

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5533**



Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)** is an agency of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) responsible for implementing national policies related to firefighting and fire prevention as well as implementation of the Philippine Fire Code (PD 1185), which has been repealed and replaced by the New Fire Code of the Philippines (RA 9514).

Formerly known as the **Integrated National Police Fire Service**, the BFP is in charge of the administration and management of municipal and city fire and emergency services all over the country.

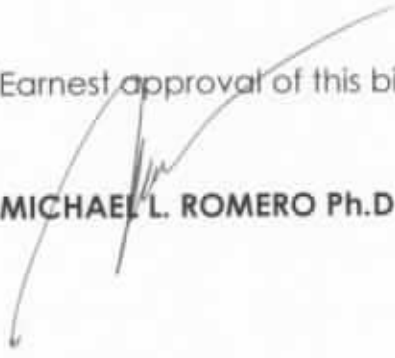
The BFP traces its roots from the defunct Constabulary Fire Protection Bureau, then later PC-INP Office of Fire Protection Service.

The agency was founded on January 29, 1991, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 6975, which established the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The Bureau now is in charge of management, administration, and the implementation of fire and emergency services all over the country.

This House Bill seeks to promote the holistic development for all the operational and maintenance programs to foster fire security and fire prevention services, provide additional funding and to promote the professionalization of the fire service as a profession.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D



ENRICO A. PINEDA

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HOUSE BILL NO. ____

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**AN ACT
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BUREAU OF FIRE
PROTECTION (BFP), ASSURING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, TO
PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FIRE SAFETY IN THE FIRE
PROTECTION AND FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title — This Act shall be known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection
Development Act of 2017."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to ensure
public safety and promote economic development through the prevention and
suppression of all kinds of destructive fires and promote the professionalization of
the fire service as a profession. Towards this end,

The State shall hereby provide a separate authorize funding of Five
hundred million pesos **(P500,000,000.00)** to evolve and implement a

comprehensive national program to meet the fire security and fire safety related needs and to maintain the continuity of its mandate.

SECTION 3. Appropriations — The amount of Five hundred million pesos (**P500,000,000.00**) necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the implementing agency in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

The state shall hereby authorize the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to realign its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

SECTION 4. Other Funding and Sources of Income:

(a) To support the manpower, infrastructure and equipment needs of the fire service of the BFP, such amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Fire Code shall be appropriated and included in the annual appropriation of the BFP.

(b) To partially provide for the funding of the fire service the following taxes and fees which shall accrue to the General Fund of the National Government, are hereby imposed:

(1) Fees to be charged for the issuance of certificates, permits and licenses as provided for in Section 7 of RA9514 (a) hereof;

(2) One-tenth of one *per centum* (0.1%) of the verified estimated value of buildings or structures to be erected, from the owner thereof, but not to exceed fifty thousand (P50,000.00) pesos, one half to be paid prior to the issuance

of the building permit, and the balance, after final inspection and prior to the issuance of the use and occupancy permit;

(3) One-hundredth of one *per centum* (0.10%) of the assessed value of buildings or structures annually payable upon payment of the real estate tax, except on structures used as single family dwellings;

(4) Two *per centum* (2%) of all premiums, excluding re-insurance premiums for the sale of fire, earthquake and explosion hazard insurance collected by companies, persons or agents licensed to sell such insurances in the Philippines;

(5) Two *per centum* (2%) of gross sales of companies, persons or agents selling fire fighting equipment, appliances or devices, including hazard detection and warning systems; and

(6) Two *per centum* (2%) of the service fees received from fire, earthquake, and explosion hazard reinsurance surveys and post loss service of insurance adjustment companies doing business in the Philippines directly through agents.

SECTION 5. Collection of Taxes, Fees and Fines - All taxes, fees and fines provided in this Code, shall be collected by the BFP.

Provided, That twenty percent **(20%)** of such collection shall be set aside and retained for use by the city or municipal government concerned, which shall appropriate the same exclusive for the use of the operation and maintenance of its local fire station, including the construction and repair of fire station:

Provided, further, That the remaining eighty (80%) shall be remitted to the National Treasury under a trust fund assigned for the modernization of the BFP.

SECTION 6. Assessment of Fire Code Taxes, Fees and Fines - The assessment of fire code taxes, fees and fines is vested upon the BFP. The BFP shall, subject to the approval of the DILG, prescribe the procedural rules for such purpose.

SECTION 7. Collection and Assessment of Local Taxes, Fees and Fines - The collection and assessment of taxes, fees and fines as prescribed in the Local Government Code, except those contained in this Act, shall be function of the concerned local government units.

SECTION 8. Use of Income Generated from the Enforcement of the Fire Code - The Chief, BFP is authorized, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), to use the income generated under the Fire Code for procurement of fire protection and fire fighting investigation, rescue, paramedics, supplies and materials, and related technical services necessary for the fire service and the improvement of facilities of the Bureau of Fire Protection and abatement of fire hazards.

The BFP shall determine the optimal number of equipment, including, but not limited to, fire trucks and fire hydrants, required by every local government unit for the proper delivery of fire protection services in its jurisdiction.

In the procurement of fire fighting and investigation supplies and materials, the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall evaluate, determine and certify if the supply to procured conforms to the product standards fixed by the BFP.

For this purpose, the BFP shall submit to the Bureau of Product Standards a detailed set of product standards that must be complied with in the procurement of fire fighting and investigation supplies and materials within three **(3)** months from the effectivity of this act.

SECTION 9. Monitoring the Implementation of the Fire Code and the Amount of the Fees Collected. - The Chief, BFP shall, within three **(3)** months from the effectivity of this Code, submit to the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government for his/her approval, a management tool or mechanism that would ensure effective monitoring of the enforcement of the Fire Code to include the amount of Fire Code fees collected.

SECTION 10. Periodic Reports - The BFP shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 11. Automatic Review - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and programs in the BFP and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,