



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

16<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2887**

---

**Introduced by Representative REGINA ONGSIAKO REYES**  
**Lone District, Marinduque**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is a line agency under the Department of Agriculture, transferred from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1984 in compliance with Executive Order No. 967 issued on June 30 of the same year. In 1998, the BFAR underwent reconstitution by virtue of Republic Act No. 8550 entitled "*An Act Providing for the Development, Management and Conservation of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Integrating All Laws Pertinent thereto and for Other Purposes*", otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, and was specifically mandated with the development, improvement, management and conservation of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources.

It is worth noting that the mandate of BFAR is very similar to that of the DENR, which is to control and supervise the exploration, development, utilization and conservation of the country's natural resources. Hence, as the agency tasked to overlook the protection, conservation and management of the fisheries and aquatic resources of the country, BFAR must be reverted to the jurisdiction of the DENR for a more focused policy implementation and administrative coordination. This bill, therefore, seeks to transfer the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) from the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In line with the government's objective of improving the quality and efficiency of government services by eliminating or minimizing duplication of functions and responsibilities, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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

  
**REGINA ONGSAKO REYES**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

16<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2887**

---

**Introduced by Representative REGINA ONGSIAKO REYES**  
**Lone District, Marinduque**

---

**AN ACT**  
**TRANSFERRING THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND**  
**AQUATIC RESOURCES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

***Section 1.*** The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

***Sec. 2.*** Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall coordinate and make the necessary arrangements for the smooth transfer of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including provisions for the transfer of personnel, applicable appropriations, records, equipment, properties, and assets and liabilities from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

**Sec. 3.** All other functions and activities in the Department of Agriculture directly related to the development and regulation of fisheries and aquatic resources shall likewise be transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources including its personnel, applicable appropriations, records, equipment, properties, and assets and liabilities.

**Sec. 4.** All incumbents of various positions in the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall continue to exercise their usual functions, duties and responsibilities, pending the issuance of the appropriate implementing rules and regulations.

**Sec. 5.** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 6.** All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.