
15 Lottery;

16 (c) P 1.0 Billion (P 1,000,000,000) from the income of the Philippine
17 Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);

18 (d) 1.0 Billion (P 1,000,000,000) to be included in the General
19 Appropriations Act of the year immediately preceding the effectivity of
20 this Act.

21 **Sec. 6. *Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangements.*** – The
22 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) may, subject to the approval of
23 the President, the provisions of existing laws and regulations including those of the
24 Commission on Audit, and under such terms and conditions favorable to the
25 government, enter into multi-year contracts, lease or lease-purchase agreements or
26 other contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers or contractors in the
27 implementation of this Act.

28 **Sec. 7. *Special Foreign Exchange Reduction Scheme.*** - In order to reduce
29 foreign exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance
30 technology transfer to the Philippines, the DILG shall, as far as feasible, incorporate
31 in each contract agreement special foreign exchange reduction schemes such as
32 barter, counter trade, in-country manufacture, co-production, build-operate transfer
33 (BOT) or other innovative arrangements or combinations thereof.

1 **Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within thirty (30) days from
2 the approval of this Act, the DILG shall promulgate the rules and regulations
3 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act; Provided, that such implementing
4 rules and regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles or crafts of various
5 types, communication equipment and facilities, and other support equipment will be
6 equitably distributed to the different fire units for the better realization of the
7 objectives of this Act.

8 **Sec. 9. *Annual Reports.*** - The Chief Fire Marshall shall submit to the
9 President and Congress, through the Secretary of the DILG, an annual report
10 containing the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization
11 Program.

12 The Secretary of the DILG shall submit to the President and Congress an
13 annual report of the status of the Special Provident Fund as provided for under
14 Section 4 of this Act.

15 **Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this
16 Act is declared unconstitutional or illegal, other parts or provisions hereof which are
17 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

18 **Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
19 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
20 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or
21 amended accordingly.

22 **Sec. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete
23 publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

24 Approved