

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

Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6203



Introduced by Representative Pablo John F. Garcia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XII of Social Justice and Human Rights in the Philippine Constitution mandates Congress *"to give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities...."*

Likewise, Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that *"All are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and any indictment to such discrimination."*

Height should not be a restriction for people who want to serve the country as police, fire and jail officers provided they possess other qualifications required in the effective performance of their duties. Given the scope of responsibilities in law enforcement, fire protection and jail management, the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology need more competent members to better serve the growing demands of the public. However, this noble intent is impeded by the height requirement that prevents potential candidates from entering the service. If we are to analyze the existing gap between the average height of Filipinos vis-a-vis the required height for police, fire and jail officers, we can see that a good number of our fellowmen, most especially women, are being denied the opportunity to serve the country. The proposal to remove this requirement will effectively address this concern.

In view of the foregoing, swift passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA

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AN ACT

REMOVING THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE, FIRE, AND JAIL OFFICERS, FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 30 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" AND SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 2004"

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Police, Fire and Jail Height Equality Act of 2012."

SEC. 2. Section 30 (h) of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

SEC. 30. *General Qualifications for Appointment.* – No person shall be appointed as officer or member of the PNP unless he or she possesses the following qualifications:

" x x x

["h] Must be at least one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62 m) in height for male and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57m.) for female;]

" x x x."

SEC. 3. Section 4 (h) of Republic Act No. 9263 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Appointment of Uniformed Personnel to the BFP and the BJMP.* – No

person shall be appointed as uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP unless he/she possesses the following minimum qualifications:

“ x x x

h) [Must be at least one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62 m.) in height for male, and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57 m.) for female: Provided, That a] A waiver for [height and] age requirement[s] shall be automatically granted to applicants belonging to the cultural communities: and

“ x x x.”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Police Commission, the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.