

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
 First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 426



Introduced by Representative **CARLITO S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend pertinent provisions of Republic 7160, otherwise known as the "*Local Government Code of 1991*".

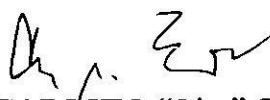
The Environment and Natural Resources Management Office in every local government unit is very vital in formulating measures for the consideration of the *sanggunian* and in providing technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor, as the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to environment and natural resources services.

The Office establishes, maintains, protects and preserves communal forests, watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts and similar forest projects and commercial forest, like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects. It also provides extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and technical, financial and infrastructure assistance. It has also the primordial duty in managing and maintaining seed banks and in producing seedlings for forests and tree parks. By the same token, it provides extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and renders assistance for natural resources-related conservation and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance. It helps in promoting the small-scale mining and utilization of mineral resources, particularly mining of gold and acts as a police to the large-scale mining firms.

It is the overseer in coordinating with government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the DENR. It is the front-liner in the delivery of services concerning the environment and natural resources, particularly in the renewal and rehabilitation of the environment during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural calamities and disasters. It is duty-bound to recommend to the sanggunian and advises the governor or mayor, as the case may be, on all matters relative to the protection, conservation, maximum utilization, application of appropriate technology and other matters related to the environment and natural resources.

We cannot downplay the vital function of the office to nation-building. However, when the Local Government code of 1991 was enacted, it bestowed for the optional appointment of an environment and natural resources officer in the province, city or municipality. This manifest error should be corrected. We must consider that State should not just formulate the creation of Environment and Natural Resources Management Office for the provincial, city and municipal government as optional but rather be institutionalized as mandatory so that these offices would ensure that the tasks and visions for the provision of environment and natural resources development principles

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" S. MARQUEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. 426

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 484 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. *Title* – This Act shall be known and referred to as the “Mandatory Establishment of Provincial, City and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Management Office of 2016”.

SEC. 2. There shall be a mandatory establishment of an Environment and Natural Resources Management Office in every province, city and municipality with the necessary budgetary appropriations covering the current operating expenditures and capital outlays.

SEC. 3. Section 484 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as “*The Local Government Act of 1991*”, as amended, particularly Title V (*Appointive Local Officials Common To All Municipalities, Cities And Provinces*) is hereby amended further to be read as follows:

“Article Fourteen. – The Environment and Natural Resources Officer

SEC. 484. *Qualifications, Powers and Duties.* –(a) No person shall be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good

1 *moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment,*
 2 *forestry, agriculture or any related course from a recognized college or*
 3 *university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must*
 4 *have acquired experience in environmental and natural resources*
 5 *management, conservation, and utilization, of at least five (5) years in the*
 6 *case of the provincial or city environment and natural resources officer, and*
 7 *three (3) years in the case of the municipal environment and natural*
 8 *resources officer.*

9 *The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer*
 10 *[optional] **MANDATORY** for provincial city and municipal governments.*

11 *XXX”*

12 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any part or section of this Act is declared
 13 unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of this
 14 Act.

15 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executives orders,
 16 ordinances, circulars, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this
 17 Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
 19 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official
 20 Gazette.

Approved,