

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6383



Introduced by Magdalo Party-List Representatives
Hon. Gary C. Alejano and Hon. Francisco Ashley L. Acedillo

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The increased economic activity in the country has set aside safety standards and prevention measures that will prevent, mitigate, lessen industrial and residential accidents caused by fire.

Republic Act No. 6975 mandates the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, the enforcement of the fire code, and the investigation of all causes of fires, and if necessary, the filing of the proper complaints with the appropriate agencies. For operational and logistical efficiency, the Bureau of Fire Protection needs to implement a modernization program that will safeguard the populace from the hazards of destructive fires.

This proposed measure aims to establish fire stations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in all local government units (LGUs). Likewise, fire trucks and similar equipment shall be purchased to effectively respond to fire alarms in both the financial districts and residential areas by making the capacity to navigate small roads and thoroughfares in densely populated urban centers. In addition, trauma units in public hospitals will be upgraded; and fire personnel as well as fire volunteers will be trained using state-of-the-art equipment for fire prevention and suppression.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the expeditious approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

HON. FRANCISCO ASHLEY L. ACEDILLO

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AN ACT
ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Fire Protection
2 Modernization Act of 2015."

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to develop the Bureau of Fire
5 Protection (BFP), ensure public safety through the prevention of and suppression of all kinds of
6 destructive fires with the active support of the community, enforce Presidential Decree No. 1185,
7 and further strengthen the local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of
8 fire protection service and competent fire protection personnel. The acquisition of modern
9 equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.

10
11 **SEC. 3. *Fire Protection Modernization Program.*** - The Fire Protection Modernization
12 Program shall consist of the following, for implementation over a three year (3) period:

13 a) Establishment of Fire Protection Service (FPS) in all local government units with no
14 existing fire protection services;

15 b) Upgrading of existing fire protection equipment and services;

16 c) Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within the BFP such
17 as but not limited to; high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires,
18 chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical services, and the like; and;

1 d) Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally accredited
2 training consultants and advisers if experts of equal qualification cannot be secured locally, to
3 accelerate the personnel development program.
4

5 **SEC. 4. *Special Provident Fund.*** - A special provident fund shall be created under the
6 BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits for members and scholarship for
7 dependents.
8

9 **SEC. 5. *Appropriation.*** - The amount of Eight Billion Pesos (P8,000,000,000.00) for the
10 Fire Protection Modernization Program is hereby appropriated from the following sources:
11

- 12 a) P2.5 Billion from the income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office;
13 b) P1 Billion from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
14 (PAGCOR); and
15 c) P4.5 Billion to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately
16 preceding the effectivity of this Act.
17

18 **SEC. 6. *Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangement.*** - The Secretary of
19 Interior and Local Government may, subject to the approval of the President, under provisions of
20 existing laws and regulations including those of the Commission on Audit and under such terms
21 and conditions favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts, lease-purchase
22 agreements, or other contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers/ contractors in the
23 implementation of this Act.
24

25 **SEC. 7. *Special Foreign Exchange Reduction Scheme.*** - In order to reduce foreign
26 exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance technology transfer to
27 the Philippines, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, as far as feasible,
28 incorporate in each contract agreement special foreign exchange reduction schemes such as
29 barter, counter-trade, in-country manufacture, co-production, build-operate-transfer (BOT), or
30 other innovative arrangements or combinations thereof.
31

1 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within thirty (30) days from the
2 approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the rules
3 and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act; Provided, that such
4 implementing rules and regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles crafts of various
5 types, communication equipment, facilities, and other support equipment will be equitably
6 distributed to the different fire units for the better realization of the envisioned objectives of this
7 Act.

8
9 **SEC. 9. *Annual Reports.*** - The Chief Fire Marshall shall submit to the President and
10 Congress, through the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, an annual report containing
11 the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization program as provided for
12 in this Act. The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall submit to the President and
13 Congress an annual report of the status of Fire Protection Modernization Program Trust Fund as
14 provided for by Section 4 hereof.

15
16 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared
17 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall
18 continue to be in full force and effect.

19
20 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
21 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the
22 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

23
24 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
25 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,