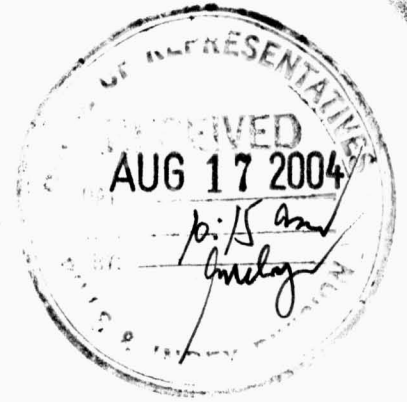


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 2438

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code grants more powers, responsibilities and resources to the local government units since a transfer of responsibilities for the provisions of basic services and facilities including regulatory functions to local government units were at that time beholden to national government agencies.

This bill aims to amend pertinent provisions of the Local Government Code to ensure that each municipality have a Social Welfare and Development Officer which shall serve as the social welfare services of the public in all municipalities nationwide. The amendments contained in this bill will not only professionalize the delivery of social services but also make the Social Welfare Development Officers (SWDO) at par with their local counterparts.

Social Welfare Services used to be the primary functions of the DSWD but were devolved to local government units in line with the system of decentralization. The Barangays were vested with providing social health and social welfare services as well as maintenance of health and day care centers and in the case of the Municipalities, they were vested with general social welfare services which includes programs and projects on the welfare of child and youth, family and community and the elderly and disabled. Moreover, community-based rehabilitation programs for vagrants and drug addicts, livelihood projects, nutrition services and family planning services were also devolved to the Municipalities.

Our present law however provides that the appointment of Social Welfare Development Officers (SWDO's) are optional in the Municipal level. Thus, many towns all over the country do not have SWDO's because the law does not require mandatory appointment. Without SWDO's, local government units may not be able to provide the required social services to their constituents as provided by the Local Government Code.

In view thereof, the immediate approval of this bill is requested.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
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House Bill No. 2438

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 483, ARTICLE XIII OF R.A. NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

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

SECTION 1. Section 483 (a), Article VIII of R.A. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 483. Qualifications, Powers and Duties – (a) No person shall be appointed Social Welfare Development Officer (SWDO) unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character and a duly licensed social worker (or holder of a college degree preferably in sociology or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and 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, (and optional for) **and** municipal governments."

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such other sections not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or effect.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause – All acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,