

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3534



Introduced by the **Honorable ROILO GOLEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The increased economic activity in the country has set aside safety standards and prevention measures that could prevent, mitigate, and lessen the harm of potential industrial and residential accidents such as fire.

Republic Act No. 6975 mandated the Bureau of Fire Protection to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, enforce the fire code, investigate all causes of fires and, if necessary, file the proper complaints with the appropriate agencies. For operational and logistical efficiency, the BFP will have to effect a modernization program that would safeguard the populace from the hazard of destructive fires.

Fire stations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will have to be created in all local government units; fire trucks that can respond to buildings in financial districts and can navigate small roads and thoroughfares in densely populated urban centers will have to be purchased; trauma units in public hospitals will have to be upgraded; rescue hotlines promoted, and fire personnel, as well as fire volunteers, will have to be trained to the state of the art in terms of fire prevention and suppression.

There are many tragic fire incidents that could be avoided if fire safety standards and prevention measures are put in place. Such was the sentiment of the undersigned proponent when this bill was originally filed way back in the 11th Congress. There is a pressing need for fire protection modernization that should be urgently addressed.

Passage of the measure is earnestly requested.


ROILO GOLEZ

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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to develop the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), ensure public safety through the prevention of and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires with the active support of the community, enforce Presidential Decree No. 1185, and further strengthen local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of fire protection service and competent fire protection personnel. The acquisition of modern equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.

SEC. 3. *Component .* - The Fire Protection Modernization Program shall consist of the following, for implementation over a three-year period:

A. Establishment of Fire Protection Services (FPS) in all local government units with no existing fire protection services;

B. Upgrading of existing fire protection equipment and services;

C. Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within the BFP such as but not limited to: high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency, medical services and the like; and

D. Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if experts of equal qualification cannot be secured locally to accelerate the personnel development program.

SEC. 4. *Special Provident Fund* . - A special Provident Fund shall be created under the BFP solely for retirement, disability, and death benefits for members and scholarships for dependents.

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

- (a) P3.5 Billion - from the thirty-two and five tenths percent (32.5%) share of the Armed Forces of the Philippines pursuant to Sec. 8 (1) of Republic Act No. 7227;
- (b) P2.5 Billion - from the income of the Philippine Lottery;
- (c) P1.0 Billion - from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);
- (d) P1.0 Billion - to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately preceding the effectivity of this Act.

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

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

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* . -Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DILG shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That such implementing rules and regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles/crafts of various types, communication equipment and facilities, and other support equipment will be equitably

distributed to the different fire units for the better realization of the envisioned objectives of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Annual Reports* . -The Chief Fire Marshal shall submit to the President and Congress, through the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Governments, an annual report containing the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program as provided for in this Act.

The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall submit to the President and Congress an annual report of the status of the Fire Protection Modernization Program Trust Fund as provided for in Section 4 hereof.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause* . - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and all other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause*. - If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity* . - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,