

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3997



INTRODUCED BY HON. FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to strengthen local government units by amending Section 463 of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

A landmark legislation, Republic Act 7160 was hailed as a vital catalyst in the enhancement, strengthening and development of local governance. It is considered the "key that unlocks vast opportunities in the countryside".

More than a decade after it was enacted however, the law has to be revisited and amended for it to be able to address serious concerns of local governance. And one among the many divisions that have to be assessed and amended is Section 463, which provides for the officials of the provincial government.

While Section 470 of the Local Government Code provides that the Treasurer shall be appointed by the Secretary of Finance from a list of at least three (3) ranking, eligible recommendees of the governor or mayor, current management practices compel that the appointee be one who enjoys the local chief executive's trust and confidence one who considers himself/herself part of the local management team. Many cases arise today where local chief executives do not enjoy harmonious relationships with the Secretary of Finance-appointed treasurers as the latter consider themselves independent of the local executive team. This often leads to reduced efficiencies that in effect defeat the intent and spirit of the law.

Given that local revenue generation is a vital function of effective local governance, it is then critical that the appointing authority be given to the local chief executives. Effective local fiscal management requires team effort and this could only be achieved by addressing the issue of the authority to appoint.

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


FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES

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AN ACT
TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS BY AMENDING SECTION
463 AND SECTION 470 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 463 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 463 – Officials of the Provincial Government. – (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan. IN ADDITION, THE PROVINCE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING: [a secretary to 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.

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. If any part of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in effect.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,