REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1579

Introduced by: **HONORABLE MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

If there be any justification as to why the Environment and Natural Resources Officer position is relegated into an optional classification rather than a mandatory one, its significance certainly has already passed out as obsolete.

The present condition of our environment and natural resources calls for more vigilance and attention. Various environmental problems which is crystallised by the degradation of our natural resources is glaringly noticeable and is in fact not unknown to everyone. The denudation of a greater part of our forests for one, which for a very long time have been a subject of a national debate, and which has caused us untold pain and sufferings, plus the unbearable problem of all kinds of pollution in urban areas are but some of the basic reasons for the need of an environmental and natural resources officer in the local government units.

This is basically the reason why amendment to sections 443, 456, 463 and 484 of R..A..7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" should be given preference and should therefore be enacted into law as the vigilance of a community in protecting the environment could never be more magnified with the direction of an able environment and natural resources officer who will ensure the protection of the environment and the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources. The position of the environment and natural resources officer should therefore be co-opted with the other mandatory positions in the organisational structure of the provincial, city and municipal government.

In view of the foregoing the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. MARCELINO C. LIBANAN

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Introduced by: **HONORABLE MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

AN ACT
MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454, 463 AND 484 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN ASTHE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 443 of R. A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 443. **Officials of the Municipal Government.** (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sanguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sanguniang 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 AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER..

(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, [a

municipal environment and natural resources officer) , a municipal social welfare and development officer, a municipal architect and a municipal information officer.

XXX."

SECTION 2. Section 454 of R. A . No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

" SECTION 454. ***Officials of the City Government.*** (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sanggunlang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sanggunlang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer,(and) city general services officer, AND A CITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.

(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city architect, a city information officer, a city agriculturist, a city population officer, (a city environment and natural resources officer) and a city cooperative officer.

XXX."

SECTION 3. Section 463 of R. A. . No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 463. ***Officials of the Provincial Government.*** (a) There shall be in each province a provincial governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist,(and) a provincial veterinarian AND A PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.

(b) In addition thereto, the governor may appoint a provincial population officer, (a provincial environment and natural resources officer), a provincial cooperative officer, a provincial architect and a provincial information officer.

XXX."

Section 4. Section 484 of R .A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 484. ***Qualifications, Powers and Duties.-*** (a) No person shall be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree

preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any related course from any recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired in environmental and natural resources conservation, and utilization, for at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city environment and natural resources officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal environment and natural resources officer.

The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is mandatory for provincial, city and municipal governments.

XXX"

Section 5. All laws ,decrees, orders rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.