

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2762

Introduced by: **REP. MAGNOLIA ROSA ANTONINO-NADRES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

From the 19th Century, the United Kingdom imposed a height requirement for applicants in the police force. However, in the late 1990's, the height requirement was removed on the ground that height restriction was seen to possibly discriminate against those of ethnic backgrounds who may be genetically predisposed to be shorter.

In a move widely seen to copy the worldwide trend, House Bill No. 6203 which sought to remove the height requirement for applicants to the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Management and Penology (BJMP) was approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives during the 15th Congress. The positive action was anchored on the ground that existing laws impose undue restriction to those qualified people who may desire to serve in the said agencies but lacks the necessary height requirement. However, the bill was vetoed by President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III citing among others the following:

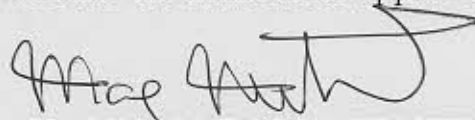
“As raised by the BJMP, jail officers, by the nature of their work in guarding detainees or escorting criminals, must possess the necessary physical attributes to perform their functions effectively. Likewise, public safety is paramount in law enforcement by the PNP, as well as in fire-fighting by the BFP”.

The Chief of the Philippine National Police Alan Purisima also expressed his apprehension that the removal of the height requirement may encourage even the midgets to apply in the PNP. However, he expressed no objection to future bill that may set a new reasonable height requirement for the members and officers of the PNP.

While we may disagree with the findings of our higher authorities primarily for the reason that even the United Kingdom and other countries, which obviously have genetically bigger size than Filipinos, have already removed the height requirement due to some scientific findings in response to accusations of discrimination, it will still be a wise move to follow the concerns of our authorities on the matter.

This bill therefore seeks to reduce the height requirement for applicants in the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and Bureau of Jail management and Penology (BJMP) from one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62 M) or 5'4" inches for male and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters ((1.57 m.) or 5'2" inches for female to one meter and fifty-two centimeters (1.52 M) or 5" inches and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters ((1.42 m.) or 4'8" inches for male and female respectively .

The foregoing reasons warrant the immediate approval of this bill.



MAGNOLIA ROSA ANTONINO-NADRES

Representative
Fourth District, Nueva Ecija

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HOUSE BILL No. 2762

Introduced by: REP. MAGNOLIA ROSA ANTONINO-NADRES

AN ACT
REDUCING THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OR OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT No. 6975, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" AND REPUBLIC ACT No. 9263 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. Height Requirement for Members and Officers of the PNP. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended otherwise known as the "Department of Interior and Local Government Act of 1990" 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 possesses the following minimum qualifications:

xxx xxx xxx"

(h) Must be at least one meter and [sixty] FIFTY-two centimeters [(1.62 m.)] (1.52 m.) in height for male and one meter and [fifty-seven] FORTY-TWO centimeters [(1.57 m.)] (1.42 m.) for female;"

xxx xxx xxx"

SEC. 2. Height Requirement for Uniformed Personnel of the BFP and BJMP. - Section 4 (h) of Republic Act No. 9263 otherwise known as the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Management and Penology (BJMP) Professionalization Act of 2004 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 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:

xxx xxx xxx”

(h) Must be at least one meter and [sixty] FIFTY-two centimeters [(1.62 m.)] (1.52 m.) in height for male and one meter and [fifty-seven] FORTY-TWO centimeters [(1.57 m.)] (1.42 m.) for female;”

xxx xxx xxx”

SEC. 3. Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in consultation with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules an regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,