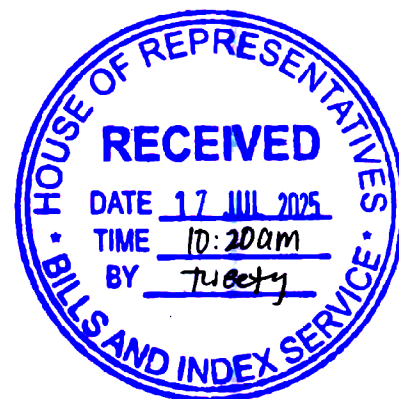


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 2064



Introduced by Representative HAROLD JAMES T. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is blessed with abundant marine and aquatic resources. Such abundance is embodied in the share of fishing and aquaculture activities in the country's Gross Domestic Product which recorded a value of PhP 269.64 billion or 12.82% in 2022. As of 2022, we have 2,302,648 registered according to the BFAR Fisherfolk Registration System (FishR). However, the actual number is actually much higher.

Notwithstanding their numbers and the said invaluable contribution of the fisherfolks to the economy, the sector remains to be the among the poorest in the country. The Philippine Statistics Authority accounts for the poverty incidence of the fisheries sector at 30.6% — the highest among all basic sectors in the country.

An issue among such fisherfolk is the costs of securing and renewing licenses and permits – usually an annual recurring burden before they can work.

It is in this regard that this Bill seeks to amend the specific provision of the Local Government Code to increase the validity of the licenses granted by Local Government Units to fisherfolk. The said measure primarily aims to mitigate the resources and expenses that our fisherfolk may incur for the operation of their own source of sustenance and livelihood.

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

HON. HAROLD JAMES T. DUTERTE

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 2054

Introduced by Representative **HAROLD JAMES T. DUTERTE**

AN ACT
REGULATING THE VALIDITY OF LICENSES ISSUED UNDER SECTION 3 (B) 3
AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS
AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the *"Five (5) Year LGU Fishing License Act."*

SEC. 2. *Validity of Registration, Licenses, and Permits.* – Any and all registrations, licenses, and permits granted pursuant to Republic Act No. 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, or those granted by a delegation of authority under the same Code shall be valid for five (5) years, unless a shorter period is specifically provided under the Code.

SEC. 3. Section 149, Paragraph b (3) is hereby amended as follows:

Section 149. Fishery Rentals, Fees and Charges. –

- a. Municipalities shall have the exclusive authority to grant fishery privileges in the municipal waters and impose rentals, fees or charges therefor in accordance with the provisions of this Section.
- b. The sangguniang bayan may:
 1. Grant fishery privileges to erect fish corrals, oysters, mussels or other aquatic beds or bangus fry areas, within a definite zone of the municipal waters, as determined by it: Provided, however, That duly registered organizations and cooperatives of marginal fishermen shall have the preferential right to such fishery privileges: Provided, further, That the sangguniang bayan may require a public bidding in conformity with and pursuant to an ordinance for the grant of such privileges: Provided, finally, That in the absence of such organizations and cooperatives or their failure to exercise their preferential right, other parties may participate in the public bidding in conformity with the above cited procedure.

2. Grant the privilege to gather, take or catch bangus fry, prawn fry or kawag-kawag or fry of other species and fish from the municipal waters by nets, traps or other fishing gears to marginal fishermen free of any rental, fee, charge or any other imposition whatsoever.
3. Issue licenses for the operation of fishing vessels of three (3) tons or less for which purpose the sangguniang bayan shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding the issuances of such licenses to qualified applicants under existing laws. **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH LICENSES SHALL BE VALID FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS.**

Provided, however, That the sanggunian concerned shall, by appropriate ordinance, penalize the use of explosives, noxious or poisonous substances, electricity, muro-ami, and other deleterious methods of fishing and prescribe a criminal penalty therefor in accordance with the provisions of this Code: Provided, finally, That the sanggunian concerned shall have the authority to prosecute any violation of the provisions of applicable fishery laws.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,