

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7382**



Introduced by Representative JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 463 UNDER CHAPTER 2, TITLE 4, BOOK 3 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

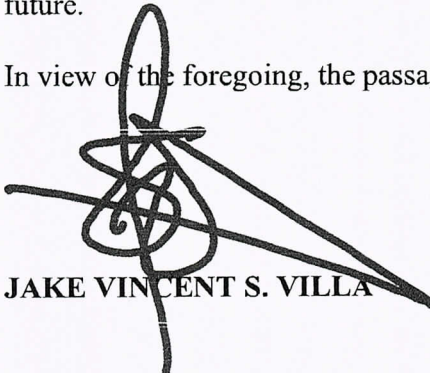
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to amend Section 463 under Chapter 2 Title 4, Book III of the Local Government Code of 1991 as well as its Implementing Rules and Regulations, specifically Article 115, by making mandatory instead of optional the appointment of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO).

As time passes, changes to the environment in all provinces becomes readily apparent. From once a land of flora and fauna turned concrete jungle of buildings and infrastructures. As changes occur, in particular climate change transformation of some of our forest lands into virtual savannas aggravated by illegal logging activities have scalped off the precious cover that in the past has served as protection against rampaging rain water during the typhoon season.

In this light, the government should be enjoined to protect and preserve our precious forest reserves to avoid destructive flooding. It is also for the same reasons that the government should designate an official who should be responsible for ensuring that the lands in every province are protected from wanton and illegal cutting of logs and that in areas where reforestation is needed, the same shall be undertaken to avoid destructive flooding in the future.

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



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

SECTION 1. Section 463, Chapter 2, Title 4, Book 3 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 463. *Officials of the Government* –

(A) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, a provincial veterinarian, and a provincial environment and natural resources officer

SECTION 2. In relation thereto, Article 115(b) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7160 is accordingly amended to read as follows:

Article 115. *Appointive Provincial Officials.* (a) The mandatory appointive provincial officials are as follows:

- (1) secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;
- (2) provincial treasurer;
- (3) provincial accountant;

- (4) provincial budget officer;
- (5) provincial planning and development coordinator;
- (6) provincial engineer;
- (7) provincial health officer;
- (8) provincial administrator;
- (9) provincial legal officer;
- (10) provincial agriculturist;
- (11) provincial social welfare and development officer;
- (12) provincial veterinarian;
- (13) provincial general services officer; and
- (14) provincial environment and natural resources officer.

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or consistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.