

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

**Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 7071



Introduced by Representative Estrellita B. Suansing

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Section 484 (a), Article XIV, Title V, Book III of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, by making it mandatory for the local government units to appoint an environment and natural resources officer.

The devolution of specific functions and responsibilities to the local government units aims to make these LGUs self-reliant. However, the appointment of officers to perform these devolved functions, among these the appointment of an environment and natural resources officer, were made optional. This limits the LGUs in performing their devolved functions.

In the era of fast growing environmental changes, especially because of the climate change phenomenon and a blooming population explosion of more than one hundred million people that have ravished our finite natural resources to the brink of near eradication, the people in the grassroots must be informed of the possible environmental dangers that will confront them.

Thus, there is an important reason to make it mandatory that there should be an environment and natural resources officer in each province, city and municipality that will oversee to it that the local natural settings are protected and preserved, aside from apprising the people the significance of the natural world in relation to their existence on this earth.

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


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF AN
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER IN EVERY
PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 484 (A), ARTICLE XIV, TITLE V, BOOK III OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

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

SECTION 1. Section 484 (a), Article XIV, Title V, Book III or Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Article XIV. The Environment and Natural Resources
Officer

"Section. 484. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. – (a) x x x

"The appointment of the environment and natural
resources officer [is optional] **SHALL BE MANDATORY** for
provincial, city and municipal governments.

"(b) x x x."

SECTION 2. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,