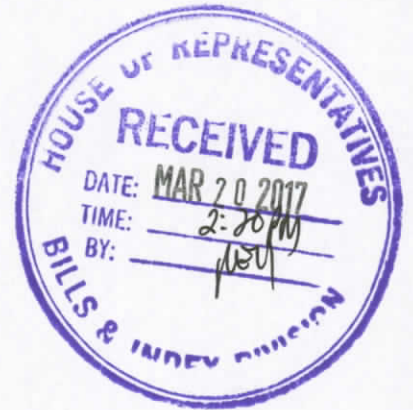


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5338**



Introduced by Representative Jose Luis Angel N. Campos, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to further professionalize and empower members of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to serve as medical first responders.

In developed countries, firemen are at the forefront of emergency first response. From conflagrations and floods to vehicular accidents and even rescuing pets, fire officers are the most common heroes to save the day. In the Philippines, however, firemen are predominantly perceived as limited to fire fighting and saving people from unfriendly and destructive fire. This undermines the capacity of firemen to save lives, not only from fire, but more importantly from possible injuries and deaths caused by various emergencies and hazards.

Before actual deployment, firemen undergo a four-month housed-in-camp training which includes application of advanced first aid at the National Fire Training Institute in Canlubang, Laguna. But they lack standard certifications from accrediting institutions. Even the BFP does not issue a certification that graduates of their fire officers' training program are qualified first responders. Although the existing pre-employment training policies and programs of the BFP require that they pass physical and aptitude tests including emergency medical first responders' training, there is still a need to institutionalize and highlight this crucial competency and duty.

This proposed bill will require fire officers to become adept, not just in suppressing fire but also in responding to medical emergencies caused by fire and other disasters. By institutionalizing training and certification of fire officers as medical first responders, the people are assured that the BFP is capable of holistically managing fire incidents and disasters. Each fire station is proposed to have at least one certified emergency medical technician who can attend to more complicated cases and can operate sophisticated emergency medical equipment whenever necessary.

Given the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOSE LUIS ANGEL N. CAMPOS, JR.

House Bill No. 5338

AN ACT

1 TECHNICIAN WHO WILL SUPERVISE FIRE OFFICERS IN
2 RESPONDING TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

3
4 AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN REFERS TO A
5 TRAINED AND CERTIFIED PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE
6 PROVIDER WHO IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING EXTENSIVE PRE-
7 HOSPITAL CARE SERVICES SUCH AS ADVANCED FIRST AID LEVEL
8 CARE, ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATIONS AND CARDIOPULMONARY
9 RESUSCITATION; ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS ORALLY AND
10 INTRAVENOUSLY; AND USING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
11 DEFIBRILLATOR AND OTHER COMPLEX EMERGENCY MEDICAL
12 EQUIPMENT.

13
14 A NEW RECRUIT TO THE BFP MUST COMPLY WITH THE
15 ADDITIONAL TRAINING QUALIFICATION PROVIDED FOR IN THIS
16 SECTION. UNIFORMED PERSONNEL WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE
17 SERVICE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017 SHALL BE GIVEN FIVE (5) YEARS
18 TO OBTAIN THE MINIMUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AS
19 MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER. THE BFP PERSONNEL DESIGNATED
20 AS FIRE STATION EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN MUST
21 POSSESS APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL
22 TECHNICIAN IN ADDITION TO THEIR TRAINING AND
23 CERTIFICATION AS MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER: *PROVIDED*, THAT
24 UNIFORMED BFP PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RENDERED MORE THAN
25 FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF SERVICE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017 SHALL
26 NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE
27 AFOREMENTIONED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AS MEDICAL
28 FIRST RESPONDER."

29
30 SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
31 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

32
33 Approved,