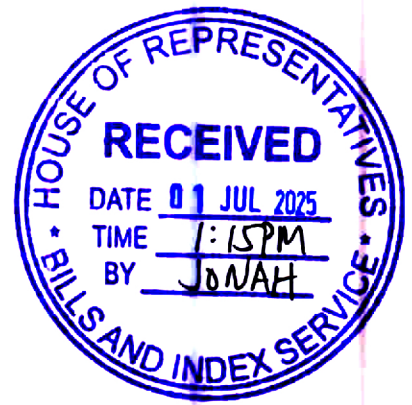




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 806

Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO ROA RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require owners of residential building or structures to maintain portable fire extinguishers.

Residential fires, which rank as the sixth leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in the Philippines, are mostly caused by faulty electrical wiring or connections, unsupervised open flames, and neglected electrical equipment or gadgets. Republic Act (RA) No. 9514, otherwise known as the *"Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008"*, lays the framework for the enforcement and administration of fire safety measures for persons, buildings, structures and facilities.

Under RA 9514, buildings are classified into residential, assembly, educational, health care, detention and correctional, mercantile, business, industrial, storage, mixed occupancies, and other miscellaneous occupancies. As consistently observed, and regardless of the existing fire safety measures, protective and warning systems, and fire safety programs, the statistics on fire incidents involving residential buildings remain high and frequent.

Thus, to enhance the safety of the occupants, this bill seeks to require owners of any residential building or structure to maintain a portable fire extinguisher. Given the ease in its usage, as well as the minimal training and orientation needed to operate a portable fire extinguisher, installing or maintaining one may help in abating and suppressing incident fires, and preventing small fires from growing into big fires that may cause injury, death and destruction of properties.

Further, as residential fires often occur in densely populated areas where occupants are less likely to maintain portable fire extinguishers due to the added financial weight, it can add up to the everyday woes of the low-income households, this bill includes a provision for subsidy in the procurement and maintenance of the portable fire extinguishers.

Finally, to ensure the awareness of the public on fire safety and compliance, the bill mandates the Bureau of Fire Protection to conduct regular inspection of residential buildings, especially those communities that are prone to fires.

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



REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.
2nd District, City of Cebu



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 806

Introduced by Representative **EDUARDO R. RAMA, JR.**

**AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS OR
STRUCTURES TO MAINTAIN PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Every owner of any residential building or structure shall maintain portable
2 fire extinguishers in commensurate with the number of occupants and the frequency of occupancy,
3 use, equipment contained in the residential building, and the hazard classification of the area,
4 regardless of whether the residential building or structure is already equipped with fixed fire
5 protection system and equipment.
6

7 As used in this Act, residential building or structure refers to any structure built for
8 occupancy purposes such as apartments, condominiums, dormitories, single detached, single
9 attached, row houses, and all other similar structures established permanently as dwelling.
10

11 **SECTION. 2.** The city or municipality shall, through the city or municipal fire marshal
12 (C/MFM), determine the size, specification or type and number of portable fire extinguishers
13 appropriate for the different classes of residential buildings under its jurisdiction.
14

15 Subject to the evaluation of the C/MFM and approval of the Bureau of Fire Protection
16 (BFP), the number of portable fire extinguishers in any residential building may increase or
17 decrease on the basis of the frequency or regularity of its occupancy.
18

19 **SECTION. 3.** The low-income households shall receive a subsidy or support from the
20 local government unit and the national government to purchase the required portable fire
21 extinguishers.
22

23 The city or municipal planning and development officer (C/MPDO) shall assess the
24 poverty threshold and identify the income classes in the local government unit concerned. The

1 results of the assessment and classification, upon validation by the Philippine Statistics Authority,
2 shall serve as reference for the subsidy or support.

3
4 **SECTION. 4.** The BFP, in coordination with the office of the C/MFM, is authorized and
5 mandated to conduct regular inspection of residential buildings at reasonable hours to test the
6 efficiency of the portable fire extinguishers maintained in any residential buildings.

7
8 **SECTION. 5.** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be
9 charged against the BFP Modernization Trust Fund created under Section 7 of Republic Act (RA)
10 No. 11589, otherwise known as the "*Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act.*" Thereafter, such
11 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
12 appropriation for the BFP in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13
14 The amount needed by the city or municipality for the implementation of this Act shall be
15 charged against the share of the city or municipality from all taxes, fees and fines collected pursuant
16 to RA 9514, otherwise known as the "*Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008.*"

17
18 **SECTION. 6.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the
19 Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
20 effective implementation of this Act.

21
22 **SECTION. 7.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof
23 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SECTION. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
26 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27
28 Approved,