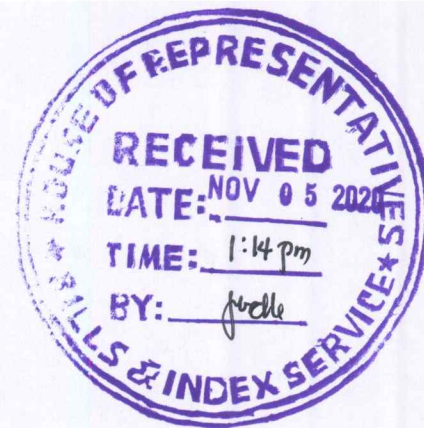


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7960



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS
OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE
PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY
(BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263,
AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

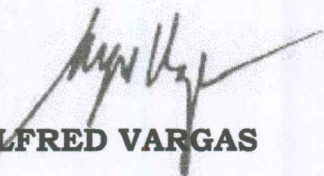
The Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) are important and dignified state agencies that have long served and protected the Filipino people. As the need for more noble uniformed personnel arises, its policies and programs for modernization and recruitment must also be made inclusive even to competent individuals who do not meet the existing height requirements.

Under our current laws on height prerequisites in these agencies, Filipinos who wish to serve the country but fail to reach the minimum height requirement are discriminated and barred from being part of these noble institutions. Many competent applicants are disqualified because of these current height requirements in the PNP, BFP, BJMP, and BuCor. As a result, government service is deprived of competent people to be employed and included among these ranks.

In September 2020, the Senate has approved on third and final reading Senate Bill No. 1563 or the "PNP, BFP, BJMP, and BuCor Height Equality" Bill. This move by our legislators in the Senate is a manifestation of our commitment to competence and inclusivity for the PNP, BFP, BJMP, and BuCor. This proposed legislation shall serve as its counterpart measure in the House of Representatives.

This bill seeks to amend the minimum height requirements for applicants to the PNP, BFP, BJMP, and BuCor to be more inclusive of leaders who are equally competent but are hindered from service due to discriminatory height requirements set in our existing laws. Additionally, this bill grants applicants belonging to cultural communities or indigenous peoples waiver for the height requirement.

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



ALFRED VARGAS

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AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "PNP, BFP,
BJMP, and BuCor Height Equality Act."

**SECTION 2. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, is
further amended to read as follows:**

"Sec. 30. *General Qualifications for Appointment* — No person shall
be appointed as officer or member of the PNP unless he or she
possesses the following minimum qualifications:

- "a) XXX...
- "b) XXX...
- "c) XXX...
- "d) XXX...
- "e) XXX...
- "f) XXX...
- "g) XXX...

"h) Must be at least one meter and ~~{sixty-two}~~ **FIFTY-SEVEN** centimeters ~~{(1.62 m.)}~~ (1.57 M.) in height for male and one meter and ~~{fifty-seven}~~ **FIFTY-TWO** centimeters ~~{(1.57 m.)}~~ (1.52 M.) for female: **PROVIDED, THAT A WAIVER FOR HEIGHT REQUIREMENT SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED TO APPLICANTS BELONGING TO THE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES;**

"i) XXX...

"j) XXX...

"XXX...

"After the lapse of the time period for the satisfaction of a specific requirement, current members of the PNP who will fail to satisfy any of the requirements enumerated under this Section shall be separated from the service if they are below fifty (50) years of age and have served in Government for less than twenty (20) years or retired if they are from the age of fifty (50) and above and have served the Government for at least twenty (20) years without prejudice in either case to the payment of benefits they may be entitled to under existing laws."

SECTION 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9263, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. *Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Appointment of Uniformed Personnel to the BFP and the BJMP.* — No person shall be appointed as uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP unless he/she possesses the following minimum qualifications:

"(a) XXX...

"(b) XXX...

"(c) XXX...

"(d) XXX...

"(e) XXX...

"(f) XXX...

"(g) XXX...

"(h) Must be at least one meter and ~~{sixty-two}~~ **FIFTY-SEVEN** centimeters ~~{(1.62 m.)}~~ (1.57 M.) in height for male, and one meter and ~~{fifty-seven}~~ **FIFTY-TWO** centimeters ~~{(1.57 m.)}~~ (1.52 M.) for female: *Provided, That* a waiver for height and age requirements shall be automatically granted to applicants belonging to the

cultural communities/**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**; and

“(i) XXX...

“XXX....

"After the lapse of the time of period for the satisfaction of a specific requirement, current uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP who will fail to satisfy any of the requirements enumerated under this Section shall be separated from the service if they are below fifty (50) years of age and have served in the government for less than twenty (20) years, or retired if they are age fifty (50) and above and have served in the government for at least twenty (20) years without prejudice in either case to the payment of benefits they may be entitled to under existing laws."

SECTION 4. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10575, is amended to read as follows:

"Section 11. Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Appointment of the BuCor Personnel. —

“(a) No person shall be appointed as personnel of the BuCor unless one possesses the following minimum qualifications:

"(1) XXX...

"(2) XXX...

"(3) XXX...

"(4) XXX...

"(5) XXX...

"(6) XXX...

"(7)

"(8) Must be at least one meter and ~~{sixty-two}~~ FIFTY-SEVEN centimeters ~~{(1.62 m.)}~~ (1.57 M.) in height for male, and one meter and ~~{fifty-seven}~~ FIFTY-TWO centimeters ~~{(1.57 m.)}~~ (1.52 M.) for female: *Provided*, That a waiver for height and age requirement/s may be granted to applicants belonging to the cultural communities/**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**: *Provided, further*, That a new applicant must not be less than twenty-one (21) or more than forty (40) years of age. Except for this particular provision, the above-enumerated qualifications shall be continuing in character and an absence of any one of them at any given time shall be ground

for separation or retirement from the service: Provided, furthermore, That those who are already in the service upon the effectivity of this Act shall be given five (5) years from the date of such effectivity to obtain the minimum educational qualification and eligibility with subsidiary assistance as provided for in this Act.

“(b) XXX...

“(c) XXX...

“(d) The BuCor shall continue training its personnel through its Personnel Training School, which shall be renamed as Corrections Training School/Institute patterned after the BJMP's Jail National Training Institute (JNTI), the Bureau of Fire's Fire National Training Institute (FNTI) and the PNP's National Training Institute (PNTI).”

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PNP, BFP, BJMP and BuCor, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the National Police Commission, the Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine National Police Philippine National Police Academy, the Civil Service Commission, and other concerned government agencies and stakeholders shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions which are not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly,

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,