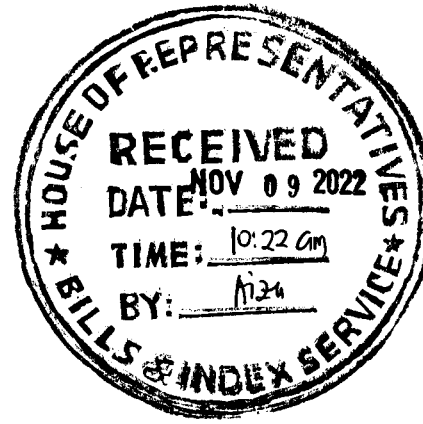




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5985**

Introduced by Representative Christian S. Unabia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the mandatory appointment of provincial, city and municipal environment and natural resources officer, amending for the purpose Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, as amended or the “*Local Government Code of 1991*”.

The implementation of RA 9003 or the “*Ecological Solid Waste Management Act*” is weak due to the absence of a permanent municipal, city or provincial environment and natural resources officer (MENRO, CENRO, or PENRO). Usually, the functions of the MENRO, CENRO, or PENRO are only added to the regular functions of an existing local agriculturist and worst, if an environment officer is appointed at all, the employment status is only contractual.

Under Section 484, Article XIV of RA 7160, the appointments of a MENRO, CENRO, and PENRO are only optional. Given the current natural and man-made environmental crises that the country is experiencing, it is high time and crucial to appoint a permanent environment and natural resources officer for the provincial, city and municipal government who can develop plans and programs and provide technical assistance to the local executive as regards the protection, sustainable utilization, and conservation of the environment and natural resources within the local government unit.

This bill does not only aim to strengthen the implementation of RA 9003 but also intends to promote awareness down to the grassroot level on the existing environmental crises the country is challenged with, and pass remedial measures that will address the deteriorating state of the environment.

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


CHRISTIAN S. UNABIA



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

Nineteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. **5985**

Introduced by Representative Christian S. Unabia

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF
PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER, 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 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*” is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 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[.], **AND A MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.**

“(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, [~~a municipal environment and natural resources officer,~~] a municipal social welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, and a municipal information officer.

“xxx.”

SEC. 2. Section 454 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 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[.], **AND A CITY**

**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICER.**

“(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city architect, a city information officer, a city agriculturist, a city population officer, [~~a city environment and natural resources officer,~~] and a city cooperatives officer.

“xxx”

SEC. 3. Section 463 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.*

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[.], **AND A PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.**

“(b) In addition thereto, the governor may appoint a provincial population officer, [~~a provincial environment and natural resources officer,~~] a provincial cooperative officer, a provincial architect, and a provincial information officer.

“xxx.”

SEC. 4. Section 484 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*” is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

“The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is [~~optional~~] **MANDATORY** for provincial, city, and municipal governments.”

SEC. 5. The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the local government units. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in their annual budget.

SEC. 6. The DENR shall, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Secretaries of Budget and Management, and the Interior and Local Government, formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, proclamations, issuances or ordinances inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,