769



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 769

Introduced by Congressman Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, mandated a more responsive local government structure through a system of decentralization, where local government units were given greater powers, responsibility, authority and resources. Among the basic services devolved to local government units (LGUs) is the Social and Welfare Development Unit which provided technical assistance And support to the governor, or mayors, as the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of programs and projects in child and youth welfare, family and community welfare, women's welfare, welfare of the elderly and disabled persons; community based rehabilitation programs for vagrants, beggars, street children, scavengers, juvenile delinquents, and victims of drugs abuse; livelihood and other pro-poor projects; nutrition services; and family planning services.

Section 483 of R. A. No. 7160 institutionalized the position of municipal social welfare development officer as a mechanism for the delivery of these basic services. However, in the implementation of the law, the position of municipal social welfare development officer was made optional, thus introducing uncertainly to the delivery of basic social welfare services.

The attached bill seeks to address this problem by proposing to make the position Of municipal social welfare development officer mandatory; the appointment of a duly licensed social worker to the said position and the fix the compensation and incentives, to ensure that the employees who were devolved from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to the Local Government Units will receive definite salaries and benefits and continue to offer their services to their constituents at the local government units.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of the bill is earnestly requested.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN EACH MUNICIPALITY MANDATORY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODEE OF 1991."

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government.- (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer {and}, a municipal civil registrar **AND A MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.**

"(b) In Addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturists, a municipal environment and natural resources officer, {a municipal social welfare and development officer}, a municipal architect, and a municipal information officer."

SECTION 2. Subsection (a) of Section 483 of the same Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 483. Qualifications, Powers and Duties.- (a) No person shall be appointed social welfare and development officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, a good moral character, AND a duly licensed social worker. [or a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology or any other related course from a recognized college degree preferably in sociology or any other related course from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent.] He must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years in the case of the Provincial or City Social Welfare and Development Officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal social welfare and development officer.

"The appointment of a social welfare and development officer is mandatory for the provincial, [and] city [governments, and optional for] AND municipal governments."

SECTION 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,