

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE
H. NO. 3711

Introduced by Rep. Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill seeks to exempt the Municipality of Bacolor, Pampanga from Section 285 of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, which states that the internal revenue allotment of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and Barangays shall be allocated based on certain conditions, one of which is that their share shall be determined based on the following formula: (a) Population – 50%; (b) Land Area – 25%; (c) Equal sharing – 25%.

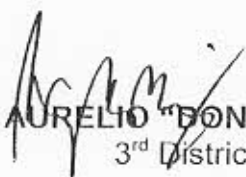
This is very important for Bacolor which was the hardest hit among all the towns of Pampanga by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the subsequent lahar flows. The onslaught forced the residents to flee the town and seek shelter in resettlement areas in Bulaon in the City of San Fernando; Madapdap in Mabalacat, Pampanga; Sta. Lucia in Magalang, Pampanga; and Pandacaqui in Mexico, Pampanga where they are now relocated. The transfer has depopulated Bacolor and as a result, its Internal Revenue Allotment share suffered a very steep decline.

Considering that the resettled residents still exercise their right of suffrage in their respective barangays, they continue to seek basic services and assistance through their elected officials, not in their host towns but in the Municipality of Bacolor. The Local Government Unit of Bacolor is therefore having difficulties providing the needed social services given the fact that their decreased IRA is not sufficient to address their constituents' concerns.

The bill proposes that instead of the population, Bacolor should be allowed to use the number of registered voters as a basis for computing its IRA.

While this representation has made efforts to rehabilitate the town, foremost of which is the passage of RA 9506, the Bacolor Rehabilitation Council Act, it is important that until such time that Bacolor is repopulated, it should be given special consideration and be exempted from the population formula for IRA allocation found in Section 285 of the Local Government Code.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is hereby requested.


REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
3rd District, Pampanga

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AN ACT
EXEMPTING BACOLOR, PAMPANGA FROM THE POPULATION FORMULA
USED IN DETERMINING THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT (IRA)
SHARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AS PROVIDED FOR IN SEC. 285
OF REPUBLIC ACT 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. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote equitability in the Internal Revenue Allotment distribution for cities and municipalities, especially in cases of de-population as a result of man-made or natural calamities.

SEC. 2. *Exemption* - In view of its unique character, where majority of its population are residing outside its territorial jurisdiction, the Municipality of Bacolor, Pampanga is hereby granted exemption from the implementation of the subsection on Population Formula, provided for by Sec. 285. *Allocation to Local Government Units* of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, for a period of not more than ten (10) years. As such, the Municipality and all its component Barangays, during the exemption period, are authorized to instead use the number of registered voters as the basis for computing their Internal Revenue Allotment share.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,