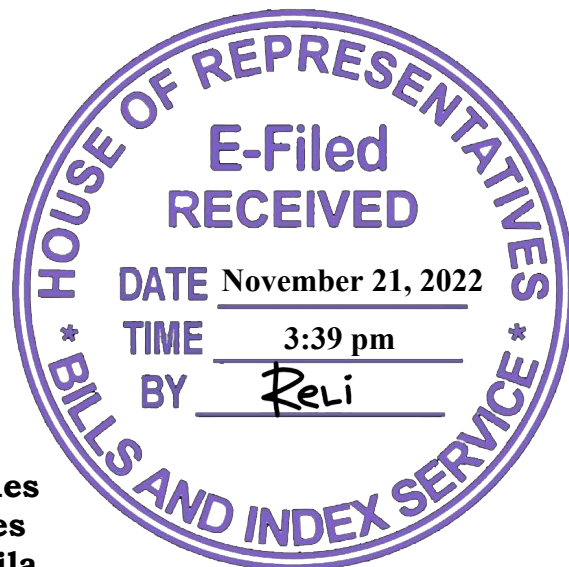




**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 6256



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, the State recognizes “the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy” and Section 25, “The State shall ensure the autonomy of the local governments.”

This bill aims to create a Department of Public Safety in every province, city, and municipality to enhance public safety in their respective jurisdiction. The State recognizes the role and mandate of the Department of Transportation in addressing national issues, precisely the demand for greater security and safety for every Filipino, the constant problem with traffic congestion, and the enhancement of disaster preparedness. However, to effectively deliver their responsibilities to the Filipinos, assistance from local government units is vital. The representatives from local government units can provide immediate and better services to their constituents. Thus, this bill aims to designate the State’s responsibilities to its core.

Traffic is one of the most pressing concerns of the country today. The Boston Consulting Group reports that Metro Manila has the third (3rd) worst traffic in Southeast Asia. Studies estimate an average of 66 minutes per day for motorists and commuters to get stuck in traffic. Further, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) reported that the country is losing P3.5 billion daily because of traffic congestion. If this scenario happens in Metro Manila alone, how will this affect our country if other cities and municipalities face the same situation?

The passage of this measure can address public safety-related issues in the countries efficiently through the help of the Local Government Units.

Hence, this representation seeks the passage of this measure.



RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6256

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**AN ACT
ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY ESTABLISHING
AND MAINTAINING A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN EVERY
PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY**

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

1
2 **SECTION 1.** Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Public Safety
3 Act.”
4

5 **SEC. 2.** Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote
6 public order, ensure public safety and further spur economic development
7 through the enhancement of local government capability in addressing safety
8 and security concerns and maintaining public order including the
9 implementation of efficient and effective local traffic management and disaster
10 preparedness and relief operations. Towards this end, all local government units
11 shall establish and maintain a fully functional and responsive central command
12 and control center and emergency response and management system in order to
13 protect and preserve the right of the people to life, liberty and property.
14

15 **SEC. 3.** Creation of a Department of Public Safety. – Every province, city
16 and municipality is hereby mandated to create a Department of Public Safety
17 (DPS) which, under the direct control and supervision of the provincial governor,

1 city or municipal mayor, is tasked to implement public order and safety laws and
2 ordinances, help reduce vehicular congestion and address the effects of man-
3 made and natural disasters. The DPS shall operate a fully functional and
4 responsive central command and control center and emergency response and
5 management system that will connect constituents needing immediate
6 assistance with the emergency resources of the government, such as law
7 enforcement, medical services, and fire and rescue services, using the most
8 appropriate and available technologies and communications, with a fully
9 operative call center and dispatch hotline, adequate and well-trained staff,
10 sufficient and up-to-date emergency response equipment, all consistent with
11 national standards and best practices.

12
13 Contiguous cities and municipalities may, through their local chief
14 executives, enter into arrangements and agreements to establish collective
15 command and control centers and emergency response and management
16 systems pending the ability of certain cities and municipalities to establish their
17 own independent centers and systems.

18
19 Any province, city or municipality with an existing DPS or similar
20 agency shall retain the same but must conform with the provisions of this Act.

21
22 **SEC. 4. Powers and Functions.** – The DPS shall exercise the following
23 powers and functions:

24
25 (a) Prepare, integrate, coordinate and supervise all plans, programs,
26 projects and activities of the local government relative to the promotion and
27 maintenance of peace and order and the protection of life, liberty and property;

28
29 (b) Secure the general public and maintain public order in conjunction
30 with the police and other national law enforcement agencies;

31
32 (c) Augment auxiliary traffic services and support other agencies tasked
33 to enforce traffic management;

34
35 (d) Recommend the issuance of temporary terminal permits to public
36 utility vehicles and manage public utility vehicle terminals;

1 (e) Monitor and supervise private security agencies and security guards
2 and issue local security clearances;

3
4 (f) Recommend the issuance of traffic clearance certificates to business
5 establishments;

6
7 (g) Clear sidewalks, public parks and other public areas of obstruction
8 such as unauthorized structures or fixtures and unlicensed vendors;

9
10 (h) Organize plans for and undertake evacuation, rescue and relief
11 operations in times of disasters, calamities and civil disturbances; and

12
13 (i) Establish, maintain and operate a central command and control
14 center and emergency response and management system that will monitor and
15 respond to various contingencies in which emergency resources of the
16 government are required by the constituents.

17
18 Accordingly, existing departments within the local government units
19 whose primary functions are those enumerated above are hereby integrated and
20 included within the DPS. The DPS may assume additional functions other than
21 those enumerated above and may absorb other offices or agencies within the
22 local government unit as long as the functions or offices are in relation to public
23 order, safety and security and the protection of life, liberty or property, unless
24 an existing law expressly prohibits the same.

25
26 **SEC. 5.** Funding. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
27 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the local
28 government units. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for continued
29 implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the local government
30 unit.

31
32 **SEC. 6.** Compliance Period. – The local government units shall comply
33 within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. Within thirty (30) days from
34 compliance, the governor, city or municipal mayor shall report the same to the
35 Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

1 **SEC. 7.** Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provision
2 of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the Supreme Court, the
3 other sections or provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain
4 in force and effect.

5
6 **SEC. 8.** Repealing Clause. – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and
7 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
8 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9
10 **SEC. 9.** Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
11 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of
12 general circulation.

13
14 Approved,