

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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 561

Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend certain provisions of Republic Act No. 10575 (R.A. 10575) otherwise known as “The Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013,” to reconcile the Bureau of Correction’s (BuCor) authority over its lands with the requirements of the Local Government Code (RA 7160), which mandates consultation with local governments and communities before implementing projects within their jurisdiction.

The bill emphasizes that BuCor’s authority should not override the power of local government units (LGUs) to promote the general welfare of their constituents. It also proposes that the Department of Justice (DOJ) be granted not just administrative supervision but full supervision and control over BuCor, in line with the check-and-balance principles in the Administrative Code of 1987 to prevent abuse.

This measure stems from BuCor’s actions in Muntinlupa. On March 20, 2021, without prior consultation or coordination, BuCor blocked Insular Road by erecting a wall. This cut off residents of Southville 3 from the city center, forcing them to travel an additional 10 kilometers through neighboring cities. BuCor repeated the action on November 26, 2021 by blocking access to Katarungan Village 1 and 2 and nearby educational institutions, again without notice.

Despite objections from national and local government officials, the BuCor insisted RA 10575 gave them unchecked authority. The situation exposed the potential for abuse under the current law and underscored the need to amend it to ensure accountability, safeguard public welfare, and restore proper legal boundaries between national agencies and local government units.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
RECONCILING THE POWERS OF THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS WITH
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991” AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987”, AMENDING SECTIONS
6(B) AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2013”

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

SECTION 1. Section 6(b) of Republic Act No. 10575 is hereby amended as follows:

“SEC. 6. Lands of the Bureau of Corrections. –

(a) x x x

(b) As a way to maximize its assets' value for the effective and extensive reformation (corrections) programs for national inmates, the BuCor shall have the [absolute] authority to design, formulate and implement land-use development plans and policies[.] **SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE; PROVIDED, THAT CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 2(C) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE CODE, THE DESIGN, FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND-USE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WHERE SUCH BUCOR LANDS ARE LOCATED; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY OF THE BUCOR OVER ITS LANDS SHALL, BE CONSISTENT WITH, AND IN NO MANNER DIMINISH, THE POWER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PROTECT, UPHOLD AND PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ITS CONSTITUENTS AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE CODE.**

(c) x x x

(d) x x x”

SEC. 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 10575 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 8. Supervision of the Bureau of Corrections. – The Department of Justice (DOJ, having the BuCor as a line bureau and a constituent unit, [shall maintain a relationship of administrative supervision with the latter] **SHALL HAVE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL** over said agency as defined under Section 381[(2)]1, Chapter 7, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 [except that the DOJ shall retain authority over the power to review, reverse, revise or modify the decisions of the BuCor in the exercise of its regulatory or quasi-judicial functions].”

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Bureau of Corrections, in cooperation and consultation with stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All Acts, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders and Administrative Orders, Rules and Regulations and other such issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,