

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3396

Introduced by **HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the enactment of the Local Government Code in 1991, the Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) has been organized in many local government units notwithstanding the fact that the present law makes it only optional.

Pilot organizations have been established in various local government units but they need to be strengthened.

The function of an environment and natural resources officer should be made mandatory in the light of the fact that many environmental and natural resource problems have emerged in recent years that require constant attention at the local government level.

However, because of financial constraints it is envisioned in this bill that the mandatory requirement of appointing an environment and natural resources officer be limited only to provinces, cities, and municipalities in the Metropolitan Manila area.

However, due to budgetary constraints in municipalities that are components of provinces, the organization, staffing, and appointment of an environment and natural resources officer and office will remain optional.

Given that in addition to the primary responsibilities as stated in Section 484 paragraph (b) (1) and (2) of the Local Government Code, the environment and natural resources officer is also tasked under paragraph (b) (3) to do the following :

- (i) establish, maintain, protect and preserve communal forests, watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts and similar forests projects and commercial forest, like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects;
- (ii) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and technical, financial and infrastructure assistance;
- (iii) Manage and maintain seed banks and produce seedlings for forests and tree parks;
- (iv) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and render assistance for natural resources-related conservation and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance;
- (v) Promote the small-scale mining and utilization of mineral resources, particularly mining of gold;
- (vi) Coordinate with government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources...

There are too many tasks on hand and far too much responsibility that needs to be shouldered that local governments should be exhorted to appoint an environment and natural resources officer.

Furthermore, the tasks and responsibilities require competencies and specialization that may not be available in the

staffing of local government units. Hence, the mandatory appointment of an environment and natural resources officer in provinces, cities, and municipalities in the Metropolitan Manila has become not only necessary, but imperative.

The early approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.



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AN ACT
CHANGING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER FROM OPTIONAL TO
MANDATORY
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 484 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (a) Section 484 of RA No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended as follows:

(a) The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is mandatory for provincial, city, and municipal governments within the Metropolitan Manila area. The appointment of said officer is however optional for municipal governments outside the Metropolitan Manila area

SECTION 2. Any law, decree, executive order, administrative order, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified and amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act will take immediate effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,