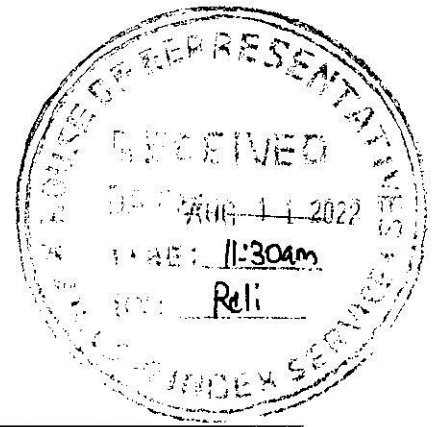


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3516**



Introduced by HONORABLE 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 therefore 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 Interior and Local Government (DILG). At present, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) has an authorized strength of 32,952 personnel,¹ while the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has an authorized strength of 15,062 personnel.²

However, the highest rank of uniformed personnel in both Bureaus pursuant to Republic Act No. 9263 (entitled "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004") 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). In comparison to this, the highest rank in the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with an estimated personnel strength of 22,000,³ 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

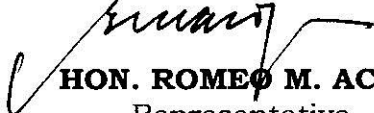
¹Statement of Fire Director Louie S. Puracan, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection. Official Facebook Page of the Bureau of Fire Protection. (2022). Available at: <https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=1004376390190208>.

²Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2020). "Did You Know: Ratio of BJMP Personnel to PDLs". Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1328081/did-you-know-ratio-of-bjmp-personnel-to-pdls#ixzz7bFFi72T5>.

³Philippine Coast Guard. (2022). "PCG workforce grows stronger under Duterte admin, over 1,700 personnel to be added in 2022". Available at: <https://coastguard.gov.ph/index.php/downloads/11-news/4640-pcg-workforce-grows-stronger-under-duterte-admin-over-1-700-personnel-to-be-added-in-2022/>.

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 PNP, the AFP and the PCG, 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 sought.


HON. ROMEO M. ACOP
Representative
2nd District, Antipolo City

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3516

Introduced by HONORABLE ROMEO M. ACOP

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR UPGRADING THE RANK CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE OF
THE UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)
AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)
ORGANIZATION, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
6975 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the **“Rank Structure of the uniformed members of Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of 2022.”**

SECTION 2. Section 2, paragraph 4 and 5 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:

“SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy and Principles. —

At present, the Bureau of Fire Protection has an authorized

strength of 32,952, while the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology has an authorized strength of 15,062. The highest rank in uniformed personnel in both Bureaus pursuant to Republic Act No. 6975 and Republic Act No. 9263 is Fire/Jail Director (equivalent to two-star General). In comparison, the highest rank in the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with an estimate personnel strength of 22,000, is Admiral, which is equivalent to four-star General in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and Philippine National Police (PNP).

Towards this end, the State shall provide for the upgrading of the rank structure of uniformed members of the BFP and BJMP, making it at par with those of the PNP, the AFP, the BuCor and the PCG which are the uniformed agencies of the government.”

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

“SEC. 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 Brigadier General 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 General shall have the position title of Chief of the Fire Bureau and the Chief of the Jail Bureau, respectively. The second officer in command of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of Lieutenant General 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 Lieutenant General shall have the position title of Deputy Chief for Operation of the Fire Bureau and Deputy Chief for Operation of the Jail Bureau, respectively. The fourth officer in command of the BFP and the BJMP with the rank of Lieutenant General 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 Major General.

The BFP and the BJMP shall construct, 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 Brigadier General. He/she shall be respectively assisted by the following officers with the rank of Colonel: Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Assistant Regional Director for Operations, and Regional Chief of Staff, except in NCR, where the aforementioned officers shall have the rank of Brigadier General.”

SECTION 4. Section 5, paragraph D of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. 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:

d) Fire/ Jail Brigadier General to Fire/Jail General. - Appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DILG, with the proper endorsement by the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).”

SECTION 5. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. Upgrading of rank and educational 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 in the BFP unless he/she has met the qualifications provided therein:

- 1) *Municipal Fire Marshal.* — Should have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, 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 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;
- 2) *City Fire Marshal.* - Should have the rank of Colonel, 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 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;

- 3) *District Fire Marshal, District Fire Marshal for the National Capital Region, Provincial Fire Marshal, Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Assistant Regional Director for Operations and Regional Chief of Directorial Staff.* — Should have the rank of Colonel, 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 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;
- 4) *Regional Director for Fire Protection, Assistant Regional Director for Administration (NCR) and Assistant Regional Director for Operations (NCR).* —Should have at least the rank of Brigadier General, 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 Major General, 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;
- 6) *Deputy Chief for Administration of the Fire Bureau, Deputy Chief for Operations of the Fire Bureau and Chief Directorial Staff of the Fire Bureau.*—Should have the rank of Lieutenant General, 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 as may be established by the Fire Bureau; and

7) *Chief of the Fire Bureau.* — Should have the rank of General, 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 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 Fire Bureau.

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

1) *Municipal Jail Warden.* — Should have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, 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 Colonel, who must have finished at least second year Bachelor of Laws or earned at least twenty four (24) units in Master's Degree Program in Management, Public Administration, Public Safety, Criminology, Penology, Sociology, National Security Administration, Defense Studies or 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 the rank and qualification 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 Colonel, 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;

- 4) *Regional Director for Jail Management and Penology, Assistant Regional Director for Administration (NCR) and Assistant Regional Director for Operations (NCR).* — Should have the rank of Brigadier General, 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) *Director of the Directorate of the National Headquarters Office and Regional Director for the National Capital Region.* —Should have the rank of Major General, 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;

- 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 Lieutenant General, 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 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; and
- 7) *Chief of the Jail Bureau.* — Should have the rank of General, 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 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.

Any uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP who is currently occupying such designation for more than five (5) years shall be reclassified of their ranks by operation of law.”

SECTION 6. Section 58 and 64 of Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the “Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990,” and Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

From	To
Fire/Jail Director General	Fire/Jail General
Fire/Jail Deputy Director General	Fire/Jail Lieutenant General
Fire/Jail Director	Fire/Jail Major General
Fire/Jail Chief Superintendent	Fire/Jail Brigadier General
Fire/Jail Senior Superintendent	Fire/Jail Colonel
Fire/Jail Superintendent	Fire/Jail Lieutenant Colonel
Fire/Jail Chief Inspector	Fire/Jail Major
Fire/Jail Senior Inspector	Fire/Jail Captain
Fire/Jail Inspector	Fire/Jail Lieutenant
Senior Fire/Jail Officer IV	Fire/Jail Executive Master
Senior Fire/Jail Officer III	Fire/Jail Chief Master Sergeant
Senior Fire/Jail Officer II	Fire/Jail Senior Master Sergeant
Senior Fire/Jail Officer I	Fire/Jail Master Sergeant
Fire/Jail Officer III	Fire/Jail Staff Sergeant
Fire/Jail Officer II	Fire/Jail Corporal
Fire/Jail Officer I	Fire/Jail Man/Woman

SECTION 7. *Implementation Rules and Regulations.* - The DILG in coordination with the BFP and the BJMP, the CSC, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF) shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is

declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SECTION 9.*Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10.*Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,