

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2994

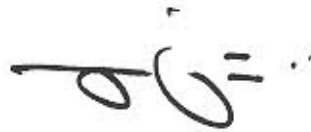
Authored by **HON. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fire incidents are unexpected and most often, unintentional. They can be prevented or at least their effects lessened through proper safety measures and protection services. With the hope of addressing the significant danger faced by the populace from fires, this bill proposes to establish a program strengthening the effective delivery of fire protection services by way of greater local government capability and active community support.

This bill seeks to establish a Fire Protection Modernization Program that will support the Bureau of Fire Protection in executing its mandate to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires. Components of the modernization program shall include the acquisition of modern fire protection equipment and advanced training for personnel, and the establishment of local government unit based operation centers for operational and logistical efficiency.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC
FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR 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 as the **"Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2010."**

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, and to strengthen the effective delivery of fire protection services to the public by enhancing local government capability and fostering active community support. The acquisition of modern equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.

Sec. 3. Components of Modernization. - The Fire Protection Modernization Program shall consist of the following programs to be implemented over a three-year period:

- (a) Establishment of Fire Protection Services 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 Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) for the management of high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, and 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 of the BFP.

Sec. 4. Special Provident Fund. - A Special Provident Fund shall be created under the BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits of members and scholarship for their 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:

- (a) Php 3.5 Billion (P 3,500,000,000) from the 32.5% share of the Armed Forces of the Philippines pursuant to Section 8(1) of Republic Act No. 7227;
- (b) Php 2.5 Billion (P 2,500,000,000) from the income of the Philippine Lottery;
- (c) Php 1.0 Billion (P 1,000,000,000) from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);
- (d) Php 1.0 Billion (P 1,000,000,000) 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 Arrangements. - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) may, subject to the approval of the President, the 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 or lease-purchase agreements or other contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers or 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 or 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 objectives of this Act.

Sec. 9. Annual Reports. - The Chief Fire Marshall shall submit to the President and Congress, through the Secretary of the DILG, an annual report containing the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program. The Secretary of the DILG shall submit to the President and Congress an annual report of the status of the Special Provident Fund as provided for under Section 4 of this Act.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or illegal, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,