

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2008



Introduced by Congresswoman Lorna Quinto Velasco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides:

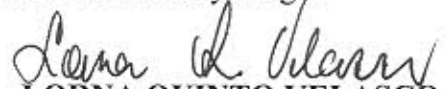
The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Eye care is an important part of the health development of Filipinos. Without such, a person could not hope to live a healthy and complete life. Unfortunately, affordable and accessible eye care programs are lacking in our country, especially with the marginalized and rural communities of our country. Thus, pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution, as provided for above, the State should promote the right to healthy eyes and vision of our countrymen by granting easily accessible eye care through the establishment of designated ophthalmologists in every municipality, city and province.

The creation of these new positions would guaranty that every member of a Filipino community can have their eyes or vision checked without having to worry about the potential financial burden in their budget.

It is in this light that this bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7160 as amended by Republic Act No. 8553, otherwise known as "Local Government Code", by adding new government positions, more specifically: municipal, city and provincial ophthalmologist officers.

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


LORNA QUINTO VELASCO

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 102 (a) (1), (2), (3), 443 (a), 454 (a), 463 (a) AND 478 (a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8553, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

Section 1. Section 102 (a) (1), (2), (3) of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ (a) There shall be established a local health board in every in every province, city, or municipality. The composition of the local health boards shall be as follows:

- (1) The provincial health board shall be headed by the governor as chairman, the provincial health officer as vice-chairman, **and the provincial ophthalmologist officer**, the chairman of the committee on health of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a representative from the private sector or non-government organizations involved in health services, and a representative of the Department of Health in the province, as members;
- (2) The city health board shall be headed by the city mayor as chairman, the city health officer as vice-chairman, **and the city ophthalmologist officer**, the chairman of the committee on health of the sangguniang panlungsod, a representative from the private sector or non-governmental organizations involved in health services, and a representative of the Department of Health in the city, as members; and
- (3) The municipal health board shall be headed by the municipal mayor as chairman, the municipal health officer as vice-chairman, **and the municipal ophthalmologist officer**, the chairman of the committee on health of the sangguniang bayan, a representative from the private sector or non-governmental organization involved in health services,

and a representative of the Department of Health in the municipality, as members.”

Section 2. Section 443 (a), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer, **a municipal ophthalmologist officer**, and a municipal civil registrar.”

Section 3. Section 454 (a), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer/building official, a city health officer, **a city ophthalmologist officer**, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer.”

Section 4. Section 463 (a), is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, **a provincial ophthalmologist officer**, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian.”

Section 5. Section 478, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(d) No person shall be appointed as an ophthalmologist officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, and

a licensed medical practitioner with a degree specializing in ophthalmology. He must have acquired experience in the practice of his profession for at least three (3) years in the case of the provincial or city ophthalmologist officer, and one (1) year in the case of the municipal ophthalmologist

- (1) The duties of the ophthalmologist officer shall be as follows:
 - (i) They must diagnose the different eye problems and come up with the appropriate solutions to solve the disease;
 - (ii) They must treat the different eye disorders effectively and efficiently;
 - (iii) They must carry out the different eye exams to ascertain damaged or lost vision;
 - (iv) They have to prescribe medicinal drugs for curing eye disorders;
 - (v) They should be aware of the different eye exercising methods that can help in restoring the vision of the patients;
 - (vi) They have to organize and implement various eye programs for the supporting the visually impaired and other eye patients; and
 - (vii) They should coordinate and work with the health officer assigned to their particular jurisdiction.”

Section 6. Funding- The funds for the salary of the ophthalmologist officers shall be taken from the General Appropriations Act, to be determined by the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Budget and Management.

Section 7. Repealing Clause- All laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda or circulars inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,