

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4371



Introduced by **HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a well-established axiom that a country's firefighting capability is an important indicator of its readiness to take off economically, as foreign investors and tourists become impressed of a nation's serious efforts to prevent human and financial losses brought about by destructive fires.

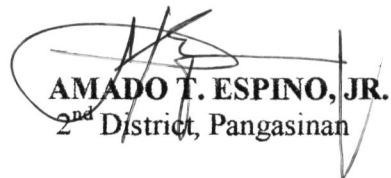
RA 6975 provided for the creation of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) composed of provincial offices, district offices and city and municipal stations that will be responsible for the prevention and suppression of all destructive fires.

The present set-up where the BFP remains a purely national concern in terms of organizational structure, financial responsibility and operational capability serves as a disincentive for local government units to significantly share in the burden of providing and modernizing fire protection in their localities.

Under the present tight fiscal situation of the national government vis a vis the economic rise of many cities and municipalities, it is high time that we re-think the traditional scheme and enlist the support of local government units, many of which are willing and financially able to render this vital service to their constituents.

This Bill seeks to authorize large cities and municipalities to assume the responsibility for fire protection services in order to achieve the benefit of allowing the concerned LGUs to improve and modernize their fire protection facilities and equipment and training of personnel to the extent of their financial capability. It will also give substantial financial relief to the national government and as a consequence thereof, enable the national government to channel its limited resources to provinces and municipalities which are most in dire need of support.

In view thereof, passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.
2nd District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT

AUTHORIZING LARGE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OVER FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, AMENDING SECTION 56 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIXTY NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 56 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 56. *Establishment of Fire Station.* – There shall be established at least one (1) fire station with adequate personnel, firefighting facilities and equipment in every provincial capital, city and municipality subject to standards, rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the Department. The local government unit shall, however, provide the necessary land or site of the station[.] : PROVIDED THAT LARGE CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES MAY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OVER FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, INCLUDING THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION, SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER EXISTING FIRE STATIONS, TO ENABLE THEM TO UPGRADE AND MODERNIZE FIREFIGHTING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL.

Sec. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the Bureau of Fire Protection in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 3. Repealing Clause . – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Sec. 4. Separability Clause. – In case any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, other provision shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.