



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Seventeenth Congress

Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 9188

Introduced by **HON. ROMEO M. ACOP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to the constitutional mandate of the State to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and property, and promote the general welfare of the people, it is the responsibility of the State to strengthen government capability aimed towards the strengthening of the delivery of basic services to the citizenry through the institutionalization of highly efficient and competent fire and jail services.

It is recognized that the uniformed personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) are members of the uniformed service of the government under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). At present, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) has an authorized strength of 23,444 personnel, while the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has an authorized strength of 11,997.

However, the highest rank of uniformed personnel in both Bureaus pursuant to Republic Act No. 9263 is Fire / Jail Director which is equivalent to a two-star general rank in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP). On the other hand, the highest rank in the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with an estimated personnel strength of 9,000, is Admiral, which is equivalent to a four-star general rank in the AFP and PNP. The uniformed men and women of the BFP and the BJMP are required the same amount of sacrifice, service and dedication like their counterparts in the PNP, the AFP and the PCG to carry out their respective duties to the extent of risking their lives and limbs.

Hence for fairness and parity, the rank structure of the uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP should be upgraded to a level commensurate with their critical role in maintaining national security and peace and order, at par with those of the PCG, PNP and AFP, taking into consideration their exposure to high-risk environments in the performance of their duties. With this reform, it is anticipated that more efficient and effective services in the fields of public security and safety administration, and correction and jail management will be established.

For the foregoing reason, the immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly urged.


ATTY. ROMEO M. ACOP MNSA



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House Bill No. _____

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AN ACT
UPGRADING THE RANK STRUCTURE OF THE UNIFORMED MEMBERS
OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL
MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the 'Rank Structure of the Uniformed Members of the Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Upgrading Act of 2018'.

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9263, otherwise known as the 'Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004', as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows :

Section 3. Organization and Key Positions of the BFP and the BJMP. – The BFP and the BJMP shall be respectively headed by a Chief who shall be assisted by two (2) deputy chiefs, one (1) for administration and one

(1) for operations, all of whom shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DILG from among the qualified officers with at least the rank of **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT** [~~senior superintendent~~] in the service: *Provided*, that in no case shall any officer who has retired or is retirable within six (6) months from his/her compulsory retirement age be appointed as Chief of the Fire Bureau or Chief of the Jail Bureau, as the case may be, *Provided, further*, that the Chief of the Fire Bureau and Chief of the Jail Bureau shall serve a tour of duty not to exceed four (4) years: *Provided, however*, that in times of war or other national emergency declared by Congress, the President may extend such tour of duty.

The Heads of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of **DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~director~~] shall have the position title of Chief of the Fire Bureau and the Chief of the Jail Bureau, respectively. The second officers in command of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~chief superintendent~~] shall have the position title of Deputy Chief for Administration of the **FIRE BUREAU AND DEPUTY CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE** Jail Bureau, respectively. The third officer in command of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~chief superintendent~~] shall have the position title of Deputy Chief for Operation of Fire Bureau and Deputy Chief for Operation of the Jail Bureau, respectively. The fourth officers in command of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~chief superintendent~~] shall have the respective position title of Chief of Directorial Staff of the Fire Bureau and Chief of Directorial Staff of the Jail Bureau, who shall be assisted by the directors of the directorates in the respective national headquarters office with at least the rank of **DIRECTOR** [~~senior superintendent~~].

The BFP and the **BJMP** shall establish, operate and maintain their respective regional offices in each of the administrative regions of the country which shall be respectively headed by a Regional Director for Fire Protection and a Regional Director of Jail Management and Penology with the rank of **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT** [~~senior superintendent~~], **EXCEPT FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) WHOSE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY SHALL HAVE THE RANK OF DIRECTOR RESPECTIVELY.** He / She shall be respectively assisted by the following officers with the rank of **SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT** [~~superintendent~~]: Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Assistant Regional Director for Operations, and Regional Chief of Directorial Staff[.]: **PROVIDED, THAT THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR OPERATION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) OF THE BFP AND BJMP SHALL HAVE THE RANK OF CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.**

SECTION 3. Section 5, paragraph (d) of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows :

Section 5. Appointment of Uniformed Personnel to the BFP and the BJMP – The appointment of the BFP and the BJMP shall be effected in the following manners:

a) xxxxx

b) xxxxx

c) xxxxx

d) *Fire/ Jail Chief Superintendent To Fire/Jail Director* **GENERAL** - Appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DILG, with the proper endorsement by the Chairman of the CSC.

SECTION 4. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows :

Section 7. Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Designation of Uniformed Personnel of the BFP and the BJMP to Key Positions. -

a) No person shall be designated to the following key positions of the BFP [and the BJMP] unless he/she has met the qualifications provided therein:

1) *Municipal Fire Marshal.* – Should have the rank of **SUPERINTENDENT** [senior-inspector], who must have finished at least second year Bachelor of Laws or earned at least twelve (12) units in a master's degree program in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related discipline from recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactory passed the necessary training of career courses for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau;

2) *City Fire Marshal.* - Should have the rank of chief of **SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT** [chief-inspector], who must have finished at least second year Bachelor of Laws or earned at least twenty four (24) units in a master's degree program in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related disciplines from recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactory passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau;

- 3) *District Fire Marshal, Provincial Fire Marshal, Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Assistant Regional Director for Operations and Regional Chief of Directorial Staff.* – Should have the rank of **SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT** [~~superintendent~~], who must be a graduate of Bachelor of Laws or a holder of a master's degree in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related disciplines from recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau;
- 4) *District Fire Marshal for the National Capital Region, **ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**, Regional Director for Fire Protection [~~and Director of the Directorate of the National Headquarters Office~~].* – Should have at least the rank of **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT** [~~senior superintendent~~], who must be a graduate of Bachelor of Laws or a holder of master's degree in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career course for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau;
- 5) **DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE OF THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION – SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST THE RANK OF DIRECTOR, WHO MUST BE A GRADUATE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS OR A HOLDER OF A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIMINOLOGY OR OTHER RELATED DISCIPLINES FROM RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION OF LEARNING, AND MUST HAVE SATISFACTORILY PASSED THE NECESSARY TRAINING OR CAREER COURSES FOR SUCH POSITION AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE FIRE BUREAU.**
- [5] 6) *Deputy Chief for Administration of the Fire Bureau, Deputy Chief for Operations of the Fire Bureau and Chief of Directorial Staff of the Fire Bureau.* — Should have the rank of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~chief superintendent~~], who must be a member of the Philippine Bar or a holder of a master's degree in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau; and

[6)] **7) Chief of the Fire Bureau.** — Should have the rank of **DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~senior-director~~], who must be a member of the Philippine Bar or a holder of a master's degree in public administration, management, engineering, public safety, criminology or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Fire Bureau;

b) No person shall be designated to the following key positions of the BJMP unless he/she has met the qualifications provided therein:

1) *Municipal Jail Warden.* — Should have the rank of the **SUPERINTENDENT** [~~senior-inspector~~], who must have finished at least second year Bachelor of Laws or earned at least twelve (12) units in a master's degree program in management; public administration, public safety, criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail bureau.

2) *City Jail Warden.* — Should have the rank of the **SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT** [~~chief-inspector~~], who must have finished at least second year Bachelor of Laws or earned at least twenty-four (24) units in a master's degree program in management, public administration, public safety; criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration, defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail Bureau: *Provided, That in city jails with a population of one thousand (1,000) or more inmates, the city jail warden shall have the rank and qualifications of a district jail warden;*

3) *District Jail Warden, Provincial Jail Administrator, Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Assistant Regional Director for Operations and Regional Chief of Directorial Staff.* — Should have the rank of **SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT** [~~superintendent~~], who must be a graduate of Bachelor of Laws or a holder of a master's degree in management, public administration, public safety, criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration, defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail Bureau;

4) *Regional Director for Jail Management and Penology, **ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)** and **ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)** [~~Director of the Directorate of the National Headquarters Office~~].* — Should have at least the rank of **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT** [~~senior superintendent~~], who must be a graduate of Bachelor of Laws or a holder of a master's degree in management, public administration, public safety, criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration, defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail Bureau.

5) **DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE OF THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) – SHOULD HAVE THE RANK OF DIRECTOR, WHO MUST BE A GRADUATE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS OR A HOLDER OF A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIMINOLOGY, PENOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, NATIONAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEFENSE STUDIES OR OTHER RELATED DISCIPLINE FROM A RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION OF LEARNING, AND MUST HAVE SATISFACTORILY PASSED THE NECESSARY TRAINING OR CAREER COURSES FOR SUCH POSITION AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE JAIL BUREAU.**

[5] 6) *Deputy Chief for Administration of the Jail Bureau, Deputy Chief for Operations of the Jail Bureau and Chief of Directorial Staff of the Jail Bureau.* — Should have the rank of **DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~chief superintendent~~], who must be a member of the Philippine Bar or a holder of a master's degree in management, public administration, public safety, criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration, defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail Bureau; and,

[6] 7) *Chief of the Jail Bureau.* — Should have the rank of **DIRECTOR GENERAL** [~~director~~], who must be a member of the Philippine Bar or a holder of a master's degree in management, public administration, public safety, criminology, penology, sociology, national security administration, defense studies or other related disciplines from a recognized institution of learning, and must have satisfactorily passed the necessary training or

career courses for such position as may be established by the Jail Bureau.

Any uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP who is currently occupying such position but lacks of the qualifications mentioned therein shall be given three (3) years upon the effectivity of this Act to comply with the requirements, otherwise he/she shall be relieved from the position.

SECTION 5. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9263 is hereby amended to read as follows :

Section 12. Standardization of the Base Pay, Retirement and Other Benefits of the Uniformed Personnel of the BFP and the BJMP — In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and professionalism of the uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP, they shall receive the minimum starting salary equivalent to the salary grade level of the corresponding rank classification of their counterparts in the PNP, as provided under Section 36 of the Republic Act No. 8551, and in the AFP, as provided under Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9166.

The rate of base pay of the uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP shall be adjusted in accordance with the following **RANK CLASSIFICATION AND** salary grade schedule:

RANK	SALARY GRADE
FIRE / JAIL DIRECTOR GENERAL	30
FIRE / JAIL DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL	29
FIRE / JAIL DIRECTOR	28
FIRE / JAIL CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT	27
FIRE / JAIL SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT	26
FIRE / JAIL SUPERINTENDENT	25
FIRE / JAIL CHIEF INSPECTOR	24
FIRE / JAIL SENIOR INSPECTOR	23
FIRE / JAIL INSPECTOR	22
SENIOR FIRE / JAIL OFFICER IV	19
SENIOR FIRE / JAIL OFFICER III	18
SENIOR FIRE / JAIL OFFICER II	17
SENIOR FIRE / JAIL OFFICER I	16
FIRE / JAIL OFFICER III	14
FIRE / JAIL OFFICER II	12
FIRE / JAIL OFFICER I	10

Provided, That all benefits currently received by the uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP under other existing laws shall continue to be received by them: *Provided, further*, That their retirement pay shall be subject to the adjustment/s based on the prevailing scale of base pay of the uniformed personnel in the active service.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF), in consultation with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations Clause.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act or the application thereof shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity of other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in Official Gazette or at least in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.