

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. 9003



Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides for the protection and advancement of the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

As stated under Section 484 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, the appointment of the Environmental and Natural Resources Officer in every province, city, and municipality is optional. However, this non-compulsory character puts indisposition to the role of the provincial, city and municipal government units in creating, preparing, and implementing respective environmental or forest management plans, programs, and policies.

Thus, this measure seeks to amend the Local Government Code of 1991, mandating the appointment of an Environment and Natural Resources Officer in every province, city, and municipality. As the country is threatened by various environmental risks and degradation, the mandatory appointment of Environment and Natural Resources Officer is imperative to ensure that our rich biodiversity and natural resources are maintained and protected.

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



HON. ERIC GO YAP

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AN ACT

MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE MANDATORY IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING SECTION 484 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991'

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

SECTION 1. Section 484 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby further amended as follows:

"SEC. 484. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. - (a) xxx

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

SEC. 2. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,