

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

8484
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 14 of Presidential Decree No.1185 mandates local government units to collect fire inspection fees from business establishments within their respective jurisdictions and to remit such amounts to the National Treasury. The National Government, however, despite retaining the funds collected through the efforts of these local government units, has failed to provide the necessary firefighting equipment to local fire stations, making the duties of our firefighters rife with risks and unforeseen dangers. The use of decrepit fire trucks and ramshackle equipment has and continues to severely impair firefighting efforts leading to greater loss of life and property.

In 2017, total new appropriations for the Bureau of Fire Protection is slightly less than P13 million, the majority of which was for personnel services (P11,000,000); P1.5 million was set aside for operating expenses; and a dismal P543,606 pesos was left for capital outlay. Moreover, according to an article from Business Mirror, there are 2,245 fire trucks nationwide, but only 1,958, or 87 percent, are serviceable or in working condition. Only nearly 163 are classified as unserviceable and 124 are "under repair." The BFP is also short if fire hoses and nozzles. Ideally, the BFP should have 31,430 fire hoses, but based on the latest inventory, only 24,245 hoses are serviceable, leaving a shortage of 7,185 fire hoses. The ideal number of fire nozzles is 8,980, but the number of serviceable fire nozzles is 5,876, short of 3,104 units. Finally, a total of 8,980 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) is the ideal number for the BFP. But the BFP only has 1,938 SCBA units, short of 7,042.

Clearly, with the abovementioned realities, there is a need to empower local government units to better equip and modernize their local fire stations if it were to address the fire safety and firefighting requirements of their respective jurisdictions. Under this Act, 50% of the collection proceeds from all taxes, fees, and fines imposed under P.D. 1185, otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines, shall be used for the maintenance and purchase of firefighting equipment for its local fire stations.

The safety of the general public is of utmost importance, as such approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

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AN ACT

ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO RETAIN FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE PROCEEDS FROM ALL TAXES, FEES, AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED ELEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 14 of Presidential Decree No. 1185, otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 14. Collection of Taxes, Fees, and Fines.—All taxes, fees, and fines provided in Section 13 hereof, shall be collected by the City or Municipal Treasurer [concerned]: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF ALL SUCH COLLECTIONS SHALL BE SET ASIDE AND RETAINED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNED, WHICH SHALL APPROPRIATE THE SAME EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE USE OF ITS LOCAL FIRE STATION IN THE PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCKS, FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, APPLIANCE OR DEVICES, AND THE MAINTENANCE THEREOF; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE REMAINING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) SHALL BE REMITTED** [for remittance] to the National Treasury.”

SEC. 2. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,