

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1549

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, provides a list of appointive officials common to LGUs. However, it does not explicitly include the appointment of a nutrition officer to take charge of nutrition services and programs of the government.

Meanwhile, the findings of the World Bank-sponsored International Development in Focus publication on Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope, and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming published on 15 June 2021¹ showed a dim future for the country when it comes to nutrition.

In general, the Philippines has neglected to prioritize nutrition as there have been almost no improvement for 30 years regarding undernutrition. In fact, as of 2019, 29% of Filipino children still suffered stunting; that the country ranks 5th among countries in the East Asia and Pacific region with the highest prevalence of stunting and is among the 10 countries in the world with the highest number of stunted children.

To point the nutrition program of the country into proper perspective, this bill mandates the appointment of a nutrition officer who shall head the nutrition office in provinces, cities, and municipalities in the country, and focus on the planning, implementation and supervision of nutrition-specific programs and policies for the benefit of their respective constituents.

Given the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI, JR.
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/-key-findings-undernutrition-in-the-philippines>

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF A NUTRITION
OFFICER IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE
COUNTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 443, Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. — (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/ building official, a municipal health officer, and a municipal civil registrar. A municipal cooperatives development officer (CDO) shall also be appointed: Provided, That the municipality has the option to appoint a full-fledged CDO or merge related such position to an existing position or official in an office, unit or department in the municipal government: Provided, further, That if the municipality shall appoint a full-fledged CDO, the municipality has the option to set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the municipal CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

A MUNICIPAL NUTRITION OFFICER (MNO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT THE MUNICIPALITY HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE MNO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

"(b) x x x

"(c) x x x

"(d) x x x

"(e) x x x."

SECTION 2. Section 454, Book III, Title Three, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 454. Officials of the City Government. — (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer. A city CDO shall also be appointed: Provided, That the city has the option to appoint a full fledged CDO or merge such position to an existing position or official in a related office, unit or department in the city government: Provided, further, That if the city shall appoint a full fledged CDO, the city has the option to set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the city CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations;

A CITY NUTRITION OFFICER (CNO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT THE CITY HAS THE OPTION TO SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE CNO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

"(b) x x x

"(c) x x x

"(d) x x x

"(e) x x x."

SECTION 3. Section 463, Book III, Title Four, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 463. Officials of the Provincial 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 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 administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian. A provincial CDO shall also be appointed: Provided, That the province, in the appointment of a full fledged CDO shall set the rank, remuneration and other emoluments of the provincial CDO subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

A PROVINCIAL NUTRITION OFFICER (PNO) SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED: PROVIDED, THAT THE PROVINCE HAS THE OPTION TO

SET THE RANK, REMUNERATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF THE PNO SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

"(b) x x x

"(c) x x x

"(d) x x x

"(e) x x x."

SECTION 4. A new Article shall be inserted in Book III Title V of Republic Act No. 7160 to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXI

THE NUTRITION OFFICER

SECTION 491. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES –

A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED NUTRITION OFFICER UNLESS HE OR SHE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, AND A REGISTERED NUTRITIONIST-DIETICIAN. HE OR SHE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF HIS OR HER PROFESSION FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL OR CITY NUTRITION OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL NUTRITION OFFICER.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A NUTRITION OFFICER SHALL BE MANDATORY FOR PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.

B) THE NUTRITION OFFICER SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE ON NUTRITION SERVICES, SUPERVISE THE PERSONNEL AND STAFF OF SAID OFFICE, FORMULATE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SAID OFFICE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN ORDER TO ASSIST HIM OR HER IN THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM GEARED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF NUTRITION-RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL (NNC);

2) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SANGGUNIAN AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT NUTRITION ACTIVITIES;

3) DEVELOP PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND UPON APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR IS EMPOWERED TO IMPLEMENT AND WHICH THE SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE FOR UNDER THIS CODE;

4) IN ADDITION TO THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS, THE NUTRITION OFFICER SHALL :

I) FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO PROMOTE THE NUTRITION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED;

II) ADVISE THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, AND THE SANGGUNIAN ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO NUTRITION;

III) EXECUTE AND ENFORCE LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO NUTRITION;

IV) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN, THROUGH THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD, THE ENACTMENT OF SUCH ORDINANCES AS HE OR SHE MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE DELIVERY OF NUTRITION-RELATED SERVICES;

V) CONDUCT NUTRITION INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS; AND,

VI) IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL NUTRITION OFFICER, EXERCISE GENERAL SUPERVISION OVER NUTRITION OFFICERS OF COMPONENT CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NNC.

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations - Within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, memorandum circulars, or issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its full publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.